

# CURRENT AFFAIRS



August 2017

**tutorialspoint**

SIMPLY EASY LEARNING

[www.tutorialspoint.com](http://www.tutorialspoint.com)



<https://www.facebook.com/tutorialspointindia>



<https://twitter.com/tutorialspoint>

## Current Affairs – August 2017

---

This is a guide to provide you a precise summary and a huge collection of Multiple Choice Questions (MCQs) covering national and international current affairs for the month of **August 2017**.

This guide will help you in preparing for Indian competitive examinations like Bank PO, Banking, Railway, IAS, PCS, UPSC, CAT, GATE, CDS, NDA, MCA, MBA, Engineering, IBPS, Clerical Grade and Officer Grade, etc.

## Audience

---

Aspirants who are preparing for different competitive exams like Bank PO, Banking, Railway, IAS, PCS, UPSC, CAT, GATE, CDS, NDA, MCA, MBA, Engineering, IBPS, Clerical Grade, Officer Grade, etc.

Even though you are not preparing for any exams but are willing to have news encapsulated in a roll, which you can walk through within 30 minutes, then we have put all the major points for the whole month in a precise and interesting way.

## Copyright and Disclaimer

---

© Copyright 2017 by Tutorials Point (I) Pvt. Ltd.

All the content and graphics published in this e-book are the property of Tutorials Point (I) Pvt. Ltd. The user of this e-book is prohibited to reuse, retain, copy, distribute or republish any contents or a part of contents of this e-book in any manner without written consent of the publisher.

We strive to update the contents of our website and tutorials as timely and as precisely as possible, however, the contents may contain inaccuracies or errors. Tutorials Point (I) Pvt. Ltd. provides no guarantee regarding the accuracy, timeliness or completeness of our website or its contents including this tutorial. If you discover any errors on our website or in this tutorial, please notify us at [contact@tutorialspoint.com](mailto:contact@tutorialspoint.com)

## Table of Contents

---

Current Affairs – August 2017 .....	i
Audience.....	i
Copyright and Disclaimer .....	i
Table of Contents.....	ii
APPOINTMENTS.....	1
AWARDS .....	11
BOOKS & AUTHORS.....	18
COMMITTEES.....	19
DEATHS.....	22
DEFENCE .....	27
ECONOMIC .....	30
ENVIRONMENT .....	39
FINANCE.....	41
IMPORTANT DAYS.....	51
INTERNATIONAL.....	55
MISCELLANEOUS.....	66
NATIONAL.....	69
PERSONS IN NEWS.....	102
PLACES IN NEWS.....	107

REGIONAL .....	111
REPORTS .....	121
RESIGNATIONS & RETIREMENTS .....	126
SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY .....	128
SPORTS .....	132

# Appointments

## 1. Cisco appoints Sameer Garde as the new President for India, SAARC region

Networking giant Cisco has appointed Sameer Garde as President for India and SAARC. He succeeds Dinesh Malkani who is leaving the company to pursue other opportunities.

Garde will be responsible for Cisco's senior-level external engagement, including those with government and industry associations.

Prior to joining Cisco, Sameer was working with Philips Healthcare as its President for South Asia. He has worked with Dell India for nine years and then joined Samsung for a year.



## 2. SEBI approved appointment of Dhirendra Swarup as BSE Chairman

Market Regulator SEBI (Securities and Exchange board of India) has approved the appointment of Dhirendra Swarup as the new Chairman of Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE). Swarup replaces incumbent Sudhakar Rao.

Swarup was a public interest director at the BSE. He was the former Chairman of the Pension Funds Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA) and more than our decades of experience across finance.

He was also the Chairman of the Cash and Debt Management Committee of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) from 2000 to 2003.



## 3. Christopher Wray confirmed as FBI Director

The US Senate has confirmed Christopher Wray to lead the FBI. He will replace James Comey. The vote was 92-5 for Wray.

Wray is a former high-ranking official in President George W Bush's Justice Department who oversaw investigations into corporate fraud.

Mr. Wray was hired as a federal prosecutor in Atlanta in 1997 and left the Justice Department in 2005 after rising to the head of the criminal division as an assistant attorney general.



#### 4. FICCI appointed Sanjaya Baru as Secretary General

Sanjaya Baru has been named new secretary general of the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI). He will assume the charge from September 1 and will replace A Didar Singh. Mr Singh would continue at the body as a strategic advisor to the President of FICCI, Mr Pankaj Patel.



Sanjaya Baru was media advisor and chief spokesperson to former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, a role in which he served from May 2004 until August 2008.

#### 5. PAYBACK India appointed Gautam Kaushik as its new CEO

Payback India has appointed Gautam Kaushik as the new Chief Executive Officer. He will be responsible for the India operations and lead all the critical business areas including Strategic Business Planning and Development, Partner Management & Acquisitions and Customer Engagement.



His primary focus would be towards driving engagement through new touch points. Prior to joining PAYBACK, Gautam was working with American Express (AMEX) as Vice President (VP) and Chief Financial Officer (CFO).

#### 6. Walmart India appointed Devendra Chawla as EVP and COO

Walmart India has appointed Devendra Chawla as Executive Vice President (EVP) and Chief Operating Officer. Walmart India is a wholly-owned subsidiary of US-based Walmart Stores Inc. He will lead Merchandising, Marketing, and Omni Channel functions for Walmart India's Cash and Carry business.



Prior to joining Walmart, Chawla was working as CEO for Future Consumer, a part of Kishore Biyani-led Future Group. He has 22 years of experience in retail, FMCG and Operations.

## 7. Mohammad Mustafa appointed as CMD of SIDBI

According to a Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT) order, the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet has approved the appointment of Mohammad Mustafa as the Chairman and Managing Director of Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) for a period of three years.



Mohammad Mustafa is a 1995 batch IAS officer. Prior to this appointment, Mustafa was Joint Secretary in the Department of Financial Services (DFS) in the Finance Ministry.

## 8. ACC Appointments

The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) has approved the request of Dr. Arvind Panagaria to relieve him from the post of Vice-Chairperson, NITI Aayog w.e.f. 31.08.2017 and appointed Dr. Rajiv Kumar as Vice-Chairperson, NITI Aayog. He was appointed on the same terms and conditions as were applicable to the previous Vice-Chairperson, NITI Aayog.



The ACC also appointed Dr. Vinod K. Paul as Member, NITI Aayog, until further orders, on the same terms and conditions as are applicable to the other full-time Members of the NITI Aayog.

## 9. Air Marshal Hemant Narayan Bhagwat is new Air Officer-in-Charge Administration of IAF

Air Marshal Hemant Narayan Bhagwat AVSM VM has taken over as Air Officer-in-Charge Administration of Indian Air Force at Air Headquarters (VB), New Delhi.

Air Marshal HN Bhagwat AVSM VM was commissioned in Administrative branch of the IAF in Jun 1981. The Air Officer is a graduate of Defence Services Staff College, Wellington and has undergone Higher Air Command Course at College of Air Warfare, Hyderabad. He was awarded Vayu Sena Medal by the President of India in 2005 for his contributions to paratrooping field.



## 10. Prabhat Kumar appointed as the next ambassador of India to The Republic of Kazakhstan

The Appointments Committee of the cabinet has appointed Mr Prabhat Kumar as the next Ambassador of India to the Republic of Kazakhstan. He is an IFS Officer of 1991 batch and presently Ambassador of India to Colombia.



Prabhat Kumar was Director General, in-charge of the Energy Security and Investment and Technology Promotion Division in the Ministry of External Affairs. He was also earlier posted to the Permanent Mission of India to the conference of disarmament in Geneva. He also served in the Indian Embassies of Nepal, Croatia and Spain.

## 11. Praseon Joshi appointed Chairperson of Central Board of Film Certification

In exercise of the powers conferred by sub-section (1) of section 3 of the Cinematograph Act, 1952 (37 of 1952) read with rule 3 of the Cinematograph (Certification) Rules, 1983, the Central Government appointed Mr. Praseon Joshi as Chairperson of the Central Board of Film Certification in an honorary capacity from 11th August, 2017 for a period of three years or until further orders, whichever is earlier. He replaced Pahlaj Nihalani.



Praseon Joshi is a lyricist and has written songs for movies such as Lajja, Fanaa, Rang De Basanti, Taare Zameen Par, Black and Delhi 6 among others.

## 12. Justice Dipak Misra appointed as 45th Chief Justice of India

Justice Dipak Misra appointed as 45th Chief Justice of India replacing Justice J S Khehar. Dipak Misra sworn in as the 45th Chief Justice of India by President Ram Nath Kovind.

Justice Dipak Misra is senior most judge and the third person from Odisha to be appointed the Chief Justice of India, after Justices Ranganath Misra and G B Pattanaik. Justice Misra will have a tenure of nearly 13 months.



Justice Misra was enrolled as an Advocate in 1977 in the Orissa High Court and the Service Tribunal. He became permanent Judge of Orissa High Court in December, 1997. He also served as the Chief Justice of Patna and Delhi High Courts. In 2011, Justice Misra was elevated as a Judge in the Supreme Court.

### 13. Dilip Asbe appointed as Acting Chief Executive of NPCI

Dilip Asbe was selected as Acting Chief Executive of NPCI in place of A. P. Hota, who retired. Asbe had worked as the MD of NPCI since its inception retired on August 10.

At present, Asbe serves as the organisations' chief operating officer and will resume in the same designation, but will also act as the chief executive for all digital payments in the country.



Asbe is famously known for organisation's revolutionary digital payments initiatives like Unified Payments Interface (UPI), Bharat Interface for Money (BHIM) and Immediate Payment Service (IMPS).

### 14. Jet Airways selected Vinay Dube as CEO

Mr. Vinay Dube, an American National, was appointed as Chief Executive Officer of Jet Airways. Mr. Dube has a demonstrable track record of leadership in varied roles at Delta Airlines Inc., Sabre, Inc., and American Airlines in the USA, Europe and Asia.



During his tenure in Asia, Vinay Dube has turned around the Asia Pacific markets, restructured the network, established strategic partnerships, worked extensively on brand-building and successfully brought about a transformation in the work culture of his teams. Dube headed the region as Business Head with P&L responsibility and was also a Board Observer at China Eastern.

### 15. Reenat Sandhu appointed as ambassador of India to the Republic of San Marino

Ms. Reenat Sandhu, presently Ambassador of India to Italy, has been concurrently accredited as the next Ambassador of India to the Republic of San Marino, with residence in Rome. Reenat Sandhu is IFS officer of 1989 batch.

She has worked in Indian Missions abroad including Moscow, Kyiv, Washington, Colombo, New York, and Geneva.

Reenat also has experience of working headquarters at Ministry of External Affairs, handling Trade promotion, East Europe and Sri Lankan desks.



## 16. Dr. Mamta Suri takes charge as Executive Director, Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India

Dr. Mamta Suri took charge as Executive Director, Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI) in New Delhi. Before joining IBBI, Dr. Suri was serving as Chief General Manager, Insurance Regulatory Development Authority of India.

Dr. Suri has obtained her Ph.D. in Finance from University of Delhi and M. Sc. in Insurance Risk and Management from City University, London.

Dr. Suri is a Chartered Financial Analyst (CFA) from the Institute of Chartered Financial Analysts of India, and she has completed her graduation in law. She has also received Honorary membership for High Scholastic Achievement from USA.



## 17. Tata Motors Appointed Mr P B Balaji as New CFO

Tata Motors has appointed Mr. P B Balaji as the new Chief Financial Officer. Mr. Balaji is a global finance professional with over two decades of experience in the corporate sector. He started his career with Unilever in 1995.

Mr. Balaji is a graduate of Indian Institute of Technology, Chennai and has a post-graduate management degree from Indian Institute of Management, Kolkata. He will take up his new assignment in November 2017.



## 18. I. V. Subba Rao selected as secretary to 13th Vice President

Former IAS officer I. V. Subba Rao was appointed by Appointments Committee of the Cabinet, as secretary to Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu, for a period of two years.

Another appointment was 2006 batch IAS officer N Yuvaraj as private secretary to Naidu.

Subba Rao is a retired IAS officer of Andhra Pradesh cadre of 1979 batch. He has experience of handling various positions in Andhra Pradesh and later served the UNESCO.



### 19. David Rasquinha selected as Exim Bank MD

David Rasquinha, present Deputy Managing Director of Exim Bank of India, was appointed as Managing Director of the bank, for period of 3 years, by Department of Financial Services in the Finance Ministry.



Export-Import Bank of India is the finance institution of India that seeks to build value by integrating foreign trade and investment with the economic rise of India. It was established in 1982 by Government of India, headquartered in Mumbai.

### 20. Prasar Bharati Chief Shashi Shekhar Vempati assigned with additional charge of Rajya Sabha

Public broadcaster Prasar Bharati's CEO Shashi Shekhar Vempati was assigned additional duties as the chief of Rajya Sabha TV. Rajya Sabha TV is owned and operated by Rajya Sabha and covers the live proceedings of the upper house of the Parliament.



The appointment came after resignation of Gurdeep Singh Sappal who has been serving as the CEO and editor-in-chief of Rajya Sabha TV.

Vempati has working experience as a CEO of a digital media company Niti Digital. He is first non-Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officer ever to head the public broadcaster.

### 21. S. Aparna Appointed Executive Director, World Bank

Gujarat's IAS officer S. Aparna was appointed as Executive Director, World Bank, to represent the constituency of India, Bangladesh, Bhutan and Sri Lanka for three years.



S. Aparna is appointed in place of Subhash Garg, who was recently appointed Economic Affairs Secretary, Ministry of Finance. S. Aparna was nominated by Appointments Committee of the Cabinet, for the said appointment.

S. Aparna has handled various roles in the past, such as Principal Secretary, Economic Affairs, Surat Municipal Commissioner and Joint Secretary at urban development at centre.

## 22. Sankara Rao appointed as IFCI Chief Executive

E. Sankara Rao was appointed as new Managing Director & CEO in IFCI Ltd for a period of 3 years, by Appointments Committee of Cabinet. He had previously served as Chief General Manager at India Infrastructure Finance Company Ltd.

At present, he is also holding charge of a director and chief executive officer at IIFCL Asset Management Company Ltd.

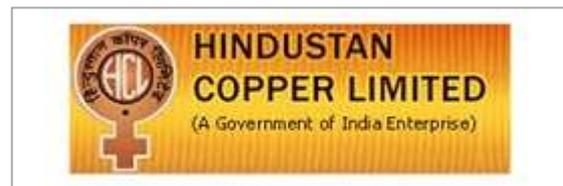
Industrial Finance Corporation of India, is an Indian government owned development bank to meet the long-term financial needs of the industrial sector.



## 23. Santosh Sharma appointed CMD of Hindustan Copper Limited

Appointments Committee of the Cabinet appointed Santosh Sharma as Chairman and Managing Director of Hindustan Copper Limited. Prior to this, he was Director (Operations) in the HCL.

He has been appointed for a period of 5 years. The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet also approved appointment of Debasis Jana as CMD of Andrew Yule and Co. Ltd (AYCL), Kolkata for period of 5 years. Prior to this, he was Director (Planning) in the Andrew Yule and Co. Ltd.



Hindustan Copper Limited (HCL), a public sector undertaking under the administrative control of the Ministry of Mines.

## 24. Sohail Mahmood took charge as Pakistan's High Commissioner to India

Sohail Mahmood has taken charge as the Pakistan's High Commissioner to India. He succeeds Abdul Basit who announced retirement.

Mahmood joined Pakistan's Foreign Service in 1985. He was earlier deputed in Turkey as Ambassador of Pakistan. He had also discharged his responsibilities in Islamabad's diplomatic mission in Washington, New York and Bangkok.



Mahmood was also Additional Secretary in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Islamabad, where he earlier served as Director General (2005-2009), Director (1995-1998) and Section Officer (1986-1991).

## 25. Sanjiv Gupta appointed as President and MD of General Motors India

General Motors India has appointed Sanjiv Gupta as the new President and Managing Director of the company. Mr Gupta is currently the Chief Financial Officer of the company.

Incumbent President and Managing Director Kaheer Kazem will hand over the reins of the company to Gupta effective 1 September.

Kazem has been appointed as the President and CEO of GM Korea. Gupta will combine his role as GM India President and Managing Director with his finance leadership responsibilities.



## 26. Rajiv Bansal given additional charge of Chairman & MD of Air India

The Union Government has been given additional charge of Chairman and Managing Director of Air India to Additional Secretary and Financial Advisor in Petroleum Ministry, Rajiv Bansal.

This action came following the appointment of incumbent Ashwani Lohani as the new Chairman of Railway Board. Mr. Bansal has been given charge for a period of three months.

Bansal is a 1988 batch IAS officer from the Nagaland cadre.



## 27. Ashwani Lohani appointed new Chairman of Railway Board

The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet has appointed Ashwani Lohani as the new Chairman of Railway Board. He is presently serving as the Chairman and Managing Director of Air India.

He has previously served as DRM, Delhi Division, Director of National Rail Museum and Chief Administrative Officer of Rail Alternate Fuel.

Incumbent Railway Board Chairman A K Mittal resigned owning moral responsibility for Muzaffarnagar train accident which had claimed over 20 lives.



## 28. Ajay Vipin Nanavati appointed as the new Chairman of Syndicate Bank

According to an order issued by the Department of Personnel and Training, the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet has appointed Ajay Vipin Nanavati as the new Chairman of Syndicate Bank.

Mr Nanavati has been appointed as non-official director/non-executive chairman of Syndicate Bank for three years. As the Chairman of the Bank, he would be responsible for overall policy directions.



Melwyn Rego is the Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of Syndicate Bank.

## 29. Nandan Nilekani appointed as new chairman of Infosys.

Nandan Nilekani was appointed as new chairman of Infosys, replacing R Seshasayee who resigned as chairman of the board. Nandan Nilekani is the Co-founder and Chairman of EkStep, a not-for-profit effort to create a learner centric, technology based platform.



Nilekani was Chairman of the Unique Identification Authority of India and co-chairman of Infosys Technologies Limited, which he co-founded in 1981.

He was honoured with Asia's Businessman of the year 2003 by Fortune Magazine. Foreign Policy magazine included him in the list the Top 100 Global thinkers in 2010.

# Awards

## 1. Dhanraj Pillay awarded with East Bengal FC's highest honour

Former India hockey captain Dhanraj Pillay was awarded with East Bengal football club's highest honour – Bharat Gaurav on their foundation day.

Pillay represented India in four Olympics, World Cups, Champions Trophy and Asian Games. He played total 339 matches for India, scoring 170 goals.

Pillay also received the Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna award for his remarkable performance in 1999-2000. India's hockey team won the Asian Games in 2002 under his captaincy.



## 2. Veteran Actress Sharada selected for 'Prem Nazir' Award

Veteran actor and national award winner Sharada has been selected for Prem Nazir Award 2017. The award carries a cash prize of Rs 75,000, a statuette and a citation.

Sharada had won three national awards with the first being for her performance in 1968 tragedy film 'Thulabharam'.

She also won the award for Swayamvaram (1972, Malayalam) and Nimajjanam (1978, Telugu). She has acted in several Telugu, Malayalam and Tamil films.



## 3. Dev Patel honored with Asia Society Game Changers Award

Every year, Asia announces awardees of the Asia Game Changer Awards, which recognize those making a transformative and positive difference for the future of Asia and the world.

Indian-origin actor of movie Slumdog millionaire, Dev Patel was felicitated with the award for making a "transformative and positive" difference for the future of Asia and the world.

Various other recipients were, a trailblazing CEO changing urban life in China, a Hollywood star building bridges between India and the world, and an environmentalist placing his life on the line to stop deforestation in his native country.



#### 4. Gallantry Awards to Army On Independence Day 2017

Following gallantry awards have been conferred to Army personnel on the occasion of Independence Day 2017:

Award	No's	Remarks
Kirti Chakra	03	Including 02 posthumous
Shaurya Chakra	13	Including 06 posthumous
Sena Medal (Gallantry)	85	Including 10 posthumous
Mention-in-Despatches	39	Including 05 posthumous



Preetam Singh Kunwar, Gurung and David Manlun were awarded with Kirti Chakra.

#### 5. President Conferred Vayu Sena Medal (Gallantry) to Commander Ravinder Ahlawat

On 26 Jul 16, Wg Cdr Ravinder Ahlawat was authorized to carry out a 'Range Instructional Technique' (RIT) sortie over Pokharan Range at 500 ft above ground level at high speeds but the aircraft experienced a Bird Hit. Bird hit damaged his eye and other body parts leading to extreme bleeding.

Despite injuries, he took all the emergency actions correctly to save the aircraft and villagers in close vicinity of the Pokharan range and executed a safe landing on the nearest Air Force Base. For this act of gallantry, Wing Commander Ravinder Ahlawat was awarded Vayu Sena Medal (Gallantry).



## 6. President conferred Vayu Sena Medal (Gallantry) to Captain Subhash Singh Rao

On 10 Oct 2016, Wing Commander Subhash Singh Rao, was detailed for an Air Test sortie. After an uneventful sortie, he was informed that the starboard main wheel of his aircraft was misaligned. This abnormality, would have resulted in pilot abandoning the aircraft through ejection.

Subhash Singh Rao displayed superior skills in maintaining control of the aircraft and stopped the aircraft on the runway. For this act of exceptional courage and safely recovering a stricken aircraft, Wing Commander Subhash Singh Rao was awarded Vayu Sena Medal (Gallantry).



## 7. Independence Day Fire Service and Home Guard & Civil Defence Medals announced

98 personnel were awarded Fire Service Medals on the occasion of the Independence Day. Of these, President's Fire Service Medal for Gallantry were awarded to 17 personnel, Fire Service Medal for Gallantry to 22 personnel, President's Fire Service Medal for Distinguished Service to 09 personnel and Fire Service Medal for Meritorious Service to 50 personnel.



54 personnel have also been awarded Home Guard & Civil Defence Medals and President's HG & CD Medal for Distinguished Service to 04 personnel and HG & CD Medal for Meritorious Service to 50 personnel.

## 8. Independence Day Correctional Service Medals announced

The President of India has approved the conferment of Correctional Service Medals to 20 prison personnel on the occasion of Independence Day, 2017.

The list of awardees include one President's Correctional Service Medal for Distinguished Service and 19 Correctional Service Medal for Meritorious Service.

President's Correctional Service Medal for Distinguished Service was given to A. Prameela Bai, Chief Head Warder, Special Prison for Women, Hyderabad, Telangana.



Correctional Service Medal for Meritorious Service was given to prison personnel such as Madan Lal, Head Warder, Subhash Chander Batra, Deputy Superintendent and Bahadursinh Jailor Group 2.

## 9. Independence Day Police Medals announced

990 personnel were awarded Police Medals on the occasion of the Independence Day. President's Police Medal for Gallantry (PPMG) was awarded to 01 personnel of state Chhatisgarh, Police Medal for Gallantry (PMG) to 190 personnel, President's Police Medal for Distinguished Service (PPMDS) to 93 personnel and Police Medal for Meritorious Service (PMMS) to 706 personnel.



Andhra Pradesh received 52 Police Medal for Gallantry, highest among all. Late Shankar Rao (Posthumously) Platoon Commander is the only personnel who was awarded with President's Police Medal for Gallantry. Uttar Pradesh received highest number of Police Medal for Meritorious Service with 75 personnel.

## 10. T J S George honoured with first-Ever Kesari Media Award

Kesari Media Award, meant to honour famous journalists, was honoured to famous journalist T J S George. Awardee was given a sum of Rs 50,000, citation and a statuette designed by renowned artist Bhatathiri.



A jury comprising filmmaker Adoor Gopalakrishnan and Asianet editor M G Radhakrishnan, Media Academy Chairman R S Babu and Kesari Memorial Journalist Trust Chairman C Rahim as member selects winners.

Thayil Jacob Sony George, well known as TJS George, is a writer and biographer who was honoured with Padma Bhushan award in 2011.

## 11. Gabriel Chundan honoured with 65th Nehru Trophy

Oarsmen of Gabriel Chundan, lifted Nehru Trophy at 65th edition of the prestigious Nehru Trophy (Boat Race) held at the Punnamda Lake in Kerala. Gabriel Chundan is a snake boat powered by oarsmen of Thuruthippuram Boat Club.



They were honoured because the members of Ernakulam-based boat club let dipped their oars in unison, leading the majestic chundan (snake boat) to the finish line, against other competitors.

20 snake boats termed as 'Chundan vallam' participated in the event, and faced 5 stages of competition.

## 12. Telangana Chief Minister Sri K. Chandrashekar Rao selected for Agriculture Leadership Award 2017

Telangana Chief Minister Sri K. Chandrashekar Rao has been selected for the prestigious Agriculture Leadership Award-2017 for his innovative and yeoman services being rendered for the welfare of farmers and farm sector.

The award is instituted by Indian Council of Food and Agriculture in 2008 and is presented every year since then.

A Committee headed by well-known agriculture scientist Prof. MS Swaminathan has recommended the CM's name.



## 13. Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna award 2017 Announced

The Union Government announced the Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna Award. Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna Award is given for the spectacular and most outstanding performance in the field of sports by a sportsperson over a period of four years.

Apart from a medal and a citation, the awardee will receive a cash prize of Rs. 7.5 lakh.

The list of winners:

Name of the Awardee	Discipline
Devendra Jhajharia	Para Athlete
Sardar Singh	Hockey



## 14. Dronacharya Awards 2017 Announced

The Union Government announced the Dronacharya Awards 2017. The Award is given for coaches for producing medal winners at prestigious International sports events.

Apart from a medal and a citation, the awardee will receive a cash prize of Rs. 5 lakh. The list of winners:

Name of the Awardee	Discipline
Late Dr. R. Gandhi	Athletics
Mr. Heera Nand Kataria	Kabaddi
Mr. G.S.S.V. Prasad	Badminton (Lifetime)
Mr. Brij Bhushan Mohanty	Boxing (Lifetime)
Mr. P.A. Raphel	Hockey (Lifetime)
Mr. Sanjoy Chakraverthy	Shooting (Lifetime)
Mr. Roshan Lal	Wrestling (Lifetime)



## 15. Arjuna Awards 2017 announced

The Union Government announced the Arjuna Awards 2017. The Award is given for consistent outstanding performance for four years. Apart from a medal and a citation, the awardee will receive a cash prize of Rs. 5 lakh. The list of winners:

Name of the Awardees	Discipline
Ms. V.J. Surekha	Archery
Ms. Khushbir Kaur	Athletics
Mr. Arokia Rajiv	Athletics
Ms. Prasanthi Singh	Basketball
Sub. Laishram Debendro Singh	Boxing
Mr. CheteshwarPujara	Cricket
Ms. Harmanpreet Kaur	Cricket
Ms. OinamBembem Devi	Football
Mr. S.S.P. Chawrasia	Golf
Mr. S.V. Sunil	Hockey
Mr. Jasvir Singh	Kabaddi
Mr. P. N. Prakash	Shooting
Mr. A. Amalraj	Table Tennis
Mr. SakethMyneni	Tennis
Mr. SatyawartKadian	Wrestling
Mr. Mariyappan	Para-Athlete
Mr. Varun Singh Bhati	Para-Athlete



## 16. Dhyan Chand Award 2017 announced

The Union Government announced the Dhyan Chand Award 2017. The Award is given for life time contribution to sports development.

Apart from a medal and a citation, the awardee will receive a cash prize of Rs. 5 lakh.

The list of winners:

<b>Name</b>	<b>Discipline</b>
Mr. Bhupender Singh	Athletics
Mr. Syed Shahid Hakim	Football
Ms. Sumarai Tete	Hockey



# Books & Authors

## 1. PM Modi released book “Tireless Voice Relentless Journey”

Prime Minister Narendra Modi released a compilation of key speeches and articles of Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu at a function in Parliament House. The book is titled 'Tireless Voice Relentless journey'.

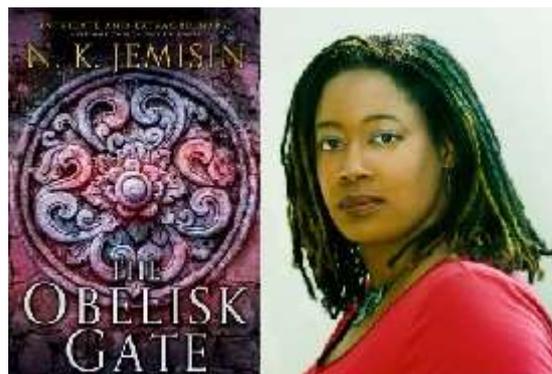
Muppavarapu Venkaiah Naidu was elected the Vice-President of India on 11th August 2017. He had served as the Minister of Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation, Urban Development and Information and Broadcasting in the Modi Cabinet.



## 2. 'The Obelisk Gate' bagged Best Novel 2017 by Hugo awards

Nora K. Jemisin, novel author was honoured with The Hugo Award for Best Novel 2017 at the 75th World Science Fiction Convention held in Helsinki. Book has also bagged New York Times Notable Book of 2015, as it is only such second in the trilogy that started with 'The Fifth Season'.

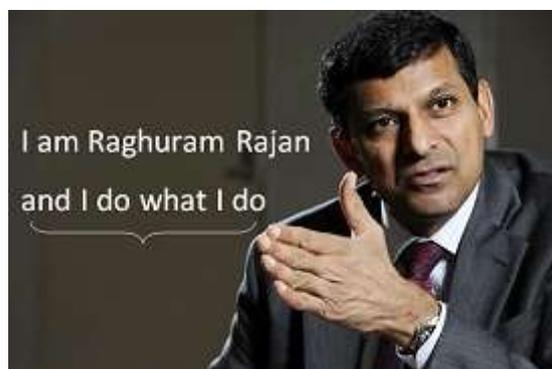
Novel is based on life on a planet where the inhabitants would undergo a "Fifth Season" of catastrophic climate change every a few centuries. It was awarded due to selection of 3,319 voters.



## 3. Raghuram Rajan authored book 'I Do What I Do' to be released in September

A book titled 'I Do What I Do: On Reform, Rhetoric & Resolve' released penned by former RBI Governor Raghuram Rajan. The book details about economic concepts in a readily accessible way and the need for tolerance and respect to assure India's economic progress.

The book is published by Harper Collins India and will be launched at Chennai in September. The book illustrates some of essays and speeches during his stint as Reserve Bank of India (RBI) governor. Rajan was Governor of the RBI between 2013 and 2016.



# Committees

## 1. SEBI forms committee on fair market conduct

Market Regulator, SEBI (Securities and Exchange Board of India), has set up a committee on 'fair market conduct' under the chairmanship of former law secretary T K Viswanathan.

The committee includes members from law firms, forensic auditing firms, stock exchanges, data analytics firms and SEBI.

The committee will review norms pertaining to Prevention of Insider Trading (PIT) 2015, and Prevention of Fraud and Unfair Trade Practices (PFUTP) 2003. The committee is required to submit its report to the regulator within four months.



## 2. Justice Krishna to head expert group on Data Protection Framework for India

Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) has constituted a Committee of Experts under the Chairmanship of Justice B N Srikrishna, to study and identify key data protection issues and recommend methods for addressing them.

The committee was constituted considering the importance of data protection and keeping personal data of citizens secure and protected.

The committee will also suggest a draft Data Protection Bill. Protection of Data is expected to provide big boost to Digital economy of the country.

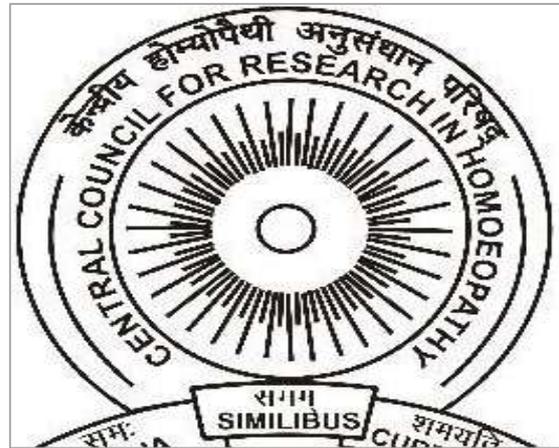


### 3. A high level committee set up by CCRH to deal with issues related to false propaganda

Central Council for Research in Homoeopathy (CCRH) is an autonomous body and apex research Body under Ministry of AYUSH.

CCRH has an institutional mechanism wherein a committee consisting of Chairpersons of different Committees including Scientific Advisory Committee, Sub-committee on clinical research and Basic & Fundamental research has been set up to prevent false propaganda against homoeopathy and other related issues.

Central Council for Research in Homoeopathy (CCRH), and National Institute of Homoeopathy (NIH) are apex bodies under the Ministry of AYUSH in the field of research and education respectively.



### 4. Justice Srikrishna committee on Institutionalization of Arbitration Mechanism

A high-level committee to review Institutionalization of Arbitration Mechanism in India, headed by Justice B N Srikrishna, has submitted its recommendations to the union law ministry.

The Key Recommendations are:

- to set up an autonomous body, Arbitration Promotion Council of India (APCI)
- creation of specialist Arbitration Bench
- amendments in the Arbitration and Conciliation Act
- creation of the post of an "International Law Adviser (ILA)"



### 5. Union Government constituted 40-member panel to select films for IFFI

The Information and Broadcasting Ministry constituted a 40-member 'preview committee' with filmmaker Vivek Agnihotri as its convenor to select movies for the international film festival at Goa.

The other members of the new committee include Agnihotri's wife and actress Pallavi Joshi, author and Padma Shri-awardee Narendra Kohli and actress Hrishitaa Bhatt.

The International Film Festival of India (IFFI) will be held in Goa from November 20 to 28.



Last week, the I and B Ministry had constituted the steering committee and the technical committee for the IFFI.

## 6. RBI published report of the Household Finance Committee

The Reserve Bank of India published the report of the Household Finance Committee. The committee was set up on April 26, 2016 to look at various facets of household finance in India.

The Committee was chaired by Dr. Tarun Ramadorai, Professor of Financial Economics, Imperial college London.

Highlighting the unique aspects of Indian households' financial decision-making, the Committee has set out several recommendations on enabling better participation by Indian households in formal financial markets, including a Regulatory Sandbox for assessing the role of new financial technologies and products.



# Deaths

## 1. Dhrupad maestro Ustad Hussain Sayeeduddin Dagar passed away

Dhrupad maestro Ustad Hussain Sayeeduddin Dagar passes away at the age of 78 years. Dhrupad is a Hindustani classical vocal music. He belongs to Dagar family of musicians that is the only one to practice Dhrupad. He is the 19th generation of the family practising Dhrupad.



Dagar was also President of Dhrupad Society Jaipur and Pune. Dhrupad is a Sanskrit blend of Dhruva (immovable) and Pad (verse). It has its roots in ancient times, it was first mentioned in 3rd Century B.C. in the Natyashastra.

## 2. Pushpa Mitra Bhargava, Scientist and Activist, passed away

Dr Pushpa Mitra Bhargava, one of the most outstanding biological scientists in India, passed away at the age of 89 years.

He was instrumental in setting up a separate Department of Biotechnology and the Hyderabad-based Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology, which he continued to head until 1990.

He has more than 125 research papers to his credit and won several awards including the Padma Bhushan in 1986. He was also honoured with the Legion d'honneur in 1998.



## 3. Former Union Minister Santosh Mohan Dev died

Former Union Minister Santosh Mohan Dev passed away at the age of 83 years. He was the minister for heavy industries and public enterprises in the UPA-I government.

Santosh Mohan Dev was a seven-time Congress MP and represented Silchar five times and Tripura twice. He was first elected to Parliament in 1980.

Dev was the Union minister of state for communications during 1986-1988 and the minister of state for home from 1988- 1989.



#### 4. Veteran actor Sitaram Panchal died at 54

Famous Bollywood actor Sitaram Panchal passed away due to kidney and lung cancer at the age of 54. He is famous for his roles in movies like Jolly LLB 2, Peepli Live, Pan Singh Tomar, The Legend of Bhagat Singh, and Slumdog Millionaire.

His first movie "Bandit Queen" was released in 1994. Sitaram Panchal also worked for Television industry in shows like Ek Ghar Banaunga and Looteri Dulhan.

The actor was found seeking financial help over social media to cure his disease. The Haryana Government had provided him a financial aid of ₹5 lakhs to the actor.



#### 5. Former Union Minister Ajmer Sanwar Lal Jat passed away

BJP political leader Ajmer Sanwar Lal died at the age of 62. He also served as Minister of State for Water Resources from 2014 to 2016. He served as the Chairman of the state Farmers' Commission in October 2016.

He had greatly contributed for the wellbeing of villages and farmers. Ajmer Sanwar Lal was critically ill, and was admitted to AIIMS, Delhi, due to kidney damage and cardiac arrest.

Sanwar Lal Jat had been chairman of Rajasthan Kisan Aayog and MP of constituency from Ajmer, Rajasthan.



#### 6. Famous author Vijay Nambisan passed away

Vijay Nambisan, author of book 'Gemini', passed away at the age of 54. He became the first All India Poetry Champion in 1988, for his novel 'Madras Central'.

He was famously known for his language ethics, where he made an appeal to readers, writers and enthusiasts of literature in his book 'Language as an Ethic'.

Some of his best known novels are 'Bihar is in the Eyes of Beholder' and poems like "Radium decays, A bit at a time' etc. He had translated works of devotional poetry of Poonthanam and Melpathur Narayana Bhattathiri.



## 7. Pakistan's 'Mother Teresa' Ruth Pfau passed away

A German doctor cum nun who dedicated her life to combatting leprosy in Pakistan, Ruth Pfau, passed away at the age of 87. She was residing in Karachi since 1960.

When she visited Pakistan in 1960, she was so moved with the plight of leprosy victims that she decided to stay forever in the country to cure them.

She founded Marie Adelaide Leprosy Centre in Karachi in 1962 and was honored by the state with the country's highest civilian awards, the Hilal-e-Imtiaz, Hilal-e-Pakistan and Staufer Medal at the German consulate Karachi in 2015.



## 8. Veteran Photographer S Paul passed away

Veteran photographer S Paul passed away at the age of 88 years. Paul was a self-taught photographer. He joined The Indian Express in the 1960s and retired from the newspaper in 1989.

Paul was born in Jhang in Pakistan in 1929. He moved to India after partition and his family shifted to Shimla. He who loved experimenting with shots, talking photography and sharing tips with youngsters.



## 9. US comedian Jerry Lewis passed away in Las Vegas

Jerry Lewis, one of Hollywood's most successful comedians passed way at the age of 91 years.

One of the most popular comic actors of the 1950s and '60s, Lewis perfected the role of the Quirky Clown and also won acclaim as a writer, actor and philanthropist in a career spanning six decades.

Lewis became the highest-paid actor in Hollywood, chalking up hits such as The Bell Boy, Cinderella and The Nutty Professor.



## 10. Prize-winning Polish-US writer Janusz Glowacki died

Renowned Polish-U.S. playwright and screenwriter Janusz Glowacki passed away at the age of 78 years. Glowacki was the author of award-winning plays "Antigone in New York" and "The Fourth Sister".

Glowacki won the Hollywood Drama League Critics Award for his drama "Hunting Cockroaches" in 1987.

He won the Le Balladine Award for the best play of 1997 for "Antigone in New York". "The Fourth Sister" won the main Grand Prize at the International Theatre Festival in Dubrovnik in 2001.



## 11. Former Manipur CM, Rishang Keishing, passed away

Former Manipur Chief Minister and Rajya Sabha MP Rishang Keishing passed away at the age of 97 years.

Mr Keishing served as Manipur CM for four terms. He was the last surviving member of India's first post-1947 Parliament.

Keishing started his career as a teacher and was first elected to the Lok Sabha from the reserved seat in 1952. His term at the Rajya Sabha, the Upper House of Indian Parliament, ended on April 9, 2014.



## 12. New Zealand's Oldest Cricketer Tom Pritchard died

New Zealand's oldest cricketer Tom Pritchard passed away at the age of 100 years. He claimed 818 wickets at the average of 23.30 across 200 first-class games. He never played test cricket.

His best year was 1948 when he took 172 wickets at an average of 18.75. In March 2017, Pritchard became only the third New Zealand first-class cricketer, after John Wheatley and Syd Ward, to reach 100 years of age.



### 13. British sci-fi writer Brian Aldiss died

British science fiction writer, Brian Aldiss, passed away at the age of 92 years. He served in India and Burma with the British Army during World War II.

Aldiss was the author of science fiction classics including *Non-Stop*, *Hothouse* and *Greybeard*, as well as the *Helliconia* trilogy.

Aldiss was the recipient of numerous awards, including the Hugo and Nebula prizes for science fiction and fantasy.



### 14. Former Marshall Islands foreign minister Tony de Brum died

Former Marshall Islands foreign minister Tony de Brum passed away at the age of 72 years. He served as leading advocate for the landmark Paris Climate Agreement and a globally recognised voice in the fight against climate change.

He was the one who witnessed effects of rising seas from his home in the Marshall Islands and took decision to fight against Climate change.

He was appointed as Pacific nation's climate ambassador. Since De Brum's own island home of Majuro has slipped beneath the waters, he took step to fight against Climate change.



### 15. Veteran Cinematographer Ramananda Sengupta passed away

Veteran cinematographer Ramanda Sengupta passed away recently at the age of 101 years. He had experience of working with Jean Renoir, Ritwik Ghatak, and Mrinal Sen.

Ramananda Sengupta worked as a full-time cinematographer, in 'Purbaraag' movie directed by Ardhendu Mukherjee. He has worked in famous movies like *The River* (Le Fleuve), *Nagarik*, *Raat Bhore* and many other.

In total, he has worked in over 70 films, including landmark films like *Shilpi*, *Nishithe*, *Bindur Chhele*, *Personal Assistant*, *Headmaster* and *Teen Bhubaner Pare*. He was a founding member of Technicians' Studio in South Kolkata's Tollygunge.



# Defence

## 1. Army launched Humraaz app for soldiers

The Indian Army has developed a mobile application called 'Humraaz' app through which serving soldiers can track details like postings and promotions. The mobile app has been developed in-house by the Army.

The app will also be used by the soldiers to view their monthly salary slips and the Form 16 and also download them. For security reasons, the installation of the application has been linked to verification of Aadhaar details.

To enable usage of this mobile application, the latest mobile number of individuals should be linked to his Aadhaar number.



## 2. India's First Private Missile Production Facility Unveiled

India's first private sector missile sub-systems manufacturing facility, Kalyani Rafael Advanced Systems (KRAS) plant, was inaugurated near Hyderabad. The facility is a joint venture between the \$2.5 billion Kalyani Group and Israel's Rafael Advanced Defence Systems Ltd.

The plant will develop a wide range of advanced capabilities and would employ more than 300 engineers and provide indirect employment to 1,000 people. The plant will make anti-tank guided missile (ATGM) Spike.



## 3. Indian Coast Guard Ship 'Shaurya' commissioned

Fifth of the series of six 105-metre Offshore Patrol Vessels (OPVs), Indian coast guard ship 'Shaurya' was commissioned in Goa, in the presence of Union Minister for Petroleum and Natural Gas Dharmendra Pradhan.

Shaurya is meant to draw 2,350 tonne patrol, carry one twin engine light helicopter and five high-speed boats with the help of 9100 kilowatt diesel engine and high-power external firefighting system.

Shaurya constitutes 30mm CRN 91 Naval Gun, well -built bridge system and integrated machinery control system.



#### 4. Indian Navy inducts landing craft utility ship

The Indian Navy inducted a landing craft utility ship, IN LCU L52. It is the second Landing Craft Utility (LCU) Mk-IV class to be inducted into the Indian Navy.

The ship has been indigenously designed and built by Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers, Kolkata.

LCU MK-IV ship is an amphibious ship with the primary role to transport and deploy Main Battle Tanks, Armoured Vehicles, troops and equipment from ship to shore.



#### 5. Arun Jaitley hands over LRSAM to Indian Navy

Union Defence Minister Arun Jaitley handed over the indigenous Long Range Surface to Air Missile (LRSAM) to the Indian Navy at Bharat Dynamics Limited (BDL), Kanchanbagh.

LRSAM is an advanced combat suit for missile defence against air targets, missiles and includes air & surface surveillance, threat alert and fire control. It is jointly developed by Defence Research & Development Organization - Israeli Aircraft Industries (DRDO-IAI).



The minister also inaugurated the ASTRA Manufacturing Facility. Astra weapon system is an indigenously developed Air-to-Air beyond Visual Range (BVR) missile developed by DRDO.

#### 6. Varuna Coast Guard Training Ship decommissioned

Varuna, Indian Coast Guard Ship was decommissioned with full armed forces honours at the naval base. The Ship has served for about 30 years. Varuna was part of the First Training Squadron of the Navy.

ICGS Varuna ship is built under the supervision of Mazagaon Dock, Mumbai, and is 4th Offshore Patrol Vessel.

A cadet training ship for the past 10 years has been replaced by ICGS Sarathi in the First Training Squadron of the Indian Navy. It contributed to the training of officer trainees of the Coast Guard and the Navy.



## 7. Indian Navy Band to participate in International Military Music Festival in Russia

The International Military Music Festival "Spasskaya Tower" is the parade of the best military music bands of Russia and other countries that takes place every year in Moscow.

This Music Festival is a mega event, where military musicians represent the variety of national, artistic and military traditions of the world.

"Spasskaya Tower" is scheduled from 24 Aug to 03 Sep 17. The Naval Band component comprising of 01 officer and 09 musician sailors is being led by Commander Satish K Champion, Command Musician Officer, Eastern Naval Command.



## 1. Telecom Market likely to cross Rs 6.6 trillion revenue by 2020

The Indian Telecom Market is expected to cross the Rs 6.6 trillion revenue mark by the year 2020. The number of Internet subscribers in India was more than 391 million by Dec 2016 making India globally the 2nd highest in terms of internet users.

The government had launched the Digital India initiative in July 2015 which had three broad targets - providing Digital Infrastructure as a core utility to every citizen, Governance and Services on Demand as well as Digital empowerment of citizens.



## 2. Government enters into nine Unilateral Advance Pricing Agreements (UAPAs) with Indian taxpayers

The Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) entered into nine Unilateral Advance Pricing Agreements (UAPAs) with Indian taxpayers in the month of July, 2017.

The nine APAs signed in the month of July, 2017 pertain to diverse sectors of the economy. CBDT has signed its first APA with a taxpayer engaged in supplying rigs used in Oil & Gas exploration.

The other APAs pertain to Education, Banking, Pharmaceutical, Manufacturing and Information Technology sectors of the economy.



## 3. Facebook Acquires AI Assistant Start-up Ozlo

Facebook has acquired an artificial intelligence (AI) start-up Ozlo to make Messenger smarter. The terms of the deal weren't disclosed. Ozlo specialises in understanding text-based conversations.

Ozlo is a four-year-old start-up with 30 employees. It has raised \$14 million from a number of investors, including Greylock.

The majority of the Ozlo team is joining Facebook, and they all will be working in



Facebook's Messenger group. Ozlo had its headquarters in Palo Alto, California, nearby Facebook's headquarters in Menlo Park.

#### 4. Patanjali Teams Up with Facebook, Google for Online Advertisement Push

Yoga Guru Baba Ramdev's Patanjali has now teamed up with Google and Facebook for digital advertisement. Patanjali is also campaigning online for a boycott of foreign products, in sync with the "Go Swadeshi" movement initiated by founder Baba Ramdev.

Searches for Patanjali products on Google have gone up 11 times in the past four years. The company clocked a turnover of Rs 10,561 crore in financial year 2016-17 and plans to double that figure in this financial year to Rs 21,000 crore.



#### 5. NCLT approved Airtel-Telenor Merger

The National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) has approved the proposed merger between Bharti Airtel and Telenor India.

Bharti Airtel will acquire the business of Telenor India for an undisclosed amount in all seven circles where the latter holds spectrum.

Airtel would take over Telenor India's spectrum, licences and operations, including its employees and customer base of 44 million.

Telenor is currently running operations in seven circles - Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Maharashtra, Gujarat, UP (East), UP (West) and Assam.



#### 6. 25% growth observed in number of Income Tax Returns filed in current fiscal

As a result of demonetization and Operation Clean Money, there is a substantial increase in the number of Income Tax Returns (ITRs) filed.

The number of Returns filed as on 05.08.2017 stands at 2,82,92,955 as against 2,26,97,843 filed during the corresponding period of FY 2016-2017, registering an increase of 24.7% compared to growth rate of 9.9% in the previous year.

The growth in returns filed by Individuals is 25.3% with 2,79,39,083 returns having been received up to 05.08.2017. The effect of demonetization is also clearly visible in the growth in Direct Tax Collections. Advance Tax collections of Personal Income Tax.



## 7. GST Council Recommended Increase in Maximum Ceiling of Cess Leviable on Motor Vehicles

The GST Council considered the issue of cess leviable on motor vehicles in its 20th meeting held on the 5th of August 2017 and recommended that Central Government may move legislative amendments required for increasing the maximum ceiling of cess leviable on motor vehicles falling under headings 8702 and 8703 including SUVs, to 25% instead of present 15%.

However, the decision on when to raise the actual cess leviable on the same will be taken by the GST Council in due course.



## 8. Virtual Customer Service launched by Amazon

In order to provide cost efficient employment prospects for skilled candidates and enhance talent pool, Amazon launched virtual customer service (VCS) model in major 4 cities Hyderabad, Pune, Coimbatore, and Noida. This will help people to work from home yet resume their career.

Virtual Customer Service is meant to ease customers' effort by providing a support that can quickly resolve the problems, queries, complaints on relevant products, programmes and services offered by Amazon.



## 9. BitBay launched dedicated trading platform for digital currency

In order to ease trading of digital currencies such as bitcoin, litecoin, ether, Lisk, monero, dash and gamecredits via digital platform, BitBay company launched a dedicated platform for trade and exchange of digital currencies.

BitBay is one of the top ten cryptocurrency trading platforms in the world that aims to bring awareness about digital currencies and remove misconceptions related to these currencies in a market like India.

The new digital platform will be offering six digital currencies to keep and trade with local currency and will carry out demo trading, so as to let users learn digital trading of virtual currencies.



## 10. SoftBank's investment in Flipkart became world's largest technology-focused investment fund

Veteran e-commerce business tycoon Flipkart Group announced world's biggest technology-focused investment fund from SoftBank Vision Fund of amount \$2.5 billion.

Flipkart has acquired investment to compete with Amazon. It is considered to be as one of the biggest ever private investment in an Indian technology company.

Prior to this, Flipkart has also raised \$300 million from a clutch of 10-15 investors. Flipkart is e-commerce site which is now one of India's best-funded start-ups, having raised over \$7 billion in 14 rounds of funding since its inception in 2007.



## 11. SEBI gave nod to MCX to launch option trading in Gold

Securities and Exchange Board of India gave nod to Multi Commodity Exchange (MCX) Ltd to launch options trading in gold.

Option trading means allowing even smaller investors and hedgers in the bullion industry to minimize their price risk at a fraction of cost compared to currently available futures trading.

Various hedgers trade on MCX platform such as Harmony Hedge Fund and various other hedge funds have approached the exchange for admission.

MCX is an independent commodity exchange based in India, that focuses on the modalities of trading in commodity markets.



## 12. SEBI enabled online registration for Custodians of Securities

An online registration mechanism was introduced by SEBI for custodians of securities to make it convenient for them to do business.

Now the custodians will be able to complete registration and other regulatory filings with SEBI much faster and in a cost-effective manner, through SEBI intermediary portal.

Also, custodian of securities seeking approval as Designated Depository Participant can apply through this portal.



SEBI is the regulator for the securities market in India, meant to protect the interests of investors in securities and promote the development of the securities market.

### 13. World's 3rd most funded Pvt company status given to Flipkart

E-commerce company Flipkart has emerged as the third most funded private company globally, after it received \$2.4 billion from Japanese technology and telecom giant SoftBank.

Company has reported to raise \$7 billion which is higher than that raised by online house rental aggregator Airbnb (\$3.3 billion) and mobile phone maker Xiaomi (\$1.4 billion).

Flipkart stands at 9th place with about \$15 billion in valuation report. Flipkart is an electronic commerce company headquartered in Bangalore, Karnataka.



### 14. NCLT approved RCom's Merger with Aircel

The National Company Law Tribunal approved the merger of Reliance Communications (RCom) and Aircel. It paves the way for creation of a new entity called Aircom with both partners having 50% equity stakes.

Once the deal is completed, RCom's overall debt will be reduced by Rs. 20,000 crore, while Aircel's debt will reduce by Rs. 4,000 crore. RCom also plans to sell its telecom towers to Brookfield for Rs 11,000 crore.



### 15. Reliance Defence is now Reliance Naval and Engineering

Anil Ambani's Reliance Infrastructure-controlled Reliance Defence and Engineering is in the process to change its name to Reliance Naval and Engineering Ltd (RNEL) in line with the company's focus on building capabilities for the Indian Navy and the Coast Guard. The company is set to seek shareholders' approval to finalize this process.

Reliance Naval and Engineering has a large ship building and repair facility in the country and has one of the largest dry docks.



## 16. Government slapped \$264 million new penalty on RIL, BP

The government has imposed a new penalty of USD 264 million on Reliance Industries Ltd and its partners for producing less than the targeted natural gas from eastern offshore KG-D6 fields in 2015-16.

The total penalty now stands at USD 3.02 billion. The penalty is in the form of disallowing recovery of cost incurred for missing the target during six years beginning April 1, 2010.



## 17. Uber launched B2B Model for Business

Uber has launched a business to business model called "Uber for Business". The business model will enable new use cases like daily commute, late-night rides home from work, between-office transportation. It would help the businesses save cost.

Companies can set rules for employees, customers, and clients around the type of car that they can use, how much they can spend, and the location from which a trip needs to begin or end.



## 18. BSNL launched Digital Wallet powered by MobiKwik

State-owned Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd (BSNL) launched a mobile wallet (mobile payment App) developed and issued by MobiKwik on behalf of BSNL.

This step would enable its existing 100 million customers to make Bill payments and transact on e-commerce platforms.

The app will enable one-tap bill payment for over 100 million subscribers of BSNL. The subscribers will also be able to use the digital wallet at over 1.5 million merchants across India.



## 19. Tata Power, First Power Utility to Use QR Code

Tata Power, India's largest integrated power company, has become the first power utility to introduce QR code service for bill payments in Mumbai.

The QR code linked to Unified Payments Interface (UPI) will be printed on the electricity bills. Customers can scan the QR code with BHIM app or any other UPI linked bank apps and pay their bills without any hassle.

The bill details will be displayed on the app, post which the customer can authorize the payment within a few seconds and his bill will be paid instantaneously.



## 20. Nestle India tied up with Amazon

Nestlé India has tied up with Amazon India for the launch of its new range of Maggi Noodles. The new range will be available first on Amazon.in, and the company would subsequently aim to roll it out across retail outlets in India.

The new range — Nutri Licious — will be available to consumers first on Amazon starting 20 August 2017. The Chief Executive officer of Nestle is Mark Schneider.



## 21. Power Grid Inks \$500 Million Loan Pact with ADB

The Power Grid Corporation of India has entered into a loan agreement of USD 500 million from the Asian Development Bank (ADB) for its various projects.

The proceeds of the loan are proposed to be utilised for funding of Green Energy Corridor (Part D); 800KV High Voltage Direct Current (HVDC) bipole link between Western Region (Raigarh, Chhattisgarh) and Southern Region (Pugalur, Tamil Nadu) and 320 KV HDVC link between Pugalur and North Trichur (Kerala).





## 25. Airtel Ties up with Symantec

Bharti Airtel has partnered with Symantec to offer cyber security solutions to enterprises.

As part of the tie-up, Airtel will be the exclusive cyber security services partner for Symantec and will distribute its enterprise security software. Symantec has blocked over a billion Petya and Wannacry infection attempts since the launch of the two malware platforms.

Airtel Business serves over 2,000 large enterprise accounts, plus more than 2.50 lakh corporate and tech start-ups, with its integrated telecom solutions.



# Environment

## 1. India ratified 2nd Commitment Period of Kyoto Protocol

India maintained its stand on climate change, thereby ratifying the second commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol that commits countries to contain the emission of greenhouse gases.

With this decision, India became the 80th country to accept the amendment relating to the second commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol, the international emissions reduction treaty.

The Kyoto Protocol is an international agreement linked to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, which commits its members by achieving internationally binding emission reduction targets.



## 2. Scientists discover new Frog species in the Western Ghats mountain range in India

A team of Indian scientists from the Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology (CCMB) in Hyderabad, have discovered a new species of frog that has a snout-shaped nose, just like a pig's.

The frog has shiny, purple skin, a light blue ring around its eyes, and a pointy pig-nose. The scientists have called the new species Bhupathy's purple frog (*Nasikabatrachus bhupathi*).



Two new frog species were also discovered from north-eastern India: *Xenophrys sanu*, a resident of the Darjeeling hills in West Bengal, and *Xenophrys katabhako*, found in West Bengal and Sikkim.

### 3. Scientists discover the largest volcanic region on Earth under Antarctica

Scientists from the University of Edinburgh in Britain have discovered the largest volcanic region on Earth two km below the surface of the vast ice sheet in west Antarctica. The region has nearly 100 volcanoes.

The newly discovered volcanoes range in height from 100 to 3,850 metres, with the highest almost as tall as Switzerland's 3,970 meters Eiger mountain. These active peaks are concentrated in a region known as the west Antarctic rift system.



### 4. Environment Minister Launched “Harit Diwali, Swasth Diwali” Campaign

Union Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Dr. Harsh Vardhan, launched the “Harit Diwali, Swasth Diwali” campaign.

The minister urged upon the children to celebrate this year’s Diwali by not buying fire crackers and instead buy a gift, food items, or sweets for the poor and underprivileged children living in their locality.

As a part of the campaign, the Environment Ministry will undertake various activities to create awareness among various stakeholders and encourage people to participate in combating air pollution.



### 5. Nepal launched Climate-Smart Snow Leopard Plan

Nepal has made conservation history by becoming the first country to launch its climate-smart snow leopard landscape management plan, leading the way in safeguarding the species and its habitat.

The plan addresses key current and emerging threats to snow leopards including climate change and will be used as a model for other range countries to adopt. Nepal's conservation plan paves the way for more substantial action in securing 20 snow leopard landscapes by 2020.



## 1. RBI cuts repo rate by 25 bps to 6%

The Reserve Bank of India in its 3rd bi-monthly monetary policy decision of FY 2017-18 reduced the Repo Rate under the Liquidity Adjustment Facility by 25 basis points from 6.25% to 6.0%.

The reverse repo rate under the LAF stands adjusted to 5.75%, and the marginal standing facility (MSF) rate and the Bank Rate to 6.25%.

The MPC also decided to keep the policy stance neutral in consonance with the objective of achieving the medium-term target for consumer price index inflation of 4%. Despite a cut in the benchmark lending rate, RBI retained its GDP forecast to 7.3%.



## 2. Airtel Payment Bank ties up with HPCL for ATM services

Airtel Payments Bank has partnered with Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL). As a part of the agreement, all 14,000 HPCL fuel stations will act as banking points for Airtel Payments Bank.

Customers can avail of services like opening new accounts, make cash deposits and withdrawals facility, and transfer money at these fuel stations.

The customers of Airtel Payments Bank will also be able to make secure and convenient digital payments for fuel purchases across these fuel outlets by using their mobile phones.



## 3. SBI debit cards now on Samsung Pay app

Samsung India announced that its flagship mobile payments service Samsung Pay will now be available for higher variants of SBI Debit Card, offering 130 million State Bank of India customers an opportunity to tap and pay on the go while using a wide range of Samsung smartphones.

This collaboration turns the Samsung smartphones into electronic card-holders and



users can pay at point-of-sale (PoS) terminals with just a tap on the cards stored in Samsung Pay.

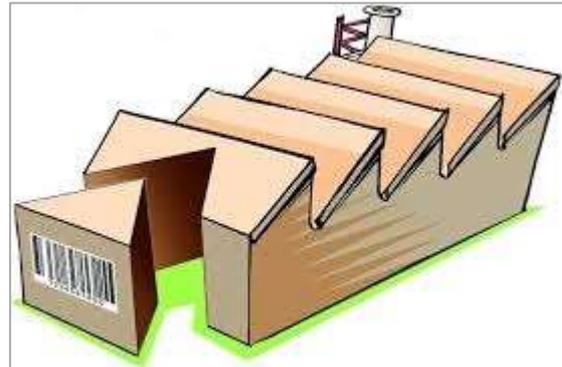
#### 4. Government announced new exchange traded fund, Bharat-22

Finance Minister Arun Jaitley announced a new Exchange Traded Fund (ETF) named BHARAT 22 which consists of 22 scrips including ONGC, IOC, SBI and Axis Bank.

The government had raised about eight thousand 500 crore rupees through the three tranches of CPSE Exchange Traded Fund last fiscal.

ICICI Prudential AMC will be the ETF Manager and Asia Index Private Limited will be the Index Provider. The index will be rebalanced annually.

ETF functions like a mutual fund scheme and is bought by investors as units. Bharat-22 will have a diversified portfolio of six sectors, including energy, FMCG, finance, basic material and industrial and utilities.

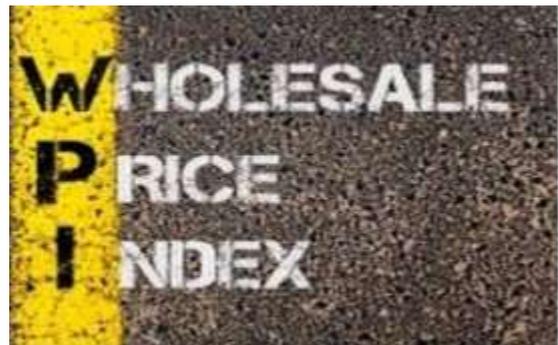


#### 5. Government revised the base year of All-India Wholesale Price Index (WPI) from 2004-05 to 2011-12

The Government has revised the base year of All-India Wholesale Price Index (WPI) from 2004-05 to 2011-12 in line to Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and Index of Industrial Production (IIP).

Some of the salient features and improvements are:

- The revised basket of WPI and its weighting structure conform to the structure of economy in 2011-12.
- The number of items in the basket has increased from 676 to 697 and the number of price quotations has increased from 5482 to 8331.
- New series of WPI does not include indirect taxes. This is in consonance with international practices and will make the new WPI conceptually closer to Producer Price Index.
- A new "Food Index" is compiled to capture the inflation in food items.



## 6. 85.77 lakh Self Help Groups have saving deposits of over Rs. 16,114 crore with banks as on 31.3.2017

As per information compiled by National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD), as on 31st March 2017, 85.77 lakh Self Help Groups (SHGs) have saving deposits of over Rs. 16,114 crore with banks. It is estimated that these SHGs cover more than 10 crore rural households.

70% of the total savings of the groups are used for internal lending of the groups. During the last three years, Rs. 94934 crore has been disbursed as loans to Women SHGs at 7% interest per annum with interest incentive of 3% payable on prompt repayment reducing the effective interest to 4% per annum.



## 7. Lok Sabha passed Bill to raise NABARD's Capital to Rs 30,000 crore

The Lok Sabha has passed the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (Amendment) Bill, 2017 to enable exit of RBI from NABARD and increase authorised capital of the development institution from Rs 5,000 crore to Rs 30,000 crore.

RBI currently holds 0.4% of the paid-up capital of NABARD and the remaining 99.6% is held by the central government.

The Bill also seeks to amend certain clauses in the light of reference of the Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises Development Act, 2006 and the Companies Act, 2013 in the proposed legislation.



## 8. Kotak Mahindra Bank launches Kotak Remit

Kotak Mahindra Bank announced the launch of Kotak Remit (<https://kotak.remit.in>) – an Aadhaar-based integrated outward forex remittance solution for both customers and non-customers.

The 24x7 forex remittance service offers a completely paperless process that enables users to register online using Aadhaar and PAN numbers, and initiate remittances instantly.

The Bank has partnered with Earthport Plc, the leading network for cross-border payments, to transfer money seamlessly across the



world. A customer can remit up to USD 25,000 or equivalent per financial year through Kotak Remit. Users will receive a notification at every stage of the transaction process.

## 9. e-Shakti initiative of NABARD

e-Shakti is a pilot project of National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) for digitisation of Self Help Groups (SHGs).

It was initiated to address certain concerns like improving the quality of book keeping of SHGs and to enable banks to take informed credit decisions about the group through a Management Information System (MIS).

The project covers 25 districts and 1,30,176 SHGs have been digitised as on 31st March 2017. As per information compiled by NABARD, about 69,696 SHGs of the SHGs which have been digitised are credit linked as on 31st July, 2017.



## 10. Direct Tax Collections up to July, 2017 show a Growth of 19.1%

The Direct Tax collections up to July, 2017 in the Current Financial Year 2017-18 stands at Rs. 1.90 lakh crore which is 19.1% higher than the net collections for the corresponding period of last year.

The growth rate for Corporate Income Tax is 7.2% while that for Personal Income Tax (including STT) is 17.5%.

Refunds amounting to Rs. 61,920 crore have been issued during April, 2017 to July, 2017 which are 5.1% lower than the refunds issued during the corresponding period of Financial Year 2016-17.



## 11. ICICI Bank launched instant credit cards

ICICI Bank, India's largest private sector bank announced the launch of instant credit cards. This first-of-its-kind offering in the Indian banking industry enables the savings account customers of the Bank to get a credit card instantly, in a completely digital and paperless manner.

This new offering enables pre-qualified customers to instantly get the credit card number and other important details online,



with a credit limit of up to Rs 4 lakh based on pre-checked bureau scores. Currently, this facility to apply for a credit card in-a-flash is available through the Bank's internet banking platform.

## 12. IDFC Bank partnered with Zeta to launch 'IDFC Bank Benefits'

IDFC Bank has partnered with Zeta, a leader in the digitized employee benefits space, to launch 'IDFC Bank Benefits' - an innovative solution for corporates that digitizes employee spends and claims, making the process simple, real-time and paperless.



The IDFC Bank Benefits Card, powered by Zeta, bundles all employee benefits into a single card. The Benefits Card and Zeta app enhances user experience as it places convenience and flexibility in the hands of the employee, while enabling employers to digitally review and manage reimbursements.

## 13. Axis Bank reduced savings account interest rate to 3.5%

Private lender Axis Bank reduced interest rate on savings bank accounts by 50 basis points to 3.5 per cent for deposits up to Rs 50 lakh.



As per new interest rates introduced, bank will continue to pay 4 per cent interest on deposits of above Rs 50 lakh. The rate of inflation and high real interest rates are the reasons for reducing interest rates.

Recently, State bank of India also reduced interest rates to 3.5% for deposits up to 1 crore. Axis Bank is the fourth lender to reduce the interest rate, after SBI, Bank of Baroda and Karnataka Bank.

## 14. Canara Bank introduced Bharat QR and BBPS

Two new digital services Bharat QR (Quick Response) and Bharat Bill Payment System (BBPS) was introduced by Canara Bank.



Bharat QR Code works on the model of Paytm, wherein the customer scans the QR code of the merchandise and then transfers the money from his/her wallet.

Bharat QR Code involves low cost and an excellent collaborative approach by the payment networks. BBPS is designed to function

as a tiered structure for operating the bill payment system in the country with a single brand image providing convenience of 'anytime anywhere' bill payment to customers.

### 15. Karnataka Vikas Grameen Bank bagged the best performer award

National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) has conferred the "best performance award" for 2015-16 and 2016-17 to Karnataka Vikas Grameen Bank (KVGB) for its work in the field of credit-linking joint liability groups (JLGs).

The bank had credit linked 1,194 JLGs by disbursing ₹19.38 crore during 2016-17. The outstanding accounts under JLGs stood at 6,329 involving an amount of ₹63.83 crore.



### 16. Corporation Bank received awards from NABARD

Corporation Bank has bagged the best performance awards for SHG-bank linkage programme for Karnataka for 2015-16 and 2016-17 from National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD).

The bank was given the award for its overall performance under SHG-bank linkage programme for 2015-16 and 2016-17 among commercial banks operating in Karnataka. The bank has formed more than 1.32 lakh self-help groups (SHGs) till date.

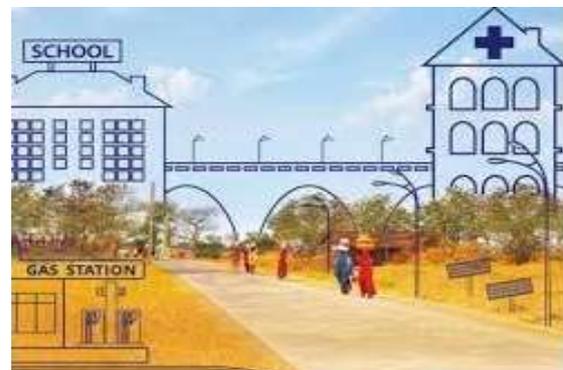


### 17. SBI Foundation launched SBI GRAM SEVA

State Bank of India launched its integrated CSR initiative SBI GRAM SEVA under SBI Foundation that aims to reach to maximum of 100 Gram Panchayats covering approximately 500 villages across India by 2021.

As a part of the initiative, the bank will work in the areas of health, education, environment and rural infrastructure.

The SBI Foundation will identify and partner with NGOs to carry out CSR initiatives.



## 18. Karur Vysya Bank Opens its First Aadhaar Enrolment Centre

Karur Vysya Bank is the first private sector bank to provide Aadhaar Enrolment Centre service in the country as part of the Unique Identification Authority of India advisory to commercial banks to provide Aadhaar enrolment and updation facility at various branches in its July 13 notification.

Karur Vysya Bank unveiled the first Aadhaar Enrolment Centre in Chennai. Customers need to bring in the approved documents as proof of residence and identity.



## 19. RBI made Aadhaar Linkage mandatory for Farmers

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has asked banks to make Aadhaar cards linkage mandatory for farmers to avail short-term crop loans in 2017-18. The move would ensure hassle-free benefits to farmers under the Interest Subvention Scheme.

RBI has clarified that farmers can avail of short-term crop loans of up to 3 lakh rupees at subsidised interest rate of 7%. Further, farmers who repay the loan in time will be provided an additional interest subvention of 3%.



## 20. RBI to issue new Rs 50 currency note

RBI will issue new banknotes of Rs 50 denomination in the Mahatma Gandhi (New) Series. The base colour of the new notes will be fluorescent blue and its dimension will be 66 mm x 135 mm.

The new note will have a motif of Hampi with Chariot on the reverse, depicting the country's cultural heritage along with the Swachh Bharat logo, year of printing, numeral 50 in devnagiri and the language panel.

It will have Mahatma Gandhi's portrait at the Centre and a see-through register with denominational numeral 50.



## 21. First Regional Centre of NDB Opens in South Africa

The first regional centre of the New Development Bank, set up by India and other BRICS nations, was officially opened at Johannesburg by South African President Jacob Zuma and the bank's Indian Head K V Kamath.



The New Development Bank (NDB), formerly referred to as the BRICS Development Bank, is a multilateral development bank established by the BRICS states (Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa) with an initial authorised capital of the bank is USD 100 billion.

## 22. SBI tops share of Wilful Default to PSBs

Public Sector lender, State Bank of India, accounts for over 27% of the total amount owed to public sector banks by wilful defaulters. Almost 1,762 wilful defaulters owed ₹25,104 crore as on March 31 to SBI.



The second in the list is Punjab National Bank (PNB) with 1,120 wilful defaulters having outstanding non-performing assets (NPAs) of ₹12,278 crore. Total outstanding loans due to public sector banks by wilful defaulters amounted to ₹92,376 crore.

## 23. Two regional rural banks record over ₹150-cr profit in FY17

According to the Reserve Bank of India's 'Report on Trend and Progress of Banking in India', two regional rural banks in the country have earned a net profit of over ₹150 crore each during 2016-17.

The two RRBs are Karnataka Vikas Grameena Bank and Andhra Pragathi Grameena Bank promoted by Syndicate Bank.

According to the report, 49 RRBs among 56 RRBs in the country, recorded a profit in 2016-17. Seven RRBs suffered losses during the period. At the end-March 2017, RRBs had 21,398 branches spread across 676 districts and 28 States.



## 24. NPCI approved Spice Digitals operation under Bharat Bill Payment System

The National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) has given its approval to Spice Digital Ltd. for processing bill payments under the Bharat Bill Payment System (BBPS) as a Bharat Bill Payment Operating Unit (BBPOU).

Under the BBPS, a customer can make several bill payment such as electricity, telephone, water etc. and receive instant confirmation.

Spice Money Ltd, a fintech company had received an in-principle approval to set-up as a BBPOU under the Payment and Settlement Systems Act, 2007 in May 2016. and now it has received approval for processing.



## 25. IRDAI Launches Central Database of Insurance Sales Persons

The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) has launched a Central Database of all Insurance Sales Persons in the country.

The database has been named as 'Envoy'. The database will ensure that all licensed insurance sales persons working for insurers and intermediaries do not work with multiple insurers and intermediaries in the same business category.

The database also provides a search facility for insurers and insurance intermediaries whereby an applicant insurance sales person's details are queried for a match in the database.



## 26. HDFC Bank launched All-in-one PoS Machine

HDFC Bank launched an all-in-one Point of Sale (POS) machine - DigiPOS. The initiative integrates all popular digital payment methods in POS machines thus offering greater convenience to both customers and merchants.

The machine which will accept payments through Unified Payments Interface (UPI), BharatQR, SMS Pay and the bank's mobile wallet, in addition to the traditional mode of swiping cards.

The merchants using this facility will have update their machine with a software at no



cost, but the new software will work only on HDFC Bank-issued PoS machines, however it will accept any card or App from any bank/service provider.

## 27. Banks to Pay 3% IGST on Gold Imports

The Central Board of Excise and Customs has clarified that banks importing gold and precious metals will have to pay 3% tax under the GST which can be claimed as input tax credit.

3% Integrated-GST is payable on all imports of precious metals in addition to the basic customs duty. Import of gold attracts a 10% basic customs duty.

The Central Board of Excise and Customs said banks did not pay any VAT on import of precious metals previously. They only paid customs duty. However, under GST, "3% Integrated-GST is payable on all imports of precious metals in addition to the basic customs duty. IGST paid can be taken as input tax credit by the banks."



# Important Days

## 1. World breastfeeding week

World Breastfeeding Week is celebrated every year from 1 to 7 August to encourage breastfeeding and improve the health of babies around the world.

The theme for World Breastfeeding Week 2017 is "Sustaining Breastfeeding Together."

WHO recommends exclusive breastfeeding starting within one hour after birth until a baby is 6 months old. Nutritious complementary foods should then be added while continuing to breastfeed for up to 2 years or beyond.



## 2. 7th August observed as 3rd National Handloom Day

3rd National Handloom Day celebrations held in Guwahati on 7th August. On the occasion of 3rd National Handloom day, Union Minister of State, Textiles, Shri Ajay Tamta appreciated the handloom weavers for their commitment, dedication and skill.

The Minister highlighted Hathkargha Samvardhan Sahayata Scheme under which Government of India assists the weaver by bearing 90% of the cost of new looms.

An MoU was signed on the occasion, between Ministry of Textiles and Common Service Centres, under which weavers will be able to avail a wide array of Government services under one roof - from Weavers' Service Centres.



## 3. Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas celebrated World BioFuel Day 2017

Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas celebrated the World Biofuel Day 2017 on 10th August. The objective of "World Biofuel Day" is to sensitize youths (school and college going students), farmers and other stakeholders about the benefits of biofuel and seek their involvement in Biofuel programme run by the Government.

The awareness campaigns were scheduled to be held between 11th to 14th August 2017 in partnership with stakeholders of the Bioenergy sector.



The Minister highlighted that the energy needs for Transportation and Domestic use in the country requires for 80 percent import of crude.

#### 4. Environment Minister launched 'Gaj Yatra' to mark World Elephant Day 2017

Union Environment, Forest and Climate Change Minister, Dr. Harsh Vardhan, launched 'Gaj Yatra' on 12th August, a nationwide campaign to protect elephants on the occasion of World Elephant Day. The campaign is planned to cover 12 elephant range states.



The Environment Minister released the All India Census 2017 Report on elephants as also the Agreed Points of Action on Trans-Boundary Conservation of Elephants by India and Bangladesh and a document titled 'Right of Passage' on elephant corridors in India.

During the period of the campaign, artists and craftsmen created life-size works on the theme of elephants.

#### 5. 10th august observed as 2nd National Deworming Day

Union Health Ministry observed second round of National Deworming Day on 10 August where more than 11 crore children were covered in deworming drive in 33 States and Union Territories.

A mop-up activity was launched where 31 crore children were targeted, like health promotion activities related to water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH). The first round of National Deworming Day was held in February during which 26 crore children were covered.



Anganwadis across the country were provided with deworming tablets for children aged between 1-19, except in states Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh where deworming is carried out once a year.

## 6. Nation celebrated 75th anniversary of Quit India Movement

Nation celebrated 75th anniversary of Quit India Movement where Indian Prime Minister urged people to take pledge to work honestly and fight poverty and malnutrition in the country. Quit India movement was defining movement to end colonialism.

Members of the house paid tributes to freedom fighters. The theme of 2017 was "SANKALP SE SIDDHI"- the Attainment through Resolve. An exhibition was also conducted titled "Quit India-75-Chalo Dilli" and it will be made open to public after inauguration till 1st of September.



## 7. International Youth Day observed on 12 August

12th August was observed as International Youth Day with theme 'Youth Building Peace'. International Youth Day 2017 is dedicated to celebrate young people's contributions to conflict prevention and transformation as well as inclusion, social justice, and sustainable peace.

The United Nations' (UN) International Youth Day is celebrated annually on August 12. The day recognizes the contribution of the world's youth in enhancing global society.



The World Programme of Action for Youth, encourages "promoting active involvement of youth in maintaining peace and security".

## 8. World Humanitarian Day

World Humanitarian Day (WHD) is held every year on 19 August to pay tribute to aid workers who risk their lives in humanitarian service, and to rally support for people affected by crises around the world. The 2017 WHD campaign is #NotATarget.

On 19 August 2003, a terrorist attack hit the United Nations headquarters in Baghdad, killing 22 people. Among those who lost their lives was Sergio Vieira de Mello, the UN's top representative in Iraq. Five years later, the General Assembly adopted a resolution designating 19 August as World Humanitarian Day.



## 9. International Day for the Remembrance of Slave Trade and its Abolition

The United Nations' (UN) International Day for the Remembrance of the Slave Trade and its Abolition is annually observed on August 23 to remind people of the tragedy of the transatlantic slave trade.

The Day intends to inscribe the tragedy of the slave trade in the memory of all peoples. It gives people a chance to think about the historic causes, the methods, and the consequences of slave trade.



## 1. China opened its first overseas Military base in Djibouti

China formally opened its first overseas military base with a flag raising ceremony in Djibouti. China's agreement with Djibouti ensures its military presence in the country up until 2026, with a contingent of up to 10,000 soldiers. Djibouti also hosts troops from US, France and Japan.

Djibouti is a tiny barren nation sandwiched between Ethiopia, Eritrea and Somalia. It is at the southern entrance to the Red Sea on the route to the Suez Canal.



## 2. World's longest pedestrian suspension bridge opens in Switzerland

The world's longest pedestrian suspension bridge has opened in Switzerland. The bridge named Charles Kuonen Suspension Bridge, in the Swiss Alps, is near the village of Randa.

The bridge is 494 metres long. It connects Grächen and Zermatt on the Europaweg foot trail. It is 65 cm wide and takes 10 minutes to cross.

The bridge is a steel construction. The engineers took just 10 weeks to erect the bridge.



## 3. Trump Awarded First Medal of Honor to Vietnam Army Medic

James McCloughan is set to become the first person to receive the Medal of Honor from President Donald Trump, America's highest military honor.

An Army medic, McCloughan, risked his life multiple times to rescue Vietnam War comrades during the ferocious, dayslong Battle of Nui Yon Hill in 1969.

The Medal of Honor is given to Armed Forces members who distinguish themselves by going above and beyond the call of duty in battle.



#### 4. 7th Meeting of BRICS Trade Ministers held in Shanghai

The 7th Meeting of BRICS Trade Ministers was held in Shanghai, China. A six-member delegation led by Commerce and Industry Minister Smt. Nirmla Sitharaman participated in the meetings.

The Ministers adopted the following key documents:

- 7th BRICS Trade Ministers' Joint Statement
- BRICS Trade in Services Cooperation Roadmap
- BRICS E-Commerce Cooperation Initiative
- BRICS IPR Cooperation Guidelines
- Framework on strengthening the Economic and Technical Cooperation of BRICS Countries
- Terms of Reference (ToR) of BRICS Model E-Port Network
- Outlines for BRICS Investment Facilitation



#### 5. US Senate confirms three Indian-Americans to key government positions

The United States Senate has unanimously confirmed three Indian-Americans to key government positions. The Senate confirmed Neil Chatterjee as a member of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission and Vishal Amin as Intellectual Property (IP) Enforcement Coordinator in the Trump administration.

Krishna Urs was confirmed as the US ambassador to Peru. A career foreign service officer since 1986, Urs, after Nikki Haley, is the second Indian American to have been selected for an ambassadorial position by the administration.



## 6. BIMSTEC meeting held in Kathmandu

The 15th meeting of the Foreign Ministers of BIMSTEC countries was held in Kathmandu, Nepal. External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj represented India in the meeting.

During the meeting, the member countries agreed for co-operation on areas like Trade and Investment, Climate Change, Energy, Agriculture, Public Health, Transport and Communication, Technology, Poverty Alleviation, Counter-Terrorism.

The Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) is an international organisation involving a group of countries in South Asia and South East Asia dependent on the Bay of Bengal. These are: Bangladesh, India, Myanmar, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Bhutan and Nepal.



## 7. Strategic partnership forum set up to deepen Indo-US ties

The US India Business Council leaders have launched a new forum on India-US ties called the US-India Strategic Partnership Forum (USISPF). USIBC had parted ways with the US Chambers of Commerce, alleging undue interference in its work.

The non-profit corporation is being set up to further enhance business relations between the two countries. The new representative body aims to promote bilateral trade and work on creating "meaningful opportunities that have the power to change the lives of citizens".



## 8. Centre to issue multiple entry Business Visa up to 3 years to Pakistani nationals

Centre will issue multiple entry Business Visa up to 3 years to Pakistani nationals of assured financial standing and credentials with visits restricted to 15 places excluding restricted areas.

India Business Card is issued to those businessmen from SAARC countries who are eligible for issuance of multiple entry business visa for a period of three years or more and there is no objection to issuance of Business Card to Pakistani businessmen.



As per the existing FDI policy, a citizen of Pakistan or an entity incorporated in Pakistan can invest, only under government route in sectors other than defence, space and atomic energy.

### 9. Maharashtra Government launched two online portals MahaDBT, MahaVASTU

Maharashtra Government has launched two online portals called MahaDBT and MahaVASTU to streamline the process of direct benefit transfer (DBT) and to bring in more transparency in construction sector.



MahaDBT portal is an Aadhaar-authenticated electronic mechanism that will enable direct transfer of benefits for over 40 schemes currently implemented.

MahaVASTU portal is an online building permission management system, through which construction approvals will be sanctioned with full transparency.

### 10. Maharashtra government to raise \$270 m from Green Climate Fund

Maharashtra Government will raise \$270 million from the Green Climate Fund with the help of the 2030 Water Resources Group (2030WRG). The funds will be invested in integrated watershed programmes such as Jalyukt Shivar Yojana.



The Green Climate Fund (GCF) is a new global fund created to support the efforts of developing countries to respond to the challenge of climate change.

GCF helps developing countries limit or reduce their greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and adapt to climate change.

### 11. Iran signed biggest-ever car deal with France's Renault

Iran signed the country's biggest-ever car deal with French manufacturer Groupe Renault to produce 150,000 cars a year. The deal is worth 660 million or \$778 million. Renault has a 60 per cent partnership in the deal.



The two Iranian companies involved are Industrial Development and Renovation Organization of Iran, and the privately owned Negin Group.

The deal follows the lifting of international sanctions after Iran's 2015 nuclear agreement with world powers.

## 12. Sri Lankan Navy commissioned India-built AOPV “SLNS Sayurala”

An Indian-built Advanced Offshore Patrol Vessel (AOPV) was commissioned by the Sri Lankan navy, named as “SLNS Sayurala”. It is considered as the first-ever purchase from a foreign ship builder, to boost its search and rescue capabilities.

Built at Goa Shipyard Ltd (GSL) in India, it is the largest vessel built by an Indian ship builder for a foreign navy.

It has been built for Sri Lanka, so that it can use this vessel in pollution control missions in Sri Lanka’s maritime zones for external fire-fighting missions. Various other applications could be such as policing, surveillance, reconnaissance, search and rescue.



## 13. Facebook launched video platform ‘Watch’

Facebook has designed video platform for creators and publishers and named as 'Watch'. It is built with an aim to build a community of passionate fans, and earn money for their work and talent related video editing and creations.

Various other features are added to this new platform such as ‘Personalization’, where one can discover new shows, organize around what one’s friends and communities are watching.

‘Watch’ will be available on mobile, on desktop and laptop and in TV apps. Facebook has also entered into an agreement with Major League Baseball to broadcast one live game per week.



## 14. Kenya re-elected President Uhuru Kenyatta

Uhuru Kenyatta was re-elected as President of Kenya with 54.27 per cent votes beating his rival Raifa Odinga who got 44.74 per cent of votes. However, elections were termed as fraud by some protestors, who claim that Mr. Odinga won 8.04 million votes, to 7.75 million votes for Mr. Kenyatta.

International observers appreciated the electoral commission’s conduct, as results were based on paper documents that were verified at polling stations and not on the electronic transmission of the votes.



## 15. India to Host Next Steering Committee Meeting of TAPI Gas Pipeline

According to a decision taken during the sixth joint Inter-Governmental Committee (IGC) meeting on trade, economic, scientific and technological cooperation, India will host the next steering committee meeting of the proposed 1,814 kilometre-long Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan-India (TAPI) gas pipeline.

The Turkmenistan–Afghanistan–Pakistan–India Pipeline (TAPI) is also known as Trans-Afghanistan Pipeline. It is a natural gas pipeline being developed by the Asian Development Bank. The pipeline will transport Caspian Sea natural gas from Turkmenistan through Afghanistan into Pakistan and then to India.



## 16. Norway has World's Fastest Mobile Internet

According to global leader in broadband testing Ookla, Norway has the fastest mobile Internet in the world.

The Netherlands and Hungary are ranked number two and three on the list of the world's fastest mobile networks. According to their statistics, Norwegians' mobile phone has the speed of 52.6 megabits per second.

Ookla created the popular application Speedtest.net, where the users can measure the speed of their Internet connection at any time.



## 17. South Australia to build world's largest single-tower solar thermal power plant

The state government of South Australia has announced to build the world's biggest, single-tower solar thermal power plant with a proposed output of 150 megawatts.

The Aurora Solar Energy Project will be built and managed by Solar Reserve, one of the leaders in large-scale international solar thermal projects.



Aurora will be able to power an estimated 90,000 homes and generate 495 gigawatt hours of electricity per year. The project is expected to be ready to produce electricity by 2020.

### 18. Italy to host fall G-7 interior ministers summit on security

Italy will host a summit of Group of Seven Interior Ministers centered on security issues in the fall. Italy currently holds the rotating helm of the G-7 industrialised nations.

Since the start of 2015, Italy has expelled 199 foreigners suspected of being security threats after showing initial signs of radicalization but not reaching the attack plan stage.

The meeting is being organised at the request of Italy's G-7 partners- Canada, France, Germany, the United Kingdom, Japan and the United States.



### 19. US designates Hizbul Mujahideen as Global Terrorist Group

The US Department of State has named Pakistan-based Hizbul Mujahideen (HM) as a Foreign Terrorist Organisation and a Specially Designated Global Terrorist group. The group is blamed by India for a string of attacks in Kashmir since 1989.

The US had named the group's 71-year-old leader Salahuddin alias Mohammad Yusuf Shah as a Specially Designated Global Terrorist on June 26. The Hizb joins the Jaish-e-Mohammad and Lashkar-e-Taiba on the US list of foreign terrorist organisations.



### 20. China launched first Cyber Court in e-commerce Hub

China launched its first cyber court specialising in handling Internet-related cases in the e-commerce hub of Hangzhou.

The Hangzhou Internet Court in Hangzhou, capital of east China's Zhejiang Province will handle cases such as online trade disputes and copyright lawsuits. The cases handled by the court will be tried online.

Hangzhou is home to many Internet companies, including e-commerce giant Alibaba. China had about 751 million netizens and 724 million mobile Internet users as of the end of June.



## 21. Sri Lanka appointed first Tamil Navy Chief after Four Decades

Sri Lanka appointed Rear Admiral Travis Sinniah as the chief of the country's naval forces. He, thus, became the first from the minority Tamil community to head the Navy since the brutal civil war erupted in the country 45 years ago.

His services will be effective from August 22. Rear Admiral Sinniah succeeds Vice-Admiral Ravi Wijegunaratne who has retired. It was also announced that Vice-Admiral Wijegunaratne would be appointed as the Chief of Defence Staff (CDS).



## 22. Nikolay Kudashev appointed as Russia's New Ambassador to India

Russian President Vladimir Putin appointed career diplomat Nikolay Kudashev as Russia's new ambassador to India. He will succeed Alexander Kadakin who passed away on January 26 at the age of 67 years. Kadakin was a fluent Hindi speaker.

Mr Kudashev is currently the Deputy Director General Secretariat of the Ministry of foreign Affairs of Russia. Mr Kudashev was the Russian Ambassador to Micronesia and the Marshall Islands in 2014-2015.



## 23. India imposes anti-dumping duty on tempered glass from China

India has imposed anti-dumping duty on Chinese tempered glass, used for protecting mobile phone screens. The duty, which will be effective for five years, aims at protecting the domestic industry from cheaper imports.

The Revenue Department said that it has imposed anti-dumping duty in the range of 52.85 to 136.21 dollars per tonne on tempered glasses.

Investigations by the Directorate General of Anti-Dumping and Allied Duties (DGAD) had found that the tempered glass has been exported to India from China below its associated normal value.



## 24. USA and South Korea hold 10-day Annual Military Exercise

The US and South Korea conducted a 10-day computer-based annual joint military exercise. The joint exercises happen twice a year — once in March, again in August.

The August exercise — called Ulchi Freedom Guardian, or UFG — is a computer based simulation for unplanned events.

17,500 members of the U.S. military and nearly 50,000 service members from the South Korean military took part in the joint exercise.



## 25. Nepal PM Sher Bahadur Deuba on a Four-Day Visit to India

Nepalese Prime Minister Sher bahadur Deuba was on four-day trip to India beginning August 23rd. It was his first trip abroad after assuming office in June.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi held wide-ranging talks with his Nepalese counterpart. During the visit, Deuba also called-on President Ram Nath Kovind and Vice President Venkaiah Naidu.

He also visited Hyderabad, Tirupati, and Bodh Gaya. Deuba previously served as Prime Minister from 1995 to 1997, from 2001 to 2002, and from 2004 to 2005.



## 26. A total solar eclipse sweeps across North America after 241 years

A total solar eclipse sailed across America from coast to coast for the first time, turning day into night in more than a dozen states.

The eclipse was named “The Great American Eclipse”. It made landfall in Lincoln Beach, Ore. at 10:16 p.m. PST and swiftly crossed the country in about 90 minutes, ending in South Carolina at 2:44 p.m. EDT.

Solar eclipses happen when the moon passes directly between the sun and the Earth and completely covers the entire face of the Sun.



## 27. Festival of India being organised in Brazil from 31 August to 9 September 2017

A Festival of India is being organized in Brazil from 31 August-9 September 2017. The Festival will showcase diverse Indian culture, i.e. classical dances, literature, cuisine and Exhibition on Mahatma Gandhi.



Events like Bharatnatyam Dance, Kathak Dance, Indian Food Festival, Literary Festival and Exhibition on Mahatma Gandhi will be held in the cities of Brasilia, Sao Paulo and Rio de Janeiro.

## 28. Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh attended SCO Meet in Kyrgyz Republic

Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh attended a meeting of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) on disaster prevention and relief in Kyrgyz Republic.

The meeting approved the draft action plan for 2018-2019 for the implementation of the agreement between the governments of the SCO member states on cooperation in providing assistance in the elimination of emergency situations.



SCO was founded in 2001 and the member countries are: China, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Russia, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, India, and Pakistan.

## 29. Ex-PM flees Thailand ahead of verdict

Facing a possible 10-year jail term, former Thai Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra fled the country ahead of a court verdict.

Yingluck, who became Thailand's first female Prime Minister when her party swept elections in 2011, is accused of negligence in overseeing a money-losing rice subsidy program. She has denied charges as politically motivated.



Yingluck never appeared in court, and a judge read out a statement saying her lawyers had informed the court she could not attend because of an earache. The judge postponed the trial until September 27.

### 30. US imposed financial sanctions on Venezuela

The United States slapped strong financial sanctions on Venezuela, barring banks from any new deals with the government.

The President's new action prohibits dealings in new debt and equity issued by the Venezuelan government and its state oil company. It also prohibits dealings in certain existing bonds owned by the Venezuelan public sector, as well as dividend payments to the government.



US had previously sanctioned Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro alleging that his administration has attempted to undermine democracy and the rule of law in Venezuela.

# Miscellaneous

- The Appointment Committee of the Cabinet has approved the assignment of the additional charge of the post of Secretary, Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (Divyangjan) to Smt. G. Latha Krishna Rao.
- The AIFF named senior advocate Ushanath Banerjee as the Chairman of a special committee to deal with players' transfer disputes.
- Amazon India has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the Telangana Department of Handloom and Textiles, to educate, train and enable weavers and artisans to directly sell their products to Amazon customers across the country.
- Karur Vysya Bank Ltd has appointed P R Seshadri as Managing Director & Chief Executive Officer of the Bank for a period of three years.
- Young Indian shuttler Lakshya Sen clinched the Bulgaria Open International Series title after notching up a hard-fought win over Croatia's Zvonimir Durkinjak in the men's singles final in Sofia, Bulgaria.
- Pakistani rights activist Malala Yousafzai secured a place at Oxford University after getting her A-level results.
- India and China have agreed to withdraw their troops from Doklam after being in a standoff for over two months.
- Union Bank of India entered into a corporate agency agreement with Bajaj Allianz General Insurance and Cholamandalam MS General Insurance for distribution of their insurance products.
- The US and Japan have agreed to advance their multilateral security and defence cooperation with countries like India, South Korea and Australia, amidst China's growing assertiveness in the Asia Pacific region.
- Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis inaugurated Dr Vishwanath Karad MIT World Peace University (MITWPU) at Pune. The university is said to be the first of its kind in India.
- Shri Dharmendra Kumar, IPS (AGMU:84) appointed as the Director General, Railway Protection Force, Railway Board.
- Smriti Irani has inaugurated Jharkhand's first textiles manufacturing and export unit 'Orient Craft Ltd'.
- Nestlé India has tied up with Amazon India for the launch of its new Nutrilicious range of Maggi Noodles. The new range will be available first on Amazon.in, and the company, subsequently, aims to roll it out across retail outlets in India.

- The Union Cabinet has increased the creamy layer ceiling for the Other Backward Classes (OBC) category to eight lakh rupees per annum from the existing six lakh for central government jobs.
- The 3-day 8th World Renewable Energy Technology Congress was held in New Delhi.
- Australia was crowned the FIBA Asia Cup 2017 basketball champion following a comprehensive 79–56 victory over Iran in the final, while South Korea clinched the third place title with a 80–71 win over New Zealand.
- Special CBI judge Jagdeep Singh sentenced Dera Sacha Sauda chief Gurmeet Ram Rahim Singh to 20 years of imprisonment. The sentencing came three days after the CBI court in Panchkula convicted Singh in a 2002 rape case.
- ICICI Prudential Life insurance company has been directed to take over the Sahara India Life Insurance Company.
- India won the final of the Division 'B' of 2017 FIBA women's Asia Cup.
- The winner of the 2017 Hungarian Formula One Grand Prix is Sebastian Vettel.
- The Wheeler Island, located in Odisha, was recently named as Dr. Abdul Kalam Island.
- Maharashtra state government is going to launch 'streets with cycle track' project to encourage the use of bicycle.
- Amazon Prime Video signed a worldwide exclusive content deal with Salman Khan.
- World's largest exporter of beef is Brazil.
- India signed a new bilateral agreement on Trade, Commerce and Transit with Bhutan.
- C P Gurnani was recently re-appointed as the Managing Director and CEO of Tech Mahindra.
- Scientists have developed a technique to edit embryos of a piece of faulty DNA that causes heart disease in families. The technique is called as CRISPR.
- New Zealand recently passed the Anti-Money Laundering and Countering Financing of Terrorism Amendment Bill to help protect the country's reputation as one of the least corrupt in the world.
- IBM recently opened its first Machine Learning Hub in Bengaluru.
- Nepal signed three pacts to boost bilateral relations with China.
- The Union Cabinet gave its approval for raising Extra Budgetary Resources (EBR) up to Rs 9020 Cr for Long Term Irrigation Fund during fiscal year 2017-18.

- Defence Ministry in August cleared a proposal to procure 6 Apache attack helicopters for Army, at an expense of - Rs 4168 crore.
- Maharashtra CM launched Namo Yuva Rojgar Kendra to provide job opportunities to the unemployed youth.
- Milkha Singh has been appointed as the WHO Goodwill Ambassador for physical activity in South-East Asia Region.
- Union Ministry of Commerce has launched the 'GeMSamvad: The GeM-Industry forum'.
- Bangladesh will chair the International Maritime Search and Rescue Exercise (IMMSAREX) in November 2017 in Bay of Bengal.
- The Horn of Africa, Somalia, was declared free of Polio in August 2017.
- The 2017 World Snooker Open will be held in China.
- Muktar Edris won the Men's 5000 metre title at the IAAF World Championships.
- The Indian Coast Guard Ship Shaurya was recently commissioned in Goa.
- The Union Environment, Forest and Climate Change Minister Dr. Harsh Vardhan has launched a campaign called Gaj Yatra to protect elephants.
- World Elephants Day was observed globally on 12 August.
- Odisha launched Facebook's 'She Means Business' programme for aspiring women entrepreneurs.
- Jharkhand state assembly has passed the Religious Freedom Bill 2017 with the aim to stop forced conversions.
- Iran has voted in favour of boosting investment in its missile defence by more than \$500 million in response to US sanctions.
- The India-ASEAN Youth Summit 2017, which marks the 25th anniversary of the ASEAN-India dialogue partnership, was held in Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh.
- The import duty on crude palm oil was increased to 15% by union government in August 2017.
- The Supreme Court has decided to hold final hearing in Ayodhya title dispute from 5<sup>th</sup> December 2017.
- Prasoon Joshi was appointed as Chairman of the Central Board of Film Certification, CBFC, for a period of three years.
- Uhuru Kenyatta was re-elected as the President of Kenya.
- Real Madrid won the UEFA Super Cup 2017.

## 1. Lok Sabha passed Banking Regulation (Amendment) Bill for resolution of non-performing assets

The Lok Sabha has passed the Banking Regulation (Amendment) Bill, 2017. The bill seeks to amend the Banking Regulation Act, 1949 to insert provisions for handling cases related to stress assets of banks.

The bill will replace the Banking Regulation (Amendment) Ordinance, 2017 that was promulgated on 4th of May this year. The legislation will enable the Central government to authorize the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to direct banking companies to resolve specific stressed assets by initiating insolvency resolution process.

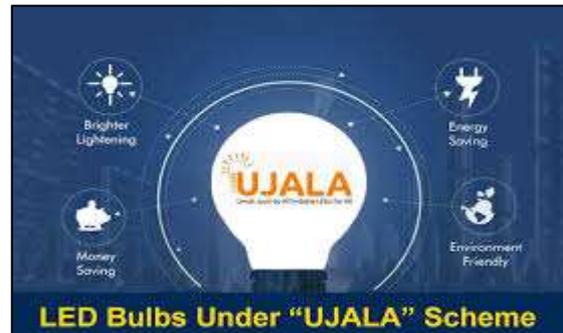


## 2. More than 25 crore LED bulbs distributed under the UJALA Scheme

More than 25 crore LED bulbs have been distributed in 36 States and Union territories across the country under the UJALA Scheme.

The Energy Efficiency Services Limited has distributed 25.28 crore LED bulbs and the private sector has also sold more than 41 crore LED bulbs up to June 2017.

The government has set a target to replace 77 crore incandescent bulbs with LED bulbs by March 2019.



## 3. Rajya Sabha passed IIIT (Amendment) Bill, 2017

The Rajya Sabha has passed the Indian Institutes of Information Technology (Amendment) Bill, 2017. The bill was already passed by the Lok Sabha. The bill seeks to declare the Indian Institute of Technology, Design and Manufacturing at Kurnool in Andhra Pradesh as an institution of national importance.

The Bill also permits the Board of Governor of Institutes to appoint Assistant Professors and all the posts above that level as well. Human Resource Development Minister Prakash Javadekar had moved the Bill for consideration and passing.



#### 4. Government launched portal e-Rashtriya Kisan Agri Mandi

The government launched a portal e-Rashtriya Kisan Agri Mandi (e-RaKAM), which will provide a platform to sell agricultural produce. E-RaKAM is a first of its kind digital initiative bringing together the farmers, PSUs, civil supplies and buyers on a single platform to ease the selling and buying process of agricultural products.



Under this initiative, E-RaKAM centres are being developed in a phased manner throughout the country to facilitate farmers for online sale of their produce. The farmers will be paid through e-Payment directly into their bank accounts.

#### 5. PM Modi announced Rs. 2,350 crores flood relief for the Northeast

Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced a package of ₹2,350 crores for all Northeast states for mitigating the impact of floods on short- and long-term basis and immediate release of Rs. 250 crores for flood-hit Assam.



The Prime Minister has also announced a ₹ 100 crore corpus for setting up a research project to study the Brahmaputra and its role in creating devastating flood.

This committee will study the river and suggest remedies to tackle floods.

#### 6. Supreme Court bans use of Five Metals in Firecrackers

The Supreme Court bench headed by Justice Madan B Lokur imposed a ban on the use of five harmful metals lithium, mercury, arsenic, antimony and lead in firecrackers as they cause enormous air pollution.



Petroleum and Explosive Safety Organisation (PESO) has been entrusted the responsibility to ensure compliance. The order came on a 2015 petition by three Delhi children, Aarav Bhandari, Arjun Gopal and Zoya Rao Bhasin.

## 7. Swachh Survekshan-2018 launched to assess sanitation

The Union Government launched the 'Swachh Survekshan-2018' to rank all the 4,041 cities and towns of the country based on infrastructure development for improved sanitation services and their sustainability, outcomes, citizen connect and visible impact on ground.



The Survey Methodology seeks to capture the efforts under and outcomes of Swachh Bharat Mission (Urban) as the cities move on from building toilets towards Solid Waste Management with emphasis on decentralized solutions, ensuring sustainability of improved sanitation infrastructure and services and enforcement.

## 8. India and Somalia sign agreement on transfer of sentenced persons

India and Somalia signed a bilateral agreement for the transfer of sentenced persons. The Agreement with Somalia shall facilitate the Indian prisoners imprisoned in Somalia or vice-versa to be near to their families, for serving remaining part of their sentence and shall facilitate their social rehabilitation.



The Government of India has signed bilateral Agreements on Transfer of Sentenced Persons with United Kingdom, Mauritius, Bulgaria, France, Egypt, Sri Lanka, Cambodia, South Korea, Saudi Arabia, Iran, Bangladesh, Brazil, Israel, Bosnia & Herzegovina, UAE, Italy, Turkey, Maldives, Thailand, Russian Federation, Kuwait, Vietnam, Australia, Hong Kong, Qatar, Mongolia, Kazakhstan, Bahrain and Estonia.

## 9. Cabinet approved MoU between India and BRICS countries to set up BRICS Agriculture Research Platform

The Union Cabinet has given its ex-post facto approval for a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed among India and various BRICS countries for establishment of the BRICS Agriculture Research Platform (BRICS-ARP).



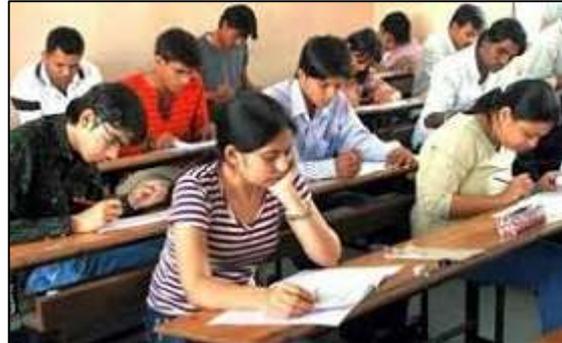
The BRICS Agriculture Research Centre will promote sustainable agricultural development and poverty alleviation through strategic cooperation in agriculture to provide food security in the BRICS member countries. A MoU on establishment of the Agricultural Research Platform was signed by the foreign Ministers of BRICS countries in the eighth BRICS Summit held on 16 October 2016 at Goa.

## 10. Cabinet scrapped no-detention policy for kids of Class 5 and 8 in school

The Union Cabinet has approved the scrapping of the no-detention policy in schools until Class 8.

If the children fail in Class 5 and 8, schools can detain them. However, before being detained, the students will get another opportunity to clear the exam. Only if they fail in that exam will they be detained.

Under the existing no-detention policy, students are promoted automatically to higher classes every year until the eighth grade.



## 11. World Bank permitted India to construct Kishanganga, Ratle projects under Indus Water Treaty

The World Bank has said that India is permitted to construct hydroelectric power facilities on tributaries of the Jhelum and Chenab rivers with certain restrictions under the Indus Waters Treaty.

Pakistan opposes the construction of the Kishanganga (330 megawatts) and Ratle (850 megawatts) hydroelectric power plants being built by India.

The IWT was signed in 1960 after nine years of negotiations between India and Pakistan with the help of the World Bank, which is also a signatory.



## 12. Government launched e-RaKAM Portal for Selling Agri Produce

The government launched online portal, e-RaKAM, to provide a platform to sell agricultural produce.

The portal is a joint initiative by state-run-auctioneer MSTC and Central Warehousing Corporation arm CRWC.

The government plans to auction 20 lakh tonnes of pulses in the first phase through the platform. The prime objective of e-Rakam is to assist farmers with payment directly into their bank accounts without any intermediaries.



### 13. Mahindra Agri Solutions signs MoU with MCX for data on agricultural pricing

Mahindra Agri Solutions Ltd., a wholly owned subsidiary of Mahindra and Mahindra Ltd. has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Multi Commodity Exchange of India Limited (MCX) to provide agriculture related price information available on Mahindra's recently launched mobile application- 'MyAgriGuru'.



The unique differentiation of MyAgriGuru is its open discussion platform – AgriBuzz – wherein any farmer can interact with the rest of the farmers and agri-experts connected to the platform. To start with, MCX would be providing price information, open interest information, spot price, future price and derived data (analytics) for all the agri commodities.

### 14. Aadhaar mandatory for registration of death from 1<sup>st</sup> October

Aadhaar number has been made mandatory for establishing the identity of the deceased for death registration from 1 October 2017 for residents of all States except Jammu and Kashmir, Assam and Meghalaya for which a date will be notified separately.



The use of Aadhaar for the applicants of Death Certificate will result in ensuring accuracy of the details provided by the relatives and dependents. It will also obviate the need for producing multiple documents to prove the identity of the deceased person.

### 15. Centre approved proposal to rename Mughalsarai railway station after Deen Dayal Upadhyaya

The Union Home Ministry has approved a proposal to rename the Mughalsarai railway station in Uttar Pradesh after BJP ideologue Deen Dayal Upadhyaya.



Uttar Pradesh government had sent a proposal in this regard to revive the legacy of Upadhyaya. He was found dead under mysterious circumstances on a platform of Mughalsarai in 1968. The junction is located on the main Howrah-Delhi rail line. Mughalsarai is also the birthplace of former Prime Minister Lal Bahadur Shastri.

## 16. Rs. 41712 lakhs sanctioned during 2016-17 under National AYUSH Mission

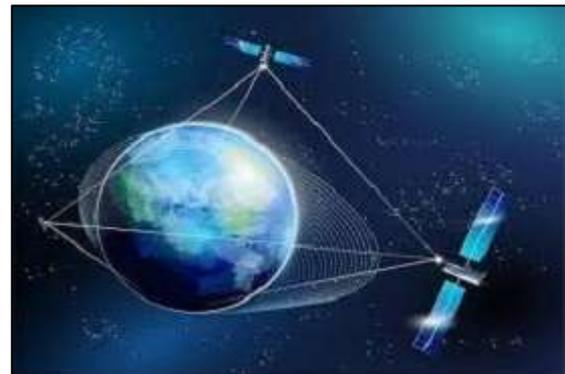
According to a data released by the AYUSH Ministry, Rs 41712 lakhs was sanctioned during 2016-17 under National AYUSH Mission (NAM). Under NAM, grant-in-aid is being provided to State/UT Governments as per their proposed State Annual Action Plans (SAAPs).



The Government of India approved and notified National AYUSH Mission (NAM) on 29<sup>th</sup> September 2014 which envisages better access to AYUSH services, strengthening of AYUSH educational institutions, facilitate the enforcement of quality control of Ayurveda, Siddha and Unani & Homoeopathy (ASU &H) drugs and sustainable availability of ASU & H raw-materials in the States/UTs during 12th Plan.

## 17. ISRO and CSIR-NPL sign MoU for time and frequency traceability services

A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between the ISRO Telemetry Tracking and Command Network (ISTRAC), Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), Department of Space and the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR)-National Physical Laboratory (NPL), Ministry of Science and Technology, in New Delhi.



The MoU provides for time and frequency traceability services to ISRO by CSIR-NPL. The MoU shall remain valid for a period of 5 years from the date of signing of the agreement.

## 18. Government signed a MoU with Hindustan Aeronautics Limited

The Government has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL).



The MoU outlines targets on various performance parameters of the company during the year 2017-18. The revenue from operations has been targeted at Rs. 17,900 crore, the highest ever. The thrust on 'Make in India' is ensured by inclusion of specific milestones for projects such as Light Combat Helicopter (LCH), Jaguar DARIN-III Upgrade, Mirage 2000 Upgrade and civil version of Dornier Aircraft. The company also aims to achieve capital expenditure of Rs. 1300 crores.

## 19. Rs. 406 Crores approved for ECCE program under the ICDS during 2017-18

The Government has approved Rs 406 crore of funds under the Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) Scheme for implementation of National Early Childhood Care & Education (ECCE) as per the approved cost sharing between Centre and States/UTs.

The objectives of the ECCE Policy are given below:

- Facilitate comprehensive childcare supports, infrastructure and services aimed at holistic well-being of children and responsive to their developmental needs along the continuum of care from conception to age of six years.
- Universalise and reinforce ECCE and ensure adaptive strategies for inclusion of all children with specific attention to vulnerable children.



## 20. 2nd Agri UDAAN Program launched in New Delhi

The Government has launched "AGRI UDAAN"- Food and Agribusiness Accelerator 2.0 programme in New Delhi. This 6-month program will have the shortlisted Agri start-ups with promising innovative business models, which will be mentored and guided. This helps to scale up their operations. Top 40 start-ups will be shortlisted and allowed to pitch in front of panel of evaluators.



The programme will be run by ICAR-NAARM Technology Business Incubator (TBI), a-IDEA and Indian Institute of Management Ahmedabad's (IIM-A) incubator Center for Innovation, Incubation and Entrepreneurship (CIIE).

## 21. IRCTC launched Book Now, Pay Later Scheme for Tatkal Tickets

IRCTC has launched "book now, pay later" scheme for Tatkal tickets as part of its 'ePaylater' and 'Pay-on-Delivery' schemes. The facility was available only in case of general reservations.

Under this scheme, an individual can book online and has a window of either making an ePayment within 15 days, or within 24 hours on delivery.



While the ePaylater facility is powered by Arthashastra Fintech, the 'Pay-on-Delivery' service is provided by Anduril Technologies.

## 22. First meeting of Japan-India Coordination Forum (JICF) for Development of NER held

The first meeting of the Japan-India Coordination Forum (JICF) for Development of North-Eastern Region was held in New Delhi. The Japanese delegation was led by the Japanese Ambassador to India, Mr. Kenji Hiramatsu while the Mr Naveen Verma led the Indian side.



Priority areas of cooperation identified by Indian side including Connectivity and Road Network Development; Disaster Management; Food Processing; Organic Farming and Tourism were discussed in the meeting.

## 23. Government signed MoA to set up IRRI's regional centre in Varanasi

The Union Agriculture Ministry has signed a memorandum of association (MoA) for setting up a regional centre of the International Rice Research Institute (IRRI) in Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh to develop high-yielding rice varieties.



The IRRI South Asia Regional Center (ISARC) will be set up at campus of National Seed Research and Training Center (NSRTC) in Varanasi.

The Philippines-based International Rice Research Institute (IRRI), which has offices in 17 countries, is known for its work in developing rice varieties that contributed to the green revolution in 1960s.

## 24. Government proposes to set up 14 new AIIMS hospitals under PMSSY

The Union Government has proposed to establish an additional 14 new AIIMS (All India Institute of Medical Science) under various phases of Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojana (PMSSY) in different parts of the country.



Under the scheme, six AIIMS are already under development. The Government is also going to establish 20 state cancer institutes and 50 tertiary care cancer centres in different parts of the country.

Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojana (PMSSY) was announced in 2003.

## 25. NAAC launches Revised Accreditation Framework

NAAC has launched revised accreditation framework. The draft framework was pilot tested on select Higher Education Institutions (HEI's) across the country.

A National Consultation on the Revised Accreditation Framework was held on 25 April 2017 at New Delhi. The Revised Accreditation Framework, which became operational in July 2017, is ICT enabled, objective, transparent, scalable and robust. It is a combination of online evaluation (70%) and Peer evaluation (30%), which would usher in high level of transparency.



## 26. Inauguration of National Agri-Food Biotechnology Institute in Punjab

Dr. Harsh Vardhan, Union Minister for Science, Technology, Earth Sciences, Environment, Forest and Climate Change inaugurated the new Administrative and Research Buildings of two national institutes under the administrative control of Department of Biotechnology, Ministry of Science and Technology, Government of India namely National Agri-Food Biotechnology Institute (NABI) and Center of Innovative and Applied Bioprocessing (CIAB) in Punjab.



NABI is the first Agri-Food and Nutritional based Biotechnology Institute, which has been set up by the Dept. of Biotechnology in Punjab, dedicated to generation of secondary agriculture bioproducts through value addition to unutilized and underutilized biomass.

## 27. Grameen Marathon for the youth of rural regions in Delhi

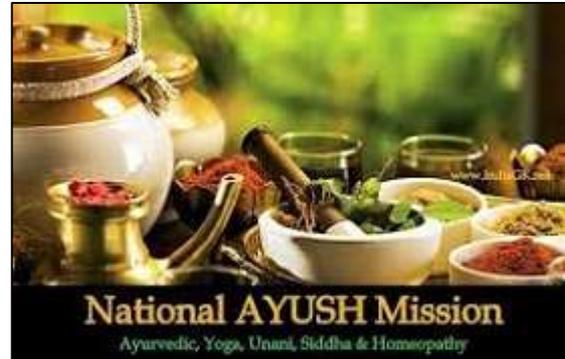
Ministry for Youth Affairs and Sports organized the first Grameen Marathon for the youth of rural regions in Delhi. The marathon started from Nizampur village in Delhi with around 11,000 participants. Such initiatives would go a long way in providing a platform to talented youngsters to represent India.



The first three position holders received a prize money of Rs. 21000, Rs. 11000 and Rs. 5000 respectively in each category (Boys and Girls) along with 10 consolation prizes. The Ministry will conduct more Grameen Marathons across Delhi.

## 28. Government gives funds to States/UTs under NAM to develop AYUSH System of Medicine

The Central Government has launched Centrally Sponsored Scheme of National AYUSH Mission (NAM) to develop and encourage the AYUSH system of medicine in the country. Under NAM grant-in-aid is being provided to State/UT Governments as per their proposed State Annual Action Plans (SAAPs).



During 2014-15, under National AYUSH Mission (NAM) funds released by the Central Government is Rs. 7,528.707 lakhs and during the year 2015-16 and the year 2016-17 funds released by the central Government is Rs. 33,101.248 lakhs and Rs. 41711.849 lakhs respectively.

## 29. Environment Ministry to implement two major Afforestation Schemes in the country

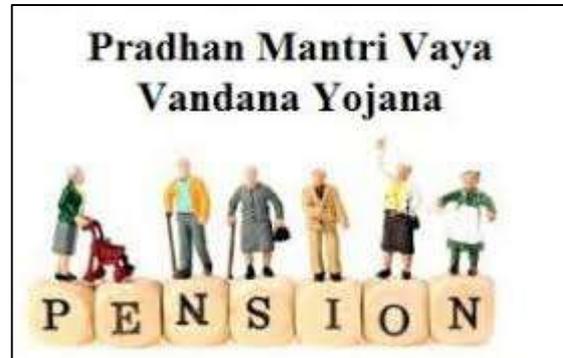
To achieve the targets mentioned in the National Forest Policy to maintain 33% forest and tree cover in the country the Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change (MoEF&CC) is implementing two major afforestation/tree plantation schemes i.e. National Afforestation Programme (NAP) scheme and National Mission for a Green India (GIM).



While NAP is being implemented for afforestation of degraded forestlands, GIM aims at improving the quality of forest/increase in forest cover, besides cross-sectoral activities on landscape basis. An area of about 21 lakh ha has been approved for new afforestation with an investment of around Rs. 3700 crore under NAP and Rs.174 crore under GIM.

### 30. Government launched the 'Pradhan Mantri Vaya Vandana Yojana

Government has launched the 'Pradhan Mantri Vaya Vandana Yojana (PMVVY)' to provide social security during old age and to protect elderly persons aged 60 and above against a future fall in their interest income due to uncertain market conditions. The scheme enables old age income security for senior citizens through provision of assured pension/return linked to the subscription amount based on government guarantee to Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC).



This scheme provides an assured return of 8% per annum payable monthly for 10 years, to be borne by Government of India.

### 31. High Capacity Parcel Vans in Indian Railways

To meet the demand of full vehicle load perishable traffic, Indian Railways has developed High Capacity Parcel Vans (VPs) with a capacity of 23 Tonnes, which are attached to passenger carrying trains subject to availability of room in train and operational feasibility. To facilitate transportation of milk through Rail, specially designed High Capacity Milk Tankers having capacity of 44.66 KL are run as Special trains.



In addition to this, Indian Railways also run special parcel train consisting of High Capacity Parcel Vans for transportation of fruits in bulk on demand, on a fixed path between specific origin-destination stations.

### 32. NITI Aayog selects three States for transformative change in Health & Education sectors

In a major push to competitive, cooperative federalism, NITI Aayog announced partnership with three States each to radically-transform their Health and Education sectors. NITI Aayog has selected Uttar Pradesh, Assam, and Karnataka to improve healthcare delivery and key outcomes in these States. In Education, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha, and Jharkhand have been selected for support to better learning outcomes.



States made presentations for each sector, which was assessed by a committee comprised of senior members of NITI Aayog. The States highlighted the initiatives undertaken by them thus far and justified why they should be selected for the institutional support.

### 33. Railways earned Rs.540 crore through flexi fare scheme

The Indian Railways earned an additional revenue of Rs 540 crore through the flexi fare scheme from September 2016-June 30, 2017. The scheme was launched in September 2016.

The scheme allows 10% of the seats to be sold at normal fare and thereafter increasing it by 10% with every 10% of berths sold with a ceiling of 50%. It is applicable only in Rajdhani, Shatabdi and Duronto trains. Duronto trains earned Rs. 140 crores more than the amount earned in the same period last year while Shatabdi trains earned Rs. 120 crores more.



### 34. President of India hosts 'At Home' for freedom fighters on the 75th anniversary of the Quit India Movement

The President of India, Shri Ram Nath Kovind hosted an 'At Home' reception for freedom fighters on the 75th anniversary of the Quit India Movement on August 9, 2017 at the Rashtrapati Bhavan. On the occasion, the President honoured and felicitated 93 freedom fighters from across the country.

Each of the freedom fighters was gifted an electric kettle with a personal message from the President. On the occasion, the President also released a set of eight Commemorative Postage Stamps on 75 years of 1942 Freedom Struggle.



### 35. PM addressed district collectors on the theme of "New India - Manthan"

The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi, addressed district collectors across the country via videoconference, on the theme of "New India - Manthan." The first-of-its-kind interaction with district collectors marked the occasion of the 75th anniversary of the Quit India Movement on 9th August, and is aimed at catalysing "New India - Manthan" at the grassroots level.

The Prime Minister asked the collectors to prepare a vision document for their district before 15 August. This Resolution Document, should include those 10 or 15 objectives which they feel should be achieved by 2022.



### 36. Dr. Mahesh Sharma inaugurated the Exhibition ‘Quit India’ and ‘Azad Hind Fauj’

On the occasion of the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Quit India Movement and the Azad Hind Fauj, Dr. Mahesh Sharma, Minister of State (I/C) for Culture and Tourism inaugurated an exhibition “Quit India and Azad Hind Fauj – 75th Anniversary (1942-2017)” in New Delhi. The exhibition will continue until 1 September 2017.



This exhibition was based on public records, private papers, photographs, newspaper reports and proscribed literature banned by the British Government, which came out during the last phase of freedom movement. The film presenting the passing of the “Quit India Resolution”, arrest of freedom struggle leaders was also on display.

### 37. Shri J P Nadda chaired high-level review meeting on control of vector borne diseases

Shri J P Nadda, Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare, held a high-level meeting to review the activities for prevention and control of vector borne diseases (dengue, malaria, chikungunya).



Highlighting the important role that the field level workers, and municipal corporations and municipalities play in control and prevention of these vector borne diseases, he directed to involve municipalities and corporations at the ground level for more effective and joint efforts.

The Ministry has distributed 23.5 million insecticidal nets. The Ministry has also requested the States/UTs to declare Dengue as notifiable disease for improving reporting in affected areas.

### 38. NCERT launched its Web Portal for supply of NCERT Textbooks

Shri Upendra Kushwaha, Minister of State, Ministry of Human Resource Development and Government of India launched a NCERT's Web portal for supply of textbooks to schools and individuals in New Delhi. The portal will ensure better distribution of textbooks across the country and will address the apprehensions, on the part of schools and parents, regarding unavailability of NCERT textbooks.



The schools will be able to log on to the portal, by entering their respective Boards' affiliation numbers and other details, until 8<sup>th</sup> September 2017 for placing their orders for the session 2018-19.

### 39. Ashram Schools for Students belonging to Scheduled tribes

Funds have been provided by Ministry of Tribal Affairs for construction of 1205 Ashram Schools across the country for creation of about 1,15,500 seats. Besides, 3272 Ashram Schools have also been opened for ST boys and girls by various State Governments.



During 2017-18, an amount of Rs. 10 crore has been allocated under the scheme of Ashram Schools in Tribal Sub-Plan Area.

Funds have also been provided to States for amenities in Ashram Schools through Special Central Assistance to Tribal Sub Scheme (SCA to TSS) and grants under article 275(1) of the Constitution based upon proposals from States.

### 40. Ten Namami Gange projects of Rs. 2,000 crore approved

The National Mission for Clean Ganga has approved ten projects in Bihar, West Bengal and Uttar Pradesh of about Rs. 2,033 crore.



Eight of the ten projects pertain to sewage infrastructure and treatment, one to river front development and one to Ganga Knowledge Centre. These projects were approved in the fifth meeting of the Executive Committee of National Mission for Clean Ganga.

A project to establish Ganga Monitoring Centers in five Ganga states has also been approved at an estimated cost of Rs. 46.69 crores. Besides, two pilot demonstrative projects of treatment of drains using bioremediation method were approved.

#### 41. World Bank Aid for cleaning of Ganga River

World Bank has sanctioned a loan of US \$ 1 billion for funding Institutional Development and for construction of priority infrastructure projects for municipal wastewater treatment and solid waste treatment on the main stem of Ganga in the five Ganga basin states of Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Jharkhand, Bihar and West Bengal.

The Government of India has withdrawn a cumulative amount of US \$ 91.26 million (Rs. 550.48 crores) under this loan.



#### 42. Installation of Display Screens at Railway Stations

Railways proposed to install display screens at foot-over bridges, platforms, waiting rooms etc. at Railway Stations under Railway Display Network (RDN) project.

RailTel Corporation of India Ltd, a Public Sector Undertaking under the administrative control of Ministry of Railways, has been appointed as Nodal Agency to implement and manage Indian Railway's RDN system.



Railway Display Network is envisaged to become a unique medium of communication with passengers, which will not only provide necessary information and social messages to the passengers but will also become a medium of enriched infotainment.

#### 43. Ministry of Culture organized Sankalp Se Siddhi Program in Coimbatore

To take forward the initiative of Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi for a New India movement from 2017 - 2022, a Sankalp Se Siddhi (Attainment through Resolve) Program was organized at Coimbatore.

The New India Movement 2017-2022 envisages an India free of Poverty, Corruption, Terrorism, Communalism, Casteism and Uncleanliness. The participants took the New India Pledge of "Come, let us together pledge for building a New India by 2022, a Clean India, a Poverty-free India, a Corruption-free India, a Terrorism-free India, a Communalism-free India, and a Casteism-free India".



#### 44. NSDC and Google India launched Android Skill Development Program

National Skill Development Corporation in union with Google India launched Android Skill Development Program to train app developers and impart mobile app development training on the Android and Web platform to improve the quality of mobile app development ecosystem in India.



With the introduction of this new development program, NSDC will bring up a 100-hour learning course and train learners to create applications for the mobile platform that can be used on smartphone and tablets running on the Android operating system.

#### 45. Aajeevika Grameen Express Yojana launched

The Government of India has decided to launch a new sub-scheme named "Aajeevika Grameen Express Yojana (AGEY)" as part of the Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana – National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM).



This will help to provide safe, affordable and community monitored rural transport services to connect remote villages with key services and amenities (such as access to markets, education and health) for the overall economic development of backward rural areas.

AGEY will be initially implemented in 250 Blocks in the country on pilot basis with each Block provided up to 6 vehicles to operate the transport services.

#### 46. Shri Thaawarchand Gehlot Inaugurates 'Inclusive Independence Day Celebrations of National Trust'

Shri Thaawarchand Gehlot, Minister for Social Justice and Empowerment inaugurated the 'Inclusive Independence Day celebrations' organised by the National Trust.



On the eve of 71st Independence Day, National Trust, a statutory body of Government of India under Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment conducted Inclusive Independence Day celebrations, as a part of its 'Inclusive India Initiative', an awareness campaign. The Initiative aims to provide equal access to people with intellectual and developmental disabilities, by means of Inclusive Education, Inclusive Employment and Inclusive Community Life.

#### 47. "Launch of GeMSamvad: The GeM -Industry forum"

A MoU was signed between Government eMarketplace (GeM) SPV and the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII), in the presence of Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman, Commerce & Industry Minister at Udyog Bhawan, New Delhi.



This MoU between GeM and CII is aimed at establishing GeM Samvaad – A participative and collaborative approach with the industry for promoting Indian industry and entrepreneurship. As part of this initiative GeM & the Indian industry shall work together to, create GeM related awareness and on board industry members from across the country.

#### 48. Website for Gallantry Awardees since Independence Launched

An online portal dedicated to the gallantry award winners, bestowed since Independence, has been launched today. The domain name of the portal is <http://gallantryawards.gov.in>.



The website gives details of the Chakra Series awardees i.e., Param Vir Chakra, Maha Vir Chakra, Vir Chakra, Ashok Chakra, Kirti Chakra and Shaurya Chakra.

The portal contains information such as name, unit, year, citations and photographs of awardees until date. The Ministry of Defence would welcome any feedback or suggestion for further improvement.

#### 49. Cabinet approves raising Extra Budgetary Resources for Long Term Irrigation Fund

The Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi approved raising Extra Budgetary Resources (EBR) of up to Rs. 9020 crore during 2017-18 by NABARD in respect of borrowings for implementation of Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme (AIBP) works of 99 ongoing prioritized irrigation projects along with their command area development (CAD) works under PMKSY.



As per the status reported by the states and Central Water Commission during various review meeting, 18 projects have been completed/almost completed. Irrigation potential utilization is expected to be more than 14 lakh hectares during 2016-17 from all the 99 projects.

## 50. Cabinet approved MoU between India and Sweden on IPRs

The Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi approved MoU between India and Sweden on cooperation in the field of Intellectual Property (IPRs).

The MoU establishes a wide ranging and flexible mechanism through which both countries can exchange best practices and work together on training programs and technical exchanges to raise awareness on IPRs and better protect intellectual property rights. A Joint Coordination Committee (JCC) with members from both sides will be formed to decide cooperation activities to be taken under the MoU.



## 51. Cabinet approved creation of a single non-lapsable corpus fund for Secondary and Higher education

The Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi accorded its approval for creation of a non-lapsable pool in the Public Account for secondary and higher, education known as "Madhyamik and Uchchatar Shiksha Kosh" (MUSK) into which all proceeds of "Secondary and Higher Education Cess" will be credited.

The funds arising from the MUSK would be utilized for schemes in the education sector for the benefit of students of secondary and higher education, all over the country. The MUSK would be maintained as a Reserve Fund in the non-interest bearing section of the Public Accounts of India.



## 52. Union Cabinet approved new Metro Rail Policy

The Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi approved a new Metro Rail Policy that seeks to enable realization of growing metro rail aspirations of a large number of cities but in a responsible manner.

The policy opens a big window for private investments across a range of metro operations making PPP component mandatory for availing central assistance for new metro projects. The new Metro Rail Policy provides for rigorous assessment of new metro proposals and proposes an independent third party assessment by agencies to be identified by the Government.



### 53. Cabinet approves Scheme of Budgetary Support under GST Regime

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi approved to the Scheme of providing Budgetary Support under Goods and Service Tax Regime for the eligible industrial units located in State of Jammu & Kashmir, Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh and North Eastern States including Sikkim.



Budgetary support of Rs. 27,413 crore for the said Scheme has been approved for the period from 1.7.2017 until 31.03.2027 for such industrial units located in previously mentioned States which availed the benefit of Central Excise exemption prior to coming into force of GST regime.

### 54. Cabinet approved procedure and mechanism for Strategic Disinvestment

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs, chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, has approved the proposal of Department of Investment and public Asset Management (DIPAM) for the strategic disinvestment of the following:



- For setting up an Alternative Mechanism (AM) to decide on the matters relating to terms and conditions of the sale from the stage of inviting of Express of Interests (Eols) until inviting of financial bid.
- For empowering the Core Group of Secretaries (CGD) to take policy decisions with regard to procedural issues.

### 55. India signed Global Environment Facility (GEF) Grant Agreement with the World Bank

A Grant Agreement from the Global Environment Facility (GEF) of the World Bank of USD 24.64 million for "Ecosystem Service Improvement Project" was signed for USD 24.64 Million, to be financed by the World Bank out of its GEF Trust Fund.

The Ministry of Environment will implement the Project in the States of Chhattisgarh and Madhya Pradesh through Indian Council of Forestry Research & Education under the National Mission for Green India to enhance forest ecosystem services and improve the livelihoods of forest dependent communities in Central Indian Highlands.



### 56. EESL and IOCL, BPCL & HPCL sign MOUs for distribution of Energy Efficient appliances

Energy Efficiency Services Limited (EESL), under the Ministry of Power signed a MoU with Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) for distribution of energy efficient appliances under the flagship Unnat Jeevan by Affordable LEDs and appliances for All (UJALA) scheme.

According to the agreement, Oil Marketing Companies will take up distribution of LED Bulbs, LED Tubelights and energy efficient Fans from select retail outlets across the country. Through the scheme, the estimated cumulative cost reduction in bills of consumers annually, is over INR 13,346 crore and is leading to reduction of approximately 2.7 crore tonnes of CO2 every year.



### 57. States participating in UDAY take over targeted debt of Rs. 2.09 lakh crores

Ujwal DISCOM Assurance Yojana) UDAY (was launched in November 2015 and has completed more than one year of operation .Participating States of UDAY have taken over the targeted debt of Rs. 2.09 lakh crores of their DISCOMs under borrowing exemption from the FRBM Act given in UDAY for the years 2015-16 and 2016-17.



Because of the debt addressed as above, and other operational interventions, the participating DISCOMs have achieved net savings of approximately Rs. 15,000 Crores until March 2017.

### 58. 7.4% growth in Foreign Tourist arrivals in July 2017 over July 2016

Ministry of Tourism compiles monthly estimates of Foreign Tourist Arrivals (FTAs) & FTAs on e- Tourist Visa based on Nationality. As per reports, the number of FTAs in July 2017 rose to 7.88 lakh, i.e. by 7.4%, as compared to FTAs of 7.34 lakh in July, 2016.



The percentage share of Foreign Tourist Arrivals in India during July 2017 among the top 15 source countries was highest from Bangladesh followed by USA, UK, France, Malaysia and Canada. During the month of July, 2017 total of 1.19 lakh tourist arrived on e-Tourist Visa.

### 59. NHAI takes steps to facilitate availability of FASTags for Electronic Toll Collection

National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) has taken two revolutionary steps in consultation with RBI and NPCI to facilitate the availability of FASTags for electronic toll collection. These are the online sale of FASTags and offline sales through Common Services Centres, CSC, to be set up near toll plazas.



FASTags could also be purchased online from the websites of issuer banks and the NHAI website and would be delivered by courier at the doorstep of the purchaser. FASTag is a brand name for Electronic Toll Collection (ETC) at toll plazas on National Highways.

## 60. NHAI launched two mobile apps

The NHAI launched two mobile Apps - MyFASTag and FASTag Partner. The mobile Apps will ease the process, making it possible to buy or recharge FASTags at the click of a mobile button. MyFASTag can be downloaded for both Android and iOS systems.

A consumer can purchase or recharge FASTags on this App and it will also help to keep track of transactions and provides for online grievance redressal. FASTag Partner is a merchant App and agencies like Common Services Centre, banking partners and vehicle dealers can sell and enroll FASTag through this App.



## 61. CCEA approves proposal of DIPAM for strategic disinvestment

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs, CCEA has approved the proposal of Department of Investment and public Asset Management, DIPAM for the strategic disinvestment. The approval will help in speedy completion of strategic disinvestment transactions.

The department will set up an alternative mechanism comprising of the Finance Minister, Minister for Road Transport and Highways and Minister of Administrative Department, to decide on the matters relating to terms and conditions of the sale from the stage of inviting of Express of Interests till inviting of financial bid.



## 62. Government revised up 2016-17 grain output to record 275.68 million tonnes

The government revised upward the country's overall food-grain production by 2.3 million tonnes to a record 275.68 million tonnes in 2016-17 crop year that ended in June. The previous record of 265.04 million tonnes was achieved in 2013-14 crop year while the production had declined to 251.57 million tonnes in 2015-16.

As per the estimates, rice output is estimated at record 110.15 million tonnes, which is higher by 3.50 million tonnes. Wheat production is also estimated at record 98.38 million tonnes. Pulses production during 2016-17 is also estimated at 22.95 million tonnes.



### 63. Cabinet Approved raising of over Rs. 9000 crores through NABARD for Completing Irrigation Projects

The Union Cabinet has approved raising extra budgetary resources of over Rs. 9,000 crore for Long Term Irrigation Fund in 2017-18. The amount will be raised by NABARD through Bonds.

The Fund seeks to make loans from NABARD attractive for states by ensuring lending rate of 6 percent per annum. The funds will be utilized for the completion of 99 irrigation projects under the Prime Minister's Krishi Sinchai Yojna.



### 64. Cabinet approved completion of balance works of North Koel Reservoir Project

The Union Cabinet gave its approval to the proposal to complete the balance works of the North Koel Reservoir Project in Jharkhand and Bihar at an estimated expenditure of Rs. 1622.27 crore to be incurred during three financial years from the start of the project.

The project is situated on North Koel River, which is a tributary of Sone River finally joining the river Ganga. The Cabinet also approved storage of water in dam restricted at lower level than envisaged earlier to reduce the submergence and to protect Betla National Park and Palamau Tiger Reserve.



### 65. Government to conduct 'world's largest sample survey' for students

The Human Resource Development (HRD) Ministry will conduct its National Assessment Survey (NAS) for the students of Class 3, 5, and 8 on November 13.

Approximately 30 lakh students will be assessed in the year 2017-18 making it the world's largest sample survey of student learning achievement. So far, NCERT has conducted four rounds of National Achievement Survey (NAS) for Class 5, three rounds for Classes 3 and 8 and one round for Class 10.



## 66. Government banned export of Gold items above 22-Carat Purity

The government has banned exports of gold jewellery, medallions and other articles above 22- carat purity in order to check round tripping of the precious metal.

The Directorate General of Foreign Trade also stated that only those exporters could avail of incentives who are shipping gold jewellery and other articles containing gold of 8 carats and up to a maximum limit of 22 carats and not beyond.



India is the world's second-biggest gold consumer after China. The imports mainly take care of demand by the jewellery industry.

## 67. Gov and World Bank Sign Grant Agreement to Enhance Outcomes of the Green India Mission

The Government of India, the Governments of Chhattisgarh and Madhya Pradesh, the Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education and the World Bank signed a US\$ 24.64 million grant from the Global Environment Facility (GEF) to improve forest quality, sustainable land management and benefits from Non-Timber Forest Produce for forest dependent communities in Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh.



The Ecosystem Services Improvement Project will support the Government of India's GIM (Green India Mission) goal of protecting, restoring and enhancing India's forest cover and responding to climate change.

## 68. NITI Aayog organised "Champions of Change" initiative

NITI Aayog organised the "Champions of Change" initiative. Six groups of Young Entrepreneurs made presentations before the PM on themes such as - Soft Power: Incredible India 2.0; Education and Skill Development; Health and Nutrition; Energizing a sustainable tomorrow; and Digital India; New India by 2022.

The "Champions of Change" initiative is one effort to bring together diverse strengths for the benefit of the nation and society.



### 69. Home Minister Rajnath Singh launched digital police portal

Home Minister Rajnath Singh launched digital police portal under Crime and Criminal Tracking Network and Systems Project (CCTNS). The portal is a smart policing initiative to provide services to citizens and aid efficient police investigation.

The portal is a platform for citizens to file online crime related complaints and request for antecedent verification. The portal will also provide access to authorized persons to use National Database of crime records for the purpose of investigation.



### 70. HRD Minister Shri Prakash Javadekar launched 'Swasth Bachche, Swasth Bharat'

'Swasth Bachche, Swasth Bharat' Programme, an initiative of Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan to prepare a physical Health and Fitness Profile Card for more than 12 lakhs of Kendriya Vidyalaya students was launched in Kochi.

The 'Swasth Bachche, Swasth Bharat' programme aims to make students, teachers and parents aware of the importance of good health and fitness and encourage '60 minutes of play' every day.



This program also intends to imbibe values of Olympics and Paralympics among students.

### 71. India and USA Establish TWO-BY-TWO Ministerial Dialogue

India and USA have established new two-by-two (2 by 2)-ministerial dialogue to enhance strategic coordination between the two nations and maintain peace and stability in the Indo-Pacific region.

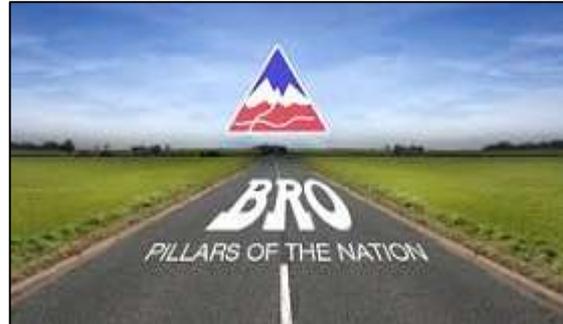
The new dialogue format will be similar to the India-Japan 2+2 dialogue format between foreign and defence secretaries of the two countries. It will replace the earlier India-US Strategic and Commercial Dialogue. The new format would include External Affairs Minister and Defence Minister from India and their American counter-parts Secretary of State and Defence Secretary.



## 72. Ministry of Defence approved delegation of Powers to Border Roads Organisation

The Ministry of Defence has decided to delegate administrative and financial powers to the Border Roads Organisation (BRO) right up to the level of Chief Engineer and Task Force Commander, so as to avoid delays on account of references between the Chief Engineer and HQ DGBR and also between HQ DGBR and the Ministry.

The BRO is engaged in road construction to provide connectivity to difficult and inaccessible regions in the border areas of the country.



## 73. NITI Aayog to launch Mentor India Campaign

NITI Aayog will launch the Mentor India Campaign, a strategic nation building initiative to engage leaders who can guide and mentor students at Atal Tinkering Labs.

More than 900 such labs have been established across the country as a part of the Atal Innovation Mission and by the end of the year, 2000 such labs will be in place.

Atal Tinkering Labs are dedicated works spaces where students from Class 6th to Class 12th learn innovation skills and develop ideas that will go on to transform India.



## 74. Cabinet approved setting up of Commission to examine sub-categorization of OBCs

Based on the recommendation of National Commission for Backward Classes (NCBC), Union Cabinet has approved setting up of a Commission to examine sub-categorization of OBCs.

The sub-categorization will apply for reservation in Central government jobs. The Commission will take up the exercise of identifying the respective castes, sub-castes, communities and synonyms in the Central list of OBCs and classifying them into their respective sub-categories. The Commission will submit its report within 12 weeks from the date of appointment of Chairperson.



## 75. Cabinet approved framework of consolidation of public sectors banks

The Union Cabinet has given in-principle approval for Public Sector Banks to amalgamate through an Alternative Mechanism (AM). The decision would facilitate consolidation among the Nationalised Banks to create strong and competitive banks.



The proposal must start from the Boards of Banks. The proposals received from Banks for in-principle approval to formulate schemes of amalgamation shall be placed before the Alternative Mechanism (AM). The final scheme will be notified by Central Government in consultation with the Reserve Bank of India.

## 76. CCEA approved renaming of central sector scheme SAMPADA as PM Kisan Sampada Yojana

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs, CCEA, has approved the renaming of the new Central Sector Scheme - SAMPADA (Scheme for Agro-Marine Processing and Development of Agro-Processing Clusters) as Pradhan Mantri Kisan Sampada Yojana (PMKSY) for the period of 2016-20.



The objective of the scheme is to supplement agriculture, modernize processing and decrease Agri-Waste. Pradhan Mantri Kisan Sampada Yojana has an allocation of 6 thousand crore rupees is expected to leverage investment of 31,400 crore rupees in the country by the year 2019-20.

## 77. Cabinet approved transfer of 40 acres of AAI land at Dahisar to MMRDA

The Union Cabinet has given its approval for transfer of 40 acres of Airports Authority of India (AAI) land at RR station, Dahisar to Mumbai Metropolitan Region Development Authority (MMRDA) for its metro shed swapping with 40 acres of State Government land at Gorai, Mumbai. The land transaction will enable MMRDA to complete the Metro rail project in Mumbai.



MMRDA will pay the difference in cost of land of 40 acres, as per the stamp duty ready reckoner rate based on 2016-17 arrived at Rs. 472.70 crores.

### 78. Cabinet approved MoU between India and Nepal on Drug Demand Reduction

The Union Cabinet gave its approval for signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between India and Nepal on Drug Demand Reduction and Prevention of Illicit Trafficking in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances and precursor chemicals and related matters.



The MoU lists out the areas of cooperation on drug matters between the two countries. It also indicates the mechanism of information exchange and the competent authorities in the two countries who are responsible for the implementation of the MoU and exchange of any information.

### 79. Cabinet approved MoU to be signed between India & Nepal for bridge construction at Indo-Nepal border

The Union Cabinet has approved a Memorandum of Understanding to be signed between India and Nepal for laying down implementation arrangement on Cost sharing, Schedules and Safeguard issues for starting construction of a new Bridge over Mechi River at Indo-Nepal border.



The estimated cost of construction of the bridge is 158.65 crore rupees, which would be funded by Government of India through ADB loan. Mechi Bridge is the ending point of Asian Highway 02 in India leading to Nepal and provides critical connectivity to Nepal.

### 80. Cabinet approved Closure of loss making Bharat Wagon and Engineering Company

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs has approved the proposal of Ministry of Railways to close the Bharat Wagon and Engineering Company Limited (BWEL) - a Central Public Sector Enterprise (CPSE) under Ministry of Railways.



Around 626 employees of BWEL will be benefitted from the voluntary retirement scheme to be offered at 2007 pay scale. The Government will have to provide one time grant off 151.18 crore towards severance package and for clearing the current liabilities of the company.

### 81. The 17<sup>th</sup> meeting of FSDC Held in New Delhi

The 17<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Financial Stability and Development Council (FSDC) was held in New Delhi under the Chairmanship of the Union Minister of Finance, Shri Arun Jaitley.

The Council also took note of the progress of Financial Sector Assessment Program for India, jointly conducted by the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank.

The Council discussed on the Central KYC Registry (CKYCR) system. The Council also deliberated on strengthening the regulation of the Credit Rating Agencies (CRAs).



### 82. ICMR signed pact with International Vaccine Institute for vaccine

The Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) and the Union Ministry of Health signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the International Vaccine Institute (IVI), South Korea to collaborate on vaccine research and development.

IVI has 35 signatory countries. With this partnership, India is committing an annual contribution of US\$ 5,00,000 to IVI and joins Sweden and South Korea as financially contributing signatories to IVI. The ICMR in Delhi is the apex body in the country for the formulation, coordination and promotion of biomedical research.



### 83. 40% reservation for girls at planned Navodaya schools

The Union Government has decided to provide 40 percent reservation for girls at 100 Navodaya-type schools and five higher education institutes it plans to setup for minority community students.

The government has plans to open the 100 Navodaya-type schools in minority concentrated areas of the country. A panel formed by The Maulana Azad Education Foundation (MAEF), a government-funded agency, had recommended a three-tier model to tackle educational backwardness among minorities. There are six notified minority communities in the country: Muslims, Buddhists, Christians, Sikhs, Parsis and Jains.



#### 84. SC declared right to privacy as Fundamental right

In a landmark decision, the Supreme Court declared the right to privacy a fundamental right under the constitution.

A nine-judge constitution bench headed by Chief Justice JS Khehar ruled that right to privacy is an intrinsic part of the Right to Life and Personal Liberty under Article 21 and entire Part III of the Constitution.

The bench unanimously overruled the two earlier judgements of the apex court that the right to privacy is not protected under the Constitution.



#### 85. List of MoUs/Agreements signed during the State Visit of Prime Minister of Nepal to India (August 24, 2017)

India and Nepal signed eight different agreements in different areas of mutual benefit. They are:

- Modalities for Utilization of India's Housing Grant Component to support Reconstruction of 50,000 Houses
- Implementation of the Grant Component of India's Post-Earthquake Reconstruction Package in the Education Sector in Nepal
- Implementation of the Grant Component of India's Post-Earthquake Reconstruction Package in the Cultural Heritage Sector in Nepal
- Implementation of the Grant Component of India's Post-Earthquake Reconstruction Package in the Health Sector in Nepal
- Implementation Arrangement on Cost Sharing, Schedules and Safeguard Issues for Construction of Mechi Bridge under ADB's SASEC Road Connectivity Programme (Tranche 2), Funded by GoI
- Drug Demand Reduction and Prevention of Illicit Trafficking in Narcotic Drugs, Psychotropic Substances and Precursor Chemical and Related Matters
- Agreement on Cooperation in the Field of Standardization and Conformity Assessment
- MoU between the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India and the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Nepal



## 86. TRAI signed agreement with The Malaysian Communications and Multimedia Commission (MCMC)

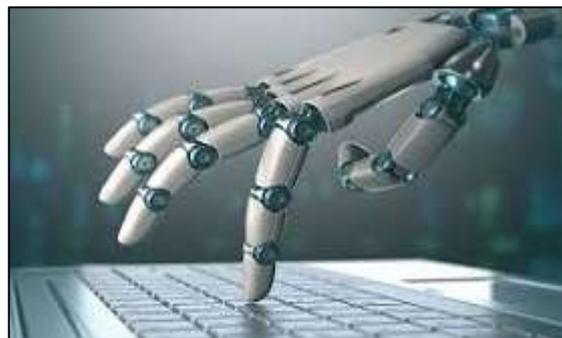
The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) signed a letter of intent (LoI) with the Malaysian Communications and Multimedia Commission (MCMC). The following activities are planned under the agreement:

- Exchange of information and regulatory best practices
- Exchange, deployment and attachment of experts
- Collaboration in various international forums
- Jointly conduct capacity building exercises in the fields of broadcasting and telecommunications regulation
- Any other forms of collaboration in the fields of broadcasting and telecommunications regulation.



## 87. Government sets up task force on artificial intelligence

Government constituted a task force on Artificial Intelligence for the country's Economic Transformation. The 18-member panel, headed by Dr. V. Kamakoti of IIT Madras, will comprise of experts, academics, researchers and industry leaders. It will explore the possibilities to leverage Artificial Intelligence for development across various fields.



The task force will submit concrete and implementable recommendations for government, industry and research institutions. It is done with aim so that with rapid development in the fields of information technology and hardware, the world is about to witness a fourth industrial revolution.

### 88. UIDAI launched door-to-door Aadhaar Enrollment facility in Delhi

UIDAI in union with CSC India launched door-to-door AADHAAR enrolment facility in Delhi. Law and IT Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad flagged off van to provide Aadhaar enrolment facility at doorstep in Delhi. It is facility for people who are unable to travel to Aadhaar centers for enrolment like elderlies, patients, small children etc.



CSC India has duty to permit and monitor operations of common service centers across India, which are meant to provide government services in rural area. Around 2.5 lakh CSCs operational across India will help in providing facility.

### 89. Bilateral Meeting - India and Uzbekistan held in Delhi

The Commerce and Industries Minister, Mrs. Nirmala Sitharaman and Mr. Abdulaziz Kamilov, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Mr. Elyor Ganiev, Minister of Foreign Trade held detailed discussions on deepening trade and economic ties between India and Uzbekistan in a bilateral meeting held on 23rd August 2017 in , New Delhi.



Commerce Minister suggested setting up and activation of a private industry led Joint Business Council to develop and enhance business relations, simplify procedure for granting visa to Indian businesspersons and reduction of import duty on leather goods and footwear in Uzbekistan to 10%.

### 90. Vice-President Venkaiah Naidu launched the National Sports Talent Search Portal

Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu has launched the National Sports Talent Search Portal in New Delhi. The National Sports Talent Search Portal will enable any person from across the country to upload his information and as per that; the Ministry will tap their talent and train them further in their respective disciplines.



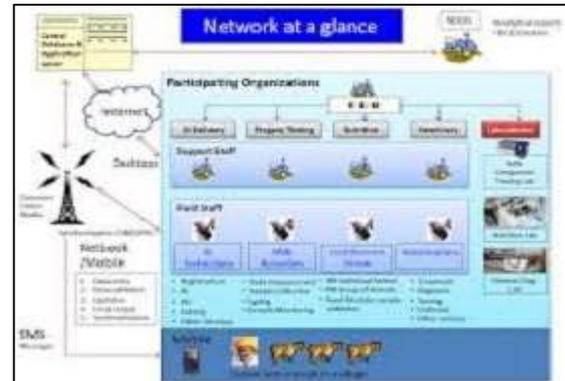
The portal will provide a three step simple process for registration, profile creation and upload of achievements. Around 1000 kids will be selected and they will receive scholarships of 5 lakh rupees per year for eight years.

## 91. 85 lakh milk-producing animals identified and their data uploaded on INAPH database

Pashu Sanjivni component under National Mission on Bovine Productivity scheme was initiated by the Government in November 2016.

88 million milk-producing animals out of 300 million cattle and buffaloes are being identified using polyurethane tags with 12-digit unique identification (UID) number.

The data of the identified animals is being uploaded on Information Network on Animal Health and Productivity (INAPH) database.



As on date, 85 lakh milk-producing animals have been identified and their data has been uploaded on INAPH database.

# Persons in News

## 1. Harmanpreet Kaur to be appointed as the DSP by Punjab government

The Punjab state government has initiated the process of inducting cricketer Harmanpreet Kaur as a DSP in the state police. She is currently working in the Railways.

Kaur scored 171 not out from 115 balls in the semi-final against Australia and steered India into the ICC Women's World Cup final.

The State Government also handed over a Rs 5 lakh cheque to Kaur. The state police would also set up a cricket team in the police department.



## 2. Neymar becomes most expensive footballer in transfer history

Brazilian footballer Neymar Jr became the most expensive footballer in transfer history after his record transfer for a staggering €222 million (\$262,821,000) from Spanish team FC Barcelona to Paris Saint-Germain for a five-year deal.

He smashed the record for most expensive football player (soccer player), single transfer. The 25-year-old will earn Rs6.5 crore-a-week before tax.

French midfielder Paul Pogba held the previous record at €105 million paid by Manchester United to Juventus.



## 3. Venkaiah Naidu sworn in as the new Vice President of India

M Venkaiah Naidu was sworn in as the 15th Vice President of the nation. He is the 13th person to hold the constitutional post. He was administered the oath of office by President Ramnath Kovind. He defeated opposition candidate Gopal Krishna Gandhi.

Mr Naidu has served as BJP president, minister in various portfolios and a long-time Rajya Sabha member. He joined ABVP in 1973 as a student leader.



#### 4. Akshay Kumar roped in as Brand Ambassador for Swachh Bharat Mission in UP

The Uttar Pradesh state government has appointed Bollywood actor Akshay Kumar as the brand ambassador of the Swachh Bharat Mission in the state.

The UP government has set a mission to make 30 districts ODF by December 31 and the entire state by October 2, 2018.

Akshay Kumar is a national award-winning actor. He promised to proactively-work towards making UP the open defecation free (ODF) state.



#### 5. Hrithik Roshan signed as brand ambassador for Startup Cure.Fit

Health and wellness start-up Cure.fit signed Hrithik Roshan as its brand ambassador in a deal worth Rs. 100 crore. The deal is inked for 5 years.

The deal of Rs. 100 crore includes actor's equity stake in the company in lieu of cash investment, promotions and royalty from his personal brand HRX.

Hrithik's personal brand HRX's specialised workout plan will be introduced across Cult fitness centres operated by Cure.fit.

Actor Hrithik Roshan will endorse Cure.fit's philosophy of a healthy lifestyle. Curefit will also launch mobile app and take up its business to Rs 250-crore annual business in the near future.



#### 6. Milkha Singh appointed as WHO Goodwill Ambassador

India's famous sportsperson Milkha Singh was appointed WHO Goodwill Ambassador for Physical Activity in South-East Asia Region.

As WHO Goodwill Ambassador, Mr Milkha Singh will promote WHO South-East Asia Region's NCD Prevention and Control Action Plan, which seeks to reduce the level of insufficient physical activity by 10% and NCDs by 25% by 2025.

World Health Organization has been advising for physical activity as a "best buy" intervention for reducing the risk of deaths due to NCDs (non-communicable diseases).



## 7. World's Oldest Man died in Israel at 113

Holocaust survivor of Israel, Yisrael Kristal passed away at the age of 113. He was certified by Guinness World Records as the world's oldest man. Yisrael Kristal survived through both world wars and the Auschwitz concentration camp. He was born near the town of Żarnów in Poland in 1903.

Kristal was the only survivor of his large family in the 2<sup>nd</sup> World War. His first wife and two children were killed in the Holocaust.



## 8. Actress Aishwarya Rai became the first woman to hoist the Indian flag at IFFM 2017

Indian actor Aishwarya Rai Bachchan hoisted the Indian national flag at the Indian Film Festival of Melbourne, on 70th year of India's Independence. With this, she became the first woman to hoist flag at IIFM.

IIFM is the annual celebration of film from India and the subcontinent.

Aishwarya Rai Bachchan was honoured with Excellence in Global Cinema Award at the 80th edition of Indian Film Festival Melbourne 2017.



## 9. 10-yr-old Kaamyaa became youngest Indian to climb 6,153 meter mountain

Visakhapatnam's Kaamyaa Karthikeyan became youngest Indian to climb 6,153m mountain, highest peaks in the Himalayas. She summited Mount Stok Kangri, which is of height of 6,153 metres (20,187 ft).

It is not considered as ideal for beginners. Kaamyaa completed the expedition just 3 days before she turned 10, on August 7, to create history of becoming youngest Indian to climb 6,153m mountain.



Stok Kangri is the highest mountain in the Stok Range of the Himalayas in the Ladakh region of northwest India.

## 10. Neymar becomes Goodwill Ambassador for World's Disabled

Neymar has become a goodwill ambassador for Handicap International pledging to work for millions who are "less visible" but deserve equality.

The charity was founded in 1982 to assist 6,000 Cambodian refugees who had lost limbs and later co-founded the International Campaign to Ban Landmines (ICBL) in 1992 which won the Nobel Peace Prize.

The Brazilian forward was in news recently when his 222 million-euro (\$259.72M) record signing from Barcelona this month doubled the world- record transit fee.



## 11. 12-year-old Indian-Origin boy, Rahul, crowned Child Genius in UK

A 12-year-old Indian-origin boy, Rahul Doshi, from north London has won the "Child Genius" show broadcast by UK's Channel 4. He got all 14 of his questions correct in the first round of the latest series of the show.

He answered 14 questions out of 15 correctly. He beat his nine-year-old opponent, Ronan, 10-4 in the programme's finale.

He has an IQ of 162, which is believed to be higher than the likes of Albert Einstein and Stephen Hawking.



## 12. Indian-origin boy in UK gets top score in Mensa IQ

A 13-year-old Indian-origin boy, Dhruv Garg, in the UK has the highest possible score of 162 on a Mensa IQ test, placing him in the top 1% of people in the world who achieved this feat.

Dhruv achieved 162 in his entry IQ test - the maximum possible, which places him in the top 1% of people in the world.

He also scored the highest mark in the second test, known as the Culture Fair scale, getting 152. Dhruv Garg was looking for something to occupy his time during the summer holidays so decided to try out for the intellectual society.



# Places in News

## 1. Preparatory Meeting of the First 'BIMSTEC Disaster Management Exercise- 2017' began

The two-day Preparatory Meeting of the First 'BIMSTEC Disaster Management Exercise - 2017' began in New Delhi, organized by the National Disaster Response Force.

The meeting helped in the augmentation of capacities, especially response capacity, besides promoting cooperation and coordination in Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR).

This Exercise provided a platform to share the Best Practices on comprehensive aspects of Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR), strengthening regional response and coordination for Disaster Management among the BIMSTEC nations. The Exercise was conducted in two phase in Delhi and NCR.



## 2. The 8<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Regional Technical Group on Trade held in New Delhi

New Delhi hosted eighth meeting of the Regional Technical Group of Confidence Building Measure on Trade, Commerce & Investment Opportunities under the Heart of Asia – Istanbul Process, under the leadership of Acting Director General, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Afghanistan, Mr. Hassan Soroosh, and Joint Secretary, Ministry of External Affairs, Dr. Deepak Mittal.

The participants shared the view that Afghanistan acted as a natural bridge in promoting regional connectivity and economic integration. There was consensus that economic development was an important factor in ensuring peace and stability in Afghanistan and the Heart of Asia Region.



### 3. India celebrated 71st Independence Day at Red Fort

The Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi unfurled the National Flag from the ramparts of the Red Fort to celebrate the 71st Independence Day and addressed the nation.



Seven hundred cadets of the National Cadet Corps drawn from various schools of the Delhi Directorate comprising the Army, Navy and Air Force wings participated in the flag hoisting ceremony.

In total, 3,500 girl students and 5,000 boy students from 37 schools of Directorate of Education, Government of Delhi sang the National Anthem and other patriotic songs in different regional languages during the celebrations.

### 4. 5-day India-ASEAN Youth Summit held in Bhopal

The five day India-ASEAN Youth Summit held in Bhopal to discuss various issues eradication of terrorism, poverty, role of youth in protecting environment and drug menace.



Various programmes were discussed that are in operational in India, meant for fighting against such issues. The event was inaugurated by Madhya Pradesh CM Shivraj Singh Chouhan and Minister of State for External Affairs General VK Singh.

This event was based on the theme "Shared Values, Common Destiny". Over 200 delegates from Indonesia, Singapore, Philippines, Malaysia, Brunei, Thailand, Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, Vietnam and India participated.

### 5. India opened its first partition museum in Amritsar

The world's first Partition Museum was opened at Town Hall, Amritsar. The Museum remains open from Tuesday to Sunday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.



The Partition Museum Project (TPMP) was initiated by The Arts and Cultural Heritage Trust (TAACT) to work towards the establishment of a world class, physical museum, dedicated to the memory of the Partition of the sub-continent in 1947 — its victims, its survivors and its lasting legacy.

## 6. National Sports Museum to be established in New Delhi

The Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports will establish National Sports Museum, first of its kind, at Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium, New Delhi.

The Museum will highlight India's achievements in sports and focus on the traditional sports within the country. The aim of the Museum is to popularise the sports as a way of life within the country.

Accordingly, the proposed Museum would go beyond the classical approach of a collection of memorabilia to become an interactive venue of interest for all age groups.



## 7. Sushma Swaraj inaugurated First Videsh Bhavan in Mumbai

External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj inaugurated the country's first Videsh Bhavan at the Bandra Kurla Complex (BKC) in Mumbai. It is a modern, fully equipped, state of the art office with all public amenities.

There are Four offices of MEA in Mumbai, which are:

- Passport Office
- Office of the Protector of Emigrants
- Office of the Regional Director of ICCR
- Branch Secretariat of MEA



They are all integrated together and will be functioning from the newly constructed "Videsh Bhavan" from now on.

## 8. Nungthaang Tampak became Northeast's first 100% Computer Literate Village

A village of Manipur called as Nungthaang Tampak created history by becoming northeast's first fully computer literate village. Under the Digital India Program, villagers have successfully completed the one-month free computer course, affiliated to AISECT (All India Society for Electronic and Computer Technology). Training course was organized by Mangal Rural. Technological items were also distributed to villagers.



Mangal rural distributed few basic technological items to villagers at free of cost such as a computer set, one solar lighting system and a WiFi device. Participants received 'Certificates' for successful completion of course.

## 9. Island of Tuvalu World's Least Visited Country

According to a new report by the United Nations World Tourism Organization (UNWTO), Tuvalu is least visited place on earth in 2016. It drew 2000 tourists in a year. Tuvalu is a collection of nine islands, sitting about halfway between Hawaii and Australia.



It is located in the South Pacific Ocean. Tuvalu is 4.6 meters above sea level and has a population of 11,000 people.

The other three least visited countries in the list are – Kiribati, Tajikistan and Marshall Islands.

# Regional

## 1. Delhi Metro named as World's first Green Metro

Delhi Metro Rail Service has been named as the only completely 'green' Metro system in the world for adhering to green building norms. DMRC received the platinum rating for adherence to green building norms for its 10 residential colonies from the Indian Green Building Council (IGBC).

Delhi Metro Rail Corporation also had earlier received green certificates for its Phase-3 stations, depots, and sub-stations.



## 2. Aadi Perukku Festival celebrated in Tamil Nadu

The 'Aadi Perukku' festival was celebrated at the bathing ghats of the Periyar River in Veerapandi and Uthamapalyam. It is celebrated to pay tribute to water's life-sustaining properties.

Aadi pirappu commonly known as the Aadi monsoon festival and also written as Aadiperukku is a Tamil festival celebrated on the 18th day of the Tamil month of Adi (mid-July to mid-August). This festival is celebrated for the birth of the Tamil month of Aadi.



## 3. Telangana becomes the first state to use Microsoft Cloud to use AI for eye care screening for children

The Government of Telangana announced an agreement with Microsoft India to adopt cloud-based analytics for Rashtriya Bal Swasthya Karyakram, its health care screening program for children.

The state has also agreed to adopt Microsoft Intelligent Network for Eye-care (MINE), an AI platform to reduce avoidable blindness thereby becoming the first state in India to deploy artificial intelligence for eye-care screening. The process involved health screenings of school students, carried out by mobile health teams under the RBSK, under the National Health Mission.



#### 4. Bengaluru to have India's first heli-taxi service

Bengaluru is set to have India's first heli-taxi service. The Kempegowda International Airport will become the first airport in the country to have a helicopter-taxi (heli-taxi) service for those who cannot afford to spend time battling traffic to travel across the city.

The service will be operated by Thumbby Aviation Private Limited. The service would start between KIA and Electronic City in the initial phase. The travel time which normally takes approximately 2 hrs between KIA and Electronic City could be reduced to 15 minutes.



#### 5. GMR to develop Greenfield International Airport at Mopa in Goa

The GMR Goa International Airport Limited, an SPV formed by the GMR Airports Limited has signed Concession Agreement with Government of Goa for development and operation of Greenfield International Airport at Mopa on 8<sup>th</sup> November 2016.

The GMR Airports Limited has won the project through international competitive bidding process with highest revenue share of 36.99%. The project will operate in hybrid until model with 30% cross subsidy, and is to be implemented in four phases. The total estimated cost of Phase I of the project is Rs, 3,100 crores.



#### 6. Dawn of Cruise Tourism in India' inaugurated in Mumbai

In order to promote cruise tourism in India, a special event, 'The dawn of cruise tourism in India' was inaugurated in Mumbai. It also saw the launch of three reports, "Mumbai Port SoP's for cruise operations", "Road map for Sea cruise tourism" and "Cruise terminals in India".

This initiative has a potential revenue gains of close to Rs. 35000 crore and number of cruise ships visiting India could go up from 158 per year to 955 per year.



## 7. India inked USD 329 Million Loan agreement with AIIB for Gujarat Road Project

India signed an agreement with Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) for a loan of US\$329 million to build access roads to approximately 4,000 villages in all 33 districts of Gujarat.

This project will construct and upgrade district and farm-to-market roads for the villagers and provide approaches to educational institutions, schools and hospitals. This is a stand-alone financed project by AIIB and is a part of phase one of the multiphase Government of Gujarat's "Chief Minister's Rural Roads Program".



## 8. 1000 Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana (PMBJP) Kendras to be opened in Uttar Pradesh

Union Minister of State for Road Transport presided over the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signing ceremony between the Union Government and the State Government of Uttar Pradesh for opening 1000 Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana (PMBJP) Kendras in the State.

Under the PMBJP scheme, medicines and other medical items are being made available at affordable rates at Janaushadhi Kendras opened across the country. The number of medicines available under the scheme would soon be increased to 1000. Government of India is also giving financial assistance of up to Rs. 2,50,000 to those who open the Kendras under the scheme.



## 9. Uttar Pradesh to be fully open defecation free by 2018

All 4480 villages on the bank of River Ganga in 52 districts and 5 states (Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand and West Bengal) were declared Open Defecation Free (ODF) under Namami Gange initiative held at Allahabad.

The Ganga Gram initiative would focus on better cleanliness and infrastructure facilities like Solid and Liquid Waste Management (SLWM), rejuvenation of ponds and water sources, water conservation projects, organic farming, crematorium and overall convergence with other government departments and projects.



## 10. Gujarat became first state to start coal utilization between power units

Gujarat government took initiative to get cheap coal for the state to run coal-based power at less than Rs 2.82 a unit. Gujarat issued a tender for power developers. Government will transfer the coal allocated to power generating stations owned by Gujarat State Electricity Corporation (GSECL) to more fuel-efficient private power plants.



It has been decided that successful power plant would be selling electricity to the state from October 1 to June 30, 2018. It is done with aim to reduce the financial burden from power distribution companies and ensure effective distribution of domestic coal.

## 11. Telangana started Sriram Sagar Modernization project worth Rs. 2000 crores

In order to modernize the Sriram Sagar project, Telangana government has started to increase the area served by this lifeline project, modernize Sriram Sagar project and revitalise its network. Project costs Rs. 2000 crores.



It is considered as an important project initiation by government because this will again increase storage capacity from 85 TMC feet to 112 TMC feet and cultivation ability from 5 lakh acres to about 16 lakh acres.

The project is based on Godavari River and has the potential to boost water supply to several districts in the State.

## 12. Namami Gange Jagriti Yatra launched by UP Government

Uttar Pradesh Government launched an awareness campaign termed as Namami Gange Jagriti Yatra, to create awareness among people on how to keep river Ganga clean and maintain hygiene.



This drive will cover a total area of around 1,025 kms, passing through 108 blocks of 25 districts of UP from Bijnore to Ballia alongside the Ganga river.

Campaign was launched in Lucknow by CM Adityanath. Under this drive, more than one lakh Home guard volunteers will organize public gatherings and other awareness programs in the districts.

### 13. NGT restricted use of Non-Biodegradable Plastic Bags in Delhi

In order to save environment, National Green Tribunal restricted use of non-biodegradable plastic bags, which are less than 50 microns in Delhi. The decision was made by a bench headed by NGT chairperson Justice Swatanter.

Any vegetable vendors and slaughterhouses found throwing garbage in public places would have to pay an environment compensation of Rs. 10,000. Any person found in possession of such banned plastic, will have to pay an environment compensation of Rs. 5,000.



The NGT directed the Delhi Pollution Control Committee to implement this ban with help from the municipal corporations, which are in charge of waste management.

### 14. 'Indira Canteen Scheme' Launched in Bengaluru

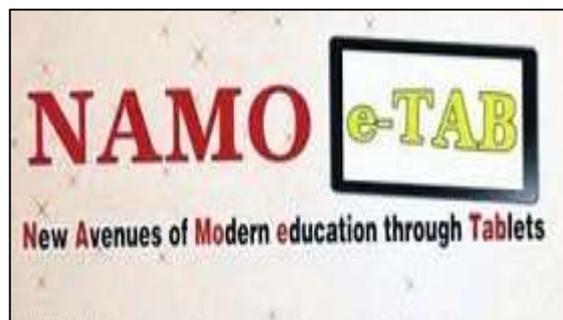
AICC Vice President Rahul Gandhi inaugurated Indira Canteens, a Government sponsored subsidized food outlet in Bengaluru. 101 canteens in Bengaluru started by the Government will serve food at rupees five and rupees 10 for the poor, who goes hungry otherwise.



He appreciated the proposal of the state Government to open such Indira canteens in other parts of the state in the days to come. He asked the managers of the canteen to serve hygienic food and maintain quality. The canteens are lightly modelled on the late Tamil Nadu chief minister J. Jayalithaa's "Amma" canteens.

### 15. Gujarat Government to distribute 'Namo' Tablets

Gujarat Government launched scheme NAMO E-Tab' tablets scheme, where around 3.5 lakh college students in Gujarat will get tablets at a subsidised rate of Rs 1,000 each. As per the scheme, the first year college students in the state will get 7-inch 'NAMO E-Tab' tablets, which have a market value of Rs 8,000 each, by just paying Rs 1,000.



Students will have to register. NAMO-E-TAB stands for 'New Avenues of Modern Education through Tablets'. Government has decided to spend money in building digital infrastructure in college campuses, earned from distributing such tablets.

## 16. Jharkhand government passed Religious Freedom Bill

Religious Freedom Bill 2017 was passed by Jharkhand Assembly, to stop the forced conversions in the state. The anti-conversion bill will now move to Governor and further to the President for assent.



According to the bill, if a person converted is a minor, woman or a member of Scheduled Caste or Scheduled Tribe, one will be bound to face imprisonment of three years and fine of Rs 50,000 or both, and four year-imprisonment and Rs 1 lakh fine, or both. Sudden increase in Christian population was found in 2011 Census, where it rose to 14,18,608 as compared to 10,93,380 in 2001.

## 17. Three-day festival 'Fete de Puducherry' held

Puducherry's three-day annual cultural festival named 'Fete de Puducherry' organised by the government of India, was celebrated in Puducherry. Various artists of states Madhya Pradesh, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Kerala, Karnataka and Puducherry participated in the festival and presented programs.



The Puducherry government marks the celebration of Independence Day and Puducherry Liberation Day (August 16), since 1985. Cultural festival is organized by South Zone Cultural Centre Thanjavur (Tamil Nadu) every year.

## 18. Odisha Government in union with Facebook launched 'SheMeansBusiness' Program

'She Means Business' is a unique program launched unanimously by Odisha Government and Facebook, to promote for women entrepreneurs in Odisha. It aims to train 25,000 women entrepreneurs and self-help group (SHG) members, which will help them in enhancing their skills on digital marketing. Women will learn to start business in Facebook, quick respond to queries, ensure real time delivery and quality assurance.



Facebook will not only maintain a database of entrepreneurs in the state Odisha but also monitor their growth, turnover and profit yearly.

### 19. 'Namo Yuva Rojgar Kendra' launched by Maharashtra

In order to provide employment opportunities to unemployed youth in Mumbai, Maharashtra government has decided to launch centers called as 'Namo Yuva Rojgar Kendra'. It is named after Indian Prime Minister 'Narendra Modi'.

'Namo Yuva Rojgar Kendra' will provide various products through Mobile vans pertaining to various schemes such as farmers weekly market, farmers mobile market and Mother's Tiffin. Information about location of vans will be provided on an app. It will benefit farmers, as they will be free from the clutches of intermediaries. It is like farmer's market on wheels.



### 20. Odisha to launch Special Program to Prevent Spread of Malaria

The Odisha government will launch a special programme to prevent the spread of malaria in remote areas of Ganjam district. The programme has been named as "Durgama Anchalare Malaria Nirakaran" (DAMON).

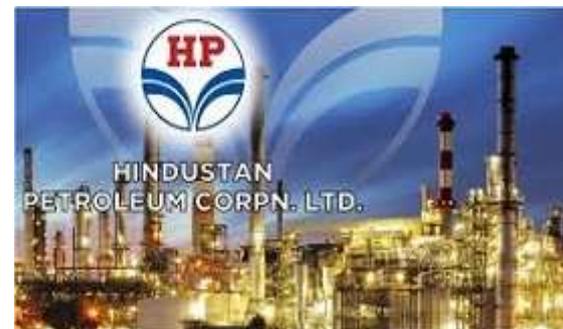
Over 135 remote villages have been identified under the jurisdiction of five community health centres as malaria prone areas. The government would hold as many as 103 camps in the next three months covering around 15000 people.



### 21. Rajasthan inked JV Agreement with HPCL for Refinery Project

The Rajasthan government inked a joint venture agreement with Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL) for Barmer petroleum refinery and petrochemical complex. In a new firm, HPCL Rajasthan Refinery Limited (HRRL), state government will have 26% and HPCL will have 74% of partnership.

The refinery project would be established in 4,813 acres of land area. A 270 MW power would be generated from the waste petcoke generated from the refinery. A green zone would be established in the refinery campus.



## 22. J&K government sets target to cover over 1.21 lakh beneficiaries in 1st phase of PMAY

Jammu and Kashmir government has set a target to cover over 1.21 lakh beneficiaries in first phase of Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY) in the state. The beneficiaries will be provided assistance for construction of dwelling units under the flagship Housing for All Scheme being implemented in 25 cities and towns across the state.

Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana is a credit linked subsidy scheme. Under this scheme, interest subsidy on purchase/ construction/ extension/ improvement of house is provided to customers belonging to Economical Weaker Section (EWS)/Lower Income Group (LIG)/Middle Income Group (MIG).



## 23. NABARD sanctioned Rs 1,350-cr loan to Rajasthan government

The National Bank of Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) has sanctioned a loan assistance of Rs. 1,349.55 crore to the Rajasthan government for creation of rural infrastructure in the state under the Rural Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDF).

An amount of Rs. 599.84 crore has been sanctioned for rehabilitation of 1,614 roads, covering all 33 districts of Rajasthan, Rs 469.54 crore for providing potable water to population of 419 villages of Jalore district and Rs 280.17 crore for rehabilitation and modernisation of 3 major irrigation projects located in Udaipur, Banswara and Dungarpur districts.



## 24. O Panneerselvam sworn in as the Deputy CM of Tamil Nadu

Former Tamil Nadu chief minister O. Panneerselvam (OPS) has been sworn in as the Deputy Chief Minister of the state after the two warring factions of the AIADMK - one led by Chief Minister E. Palanisamy (EPS) and the other by OPS - announced a merger.

OPS is also given the additional charge of Finance and Housing Ministry.

He served as the 7th Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu in 2001-02, 2014-15, and from December 6, 2016 to February 16, 2017.



## 25. Andhra Pradesh first to implement Bharat QR digital payments

Andhra Pradesh's Eastern Power Distribution Company Ltd (EPDCL) and the Southern Power Distribution Corporation of AP Ltd (SPDCL) have become the first state-owned distribution companies in India to accept payments through Bharat QR.

Bharat QR is a secure payment interface that allows customers to use their smartphones to make payments without providing information like card numbers and CVV. The Vizag Digital Dhan Sankalp project is an initiative spearheaded by the Government of Andhra Pradesh and Visa, to develop Visakhapatnam into India's first "less-cash" city.



## 26. Kerala initiated e-waste disposal at school level

Kerala state began e-waste disposal activity at school level from school Government Girls Higher Secondary School, Cotton Hill of Thiruvananthapuram. Education minister C. Raveendranath flagged off the first vehicle carrying e-Waste of 12,500 kg on a single day under a program aiming to clear accumulated junk. E-waste includes desktop computers, CRT monitors, laptops, mobiles, disk drives, printers, UPS and generators.



Schools have collected around 1 crore kgs of e-waste for disposal. E-waste will be recycled scientifically at Earth Sense Recycling Company in Hyderabad. It is a joint initiative of Kerala Infrastructure and Technology for Education (KITE) and Clean Kerala Company.

## 27. Jammu and Kashmir government to establish first Eco-Pak

Jammu and Kashmir's Rajouri district to have its first ecological park at about 34 acres of land. It will include a botanical garden, a cactus garden, a cafeteria and other facilities. It is termed as first of its kind project of the region. 34 acres of land include five acres of state land and property of the agriculture department from encroachers.

An Eco park is an area located in the interior of a population that is intended for lawns and gardens to reduce waste, promote a more sustainable lifestyle, generate jobs and reduce pollution.



## 28. Odisha launched Rooftop Solar Program

Odisha's Chief Minister launched net-metering system based grid-connected rooftop solar project and web portal of the rooftop solar program. Under this initiative, people can install solar plants on their rooftops and consume the generated solar power during the daytime.

At the same time, excess power can be sold to the grid through service cables or could be exported through net-meter. Net meter is a special type of meter, which will be provided by the respective distribution companies.



Installation costs Rs 70,000 per kW, including 30% subsidy given by the state government. It is done with an aim to attain 2750-megawatt renewable energy capacity addition by 2022.

## 29. Karnataka Agriculture Department signed MOU with Microsoft

Karnataka Agriculture Department involved into an agreement with Microsoft India to build a special "farm price forecasting model" using latest IT tools in a bid to help farmers, administrators and other stakeholders to understand the market behavior in advance.

This model will be able to examine weather, rainfall and external factors that affect market behavior, thus forecasting the prices. It is considered first-of-its-kind in India. This model has predicted the price behavior of onion and tur dal, recently.



# Reports

## 1. Forbes ranked JK Rowling as the World's highest earning Author

Forbes has ranked JK Rowling as the world's most highly paid author with earnings of £72.2m (\$95m) this year. She is popular for her book Harry Potter.

The full 2017 list:

- JK Rowling - \$95m
- James Patterson - \$87m
- Jeff Kinney - \$21m
- Dan Brown - \$20m
- Stephen King - \$15m
- John Grisham - \$14m
- Nora Roberts - \$14m
- Paula Hawkins - \$13m
- EL James - \$11.5m
- Danielle Steel - \$11m
- Rick Riordan - \$11m



## 2. National Family Health Survey

As per the National Family Health Survey (NFHS)-4 (2015-16), 35.7 per cent children below five years are underweight, 38.4 per cent are stunted and 21 per cent are wasted in the country.

In the State of Madhya Pradesh 42.8 percent children below five years are underweight, 42 percent are stunted and 25.8 percent are wasted.

Report on Medical Certification of Cause of Death (MCCD) gives statistics on Cause of death obtained through Civil Registration System under Registration of Births and Deaths Act 1969. It is published annually by Registrar General & Census Commissioner of India.



### 3. Kerala and Haryana cities among top in Sanitation Survey

Quality Council of India (QCI) surveyed almost all rural households of 4626 villages of all states, to check sanitation adopted by rural households of cities.

It was found that Kerala and Haryana topped the charts, as its almost all rural households had complete access to a toilet. Other cities like Bihar and Uttar Pradesh has least access to toilets compared to other states.



Survey was conducted by Quality Council of India (QCI), and released by Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation.

### 4. India placed at 43rd place in Global Retirement Index 2017

The 2017 Global Retirement Index (GRI), published by French asset management company Natixis Global, placed India at 43rd position, which means India was ranked at very low position in all four indices.

India was ranked at 41st place in 'Material Well-being', 43rd in Health, 39th in Finances and 43rd in Quality of Life. Norway, Switzerland, and Iceland topped the list among 43 countries.



The 43 countries comprise members of the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), International Monetary Fund (IMF) advanced economies and the BRIC countries.

### 5. Economic Survey reports India as one of the most open economies globally for FDI

Economic Survey released report, where it stated that India has become one of the most open economies in the world for receiving foreign direct investments (FDI) due to liberalisation measures.

There was FDI equity inflow of 43.4 billion USD in 2016-17, which is highest ever, an increase of 8 per cent. FDI inflows are mainly due to three countries Mauritius (36%), Singapore (20%) and Japan (10.8%).

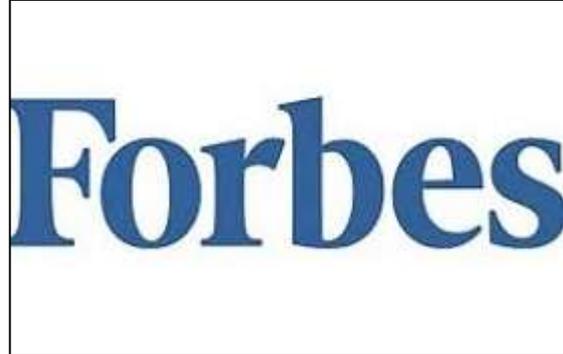


The sectors who received highest FDI equity inflows were Services (finance, banking, insurance) with 19.9%, followed by telecommunication (12.8%), and computer software and hardware (8.4%).

## 6. Forbes' top 10 Innovative Firms List includes Hindustan Unilever, Asian Paints and Bharti Airtel

Forbes' list of the world's 100 most innovative companies revealed three Indian firms naming Hindustan Unilever, Asian Paints and Bharti Airtel.

With respect to last list revealed, Salesforce.Com has replaced Tesla Motors scoring top position. It has been found that HUL and Asian Paints have moved up in their ranks to 7th and 8th respectively (from 31st and 18th last year), Bharti Airtel has entered the ranking at 78th position.



Forbes list is based on the difference between company's market capitalisation and the net present value of cash flows from existing businesses and thus companies are ranked.

## 7. The Economist named Melbourne as the 'World's Most Liveable City'

The Economist has named Melbourne as the world's most liveable city, receiving a perfect score for healthcare, education and infrastructure.

The Economist Intelligence Unit's (EIU) Liveability Index ranks 140 cities each year on those topics, as well as stability, culture and environment. It was a record seventh time in a row in the top spot for Melbourne.



Vienna was ranked second while Vancouver third. Toronto was ranked fourth followed by Adelaide and Calgary, Canada at fifth.

## 8. Five Indian-Origin Persons make it to the Fortune's Annual '40 under 40' List

Five Indian-origin persons have featured in Fortune's annual list of 40 young and influential people in the field of business inspiring others with their work.

The list has been topped by 39-year-old French President Emmanuel Macron. Facebook founder Mark Zuckerberg is on the second spot.

The five Indian-origin persons on the list are:

- Irish Prime Minister Leo Varadkar
- Divya Nag
- Rishi Shah
- Shradha Agarwal
- Leila Janah



## 9. Emma Stone ranked as the Highest-Paid Actress of 2017

Academy Award winner Emma Stone has been named the highest-paid actor of the year 2017. The 28-year-old made \$26m in the last 12 months.

She earned majority of her earnings from her Oscar-winning performance in the musical romance La La Land. Emma Stone won an Academy Award, a BAFTA Award, and a Golden Globe Award for Best Actress.



Jennifer Aniston with \$25.5m was the second in the list. Jennifer Lawrence is in third place with \$24m.

## 10. Forbes ranked Serena Williams as the Highest-Paid Female Athlete of 2017

Forbes has ranked Serena Williams as the highest-paid female athlete of 2017. She has topped the rankings for the second year in a row. According to the Forbes reports, between June 2016 and June 2017, Williams earned \$27 million.



Angelique Kerber with earnings of \$12.6 million was ranked second while Danica Patrick with earnings of \$12.2 million was ranked third. Ronda Rousey and Venus Williams were fourth and fifth in the list.

## 11. World's Highest-Paid Actors 2017

Forbes has released a list of world's top 20 highest paid actors of 2017. Mark Wahlberg has been crowned as No. 1. Three Bollywood superstars are in top 10 list.

The Top 10 Highest Paid Actors in the List are:

- Mark Wahlberg (\$68 million)
- Dwayne "The Rock" Johnson (\$65 million)
- Vin Diesel (\$54.5 million)
- Adam Sandler (\$50.5 million)
- Jackie Chan (\$49 million)
- Robert Downey, Jr. (\$48 million)
- Tom Cruise (\$43 million)
- Shah Rukh Khan (\$38 million)
- Salman Khan (\$37 million)
- Akshay Kumar (\$35.5 million)



## 12. Forbes lists Alibaba's Jack Ma as Asia's Richest Man

According to Forbes, founder of Alibaba, Mr. Jack Ma has been ranked on the top of the list of Asia's wealthiest people.

According to Forbes Real-time Billionaires List, Ma is now worth \$37.4 billion. Jack Ma is currently the world's eighteenth richest person.

Tencent's (TCEHY) Chairman Ma Huateng from China was ranked second with a \$36.7 billion fortune. Jack Ma founded Alibaba in 1999. Alibaba is already bigger than the economies of Sweden, Poland, Iran, Norway, and Austria.



# Resignations & Retirements

## 1. Arvind Panagariya resigned as the NITI Aayog Vice-Chairman

Niti Aayog Vice Chairman Arvind Panagariya has resigned from his position to re-join academia. He will join the Columbia University as a professor. He is a Professor of Indian Political Economy at Columbia University.

Mr Panagariya was appointed to the post by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in January 2015. He was the former chief economist of the Asian Development Bank (ADB). He has worked with the World Bank, International Monetary Fund and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) in various capacities.



## 2. Jamaica's veteran Sprinter Usain Bolt retired

Jamaica's veteran Sprinter Usain Bolt retired from the Athletics world. Usain Bolt is the first person to hold both the 100 metres and 200 metres world records.

Usain Bolt achieved milestone at the 2016 Olympic Games in Rio when he won the 'Triple Triple', three gold medals at three consecutive Olympic Games. Usain is a winner of eleven World T&F Championships titles.

Usain created first world record in the 100m in 2008 by winning race in 9.72 secs. Usain has been awarded the Laureus World Sportsman four times and the IAAF Male Athlete of the Year six times.



## 3. Vishal Sikka tendered resignation as MD and CEO of Infosys

Vishal Sikka has resigned as the Chief Executive Officer and Managing Director of Infosys. Sikka will now be the executive vice-chairman of the company. The board of the country's second-largest software services company accepted the resignation of Sikka with immediate effect.

U B Pravin Rao has been appointed as the interim CEO. Rao is currently the Chief Operating Officer responsible for the entire portfolio of the company's offerings.



#### 4. Chairman of the Railway Board Ashok Mittal resigned

The Chairman of the Railway Board Ashok Mittal has resigned from his post in the wake of number of train derailments in the country. He submitted his resignation to Union Minister for Railways, Suresh Prabhu.

Mittal was facing opposition after the Utkal Express derailment in Muzaffarnagar. Around 23 passengers died and over 60 sustained injuries when 14 coaches of the Utkal Express, which runs on the Puri-Haridwar-Kalinga route, derailed at Khatauli in Muzaffarnagar.



#### 5. Wayne Rooney retires from international football

England footballer Wayne Rooney has announced retirement from international football. The 31-year old played 119 games in national colours out of which he captained 22 to score 53 goals.

Rooney is England's all-time leading goal scorer. He made his England debut in February 2003. His last international appearance was as the captain, which was in last November's 3-0 victory over Scotland at Wembley. He currently plays for Everton in the English premier League.



## 1. Israel launched VENUS, its first environmental satellite

Vegetation and Environment Monitoring New Micro-Satellite built by Israel Aerospace Industries, is the world's smallest satellite and Israel's first environmental research satellite, meant to record climate change-linked trends, such as desertification, erosion, pollution.

Venus will obtain high-resolution photographs of specific sites and these findings will solve problems on Earth resulting from crowding of the population, the decline in space for agriculture, etc. It was launched from a site in French Guiana, in a joint venture between the Israel Space Agency (ISA) and its French counterpart CNES.



## 2. ISRO to build full-fledged hyperspectral imaging earth satellite

The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) is planning to build and launch hyperspectral-imaging satellites, called as or HySIS to record Hypspx imaging. It will allow distinct identification of objects from space.

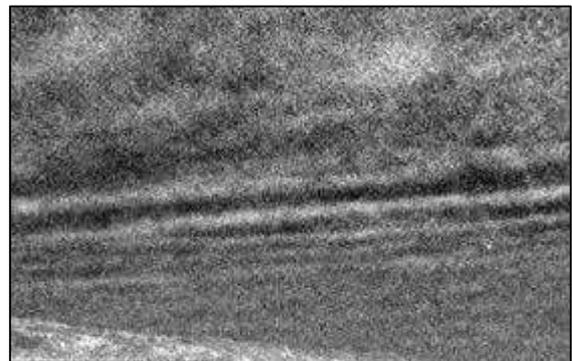
Satellite was built in Chandigarh at ISRO's electronics arm, can be used for monitoring the environment, crops, looking for oil and minerals all the way up to military surveillance by providing high resolution differential imaging. It is ISRO's such first such study in field of hyperactive spectral imaging.



## 3. NASA's Curosity rovers recorded images of clouds on Mars

NASA's Curiosity rover unveiled early-season clouds streaking across the Martian sky. The clouds on Mars appear like the thin ice-crystal cirrus clouds that deposit out onto dust grains where it is cold in the Earth's atmosphere. While the rover does not have a way to measure the altitude of these clouds, such clouds form at high altitude on Earth.

The rover's camera was placed nearly straight up for one set and then just above the southern horizon for the other set. The series of images were obtained in a span of 4 minutes in the early morning.



#### 4. Home Minister Shri Rajnath Singh launched live twitter wall on 'Bharat Ke Veer'

The Union Home Minister Shri Rajnath Singh launched the live twitter wall for promoting Bharat Ke Veer portal on the eve of Independence Day 2017. This social media awareness campaign will display all tweets with hashtag Bharat Ke Veer (#BharatKeVeer).



Bharat Ke Veer portal was launched by the Union Home Minister and actor Shri Akshay Kumar on April 9, 2017. This portal facilitates online donation directly to the families of CAPF Martyrs who have sacrificed their lives for the country in line of duty from January 1, 2016.

#### 5. Infusion Nurses Society launched India's First Online Course on Infusion Therapy

Infusion Nurses Society launched India's first online course on Infusion Therapy for nurses, where it aims to provide training to 3,000 nurses in the vital medical procedure, thus empowering nurses even in rural parts of India and ensure healthcare professionals for the best safety and quality practices.



The online course will allow access to detailed and descriptive infusion therapy modules and presentations through its website.

Infusion therapy means the administration of a drug intravenously, through non-oral routes, such as intramuscular injections and epidural routes.

#### 6. Scientists develop highly sensitive blood test to detect cancer

A team of scientists from Stanford University have developed a low-cost and highly sensitive blood test called single colour digital PCR that may quickly detect cancer growth and spread.



The test can detect genetic mutations in minute amounts of DNA released from cancer cells into the blood.

The single-colour digital PCR test offers several advantages over other methods of circulating tumour DNA analysis. It also does not rely on pre-amplification, which can introduce errors and biases.

## 7. IAAF World Championships 2017

The 16th edition of the IAAF World Championships was held in London. The mascot for the 2017 championship was 'Hero-the Hedgehog' whereas 'Whizbee-the Bee' was the Mascot for the Para Athletics.

The championship was held in the London Stadium in Stratford, London. USA with 30 medals topped the medals tally followed by Kenya with 11 medals.

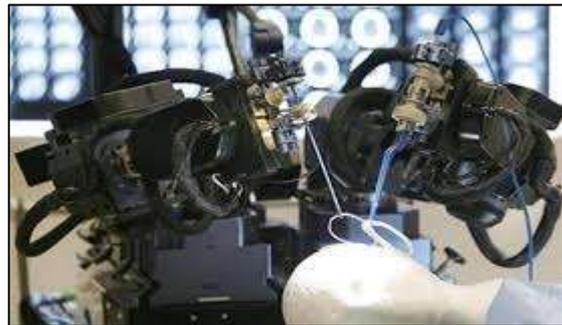
The highlight of the championship was legendary sprinter Usain Bolt who announced his retirement. Justin Gatlin won the 100m gold.



## 8. UK Scientists create world's smallest Surgical Robot

Scientists in the UK have developed the world's smallest surgical robot with low-cost technology used in mobile phones and space industries. The robot looks like the human arm and is called Versius.

It can be used to carry out a wide range of procedures in which a series of small incisions are made to circumvent the need for traditional open surgery. The robot will be launched next year. The robot is controlled by a surgeon at a console guided by a 3D screen in the operating theatre.

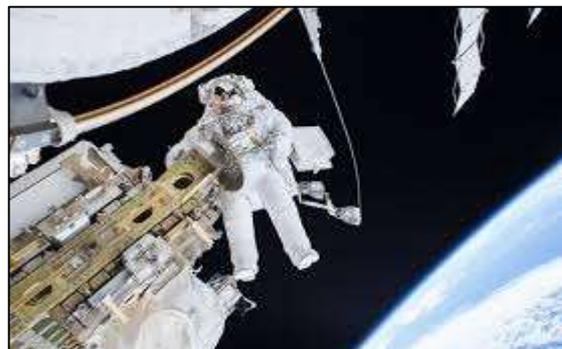


## 9. NASA launched Satellite to help Astronauts talk to Earth

NASA launched the latest in a series of satellites aimed at ensuring astronauts at the International Space Station can communicate with Earth.

This satellite was made by Boeing at a cost of \$408-million. It is called Tracking and Data Relay Satellite (TDRS-M). It was launched into space atop an Atlas V rocket that launched from Cape Canaveral, Florida.

The satellite will facilitate space-to-ground communication for NASA's low-Earth orbit operations.



## 10. US based Indian doctor discovered new way to prevent sepsis in newborn babies

Dr. Pinaki Panigrahi, a US-based doctor along with his team, has discovered an inexpensive prevention technique against sepsis. According to the findings, feeding babies with probiotic bacteria dramatically reduces the risk of sepsis in new-borns. This inexpensive treatment could possibly save hundreds of thousands of new-borns from a top killer – Sepsis.



Sepsis is a life-threatening illness caused by the body's response to an infection. In early infancy, it results in one million annual deaths worldwide, most of them in developing countries. No efficient means of prevention is currently available.

## 11. Indian student develops Nano missile

A student of SRM University in Chennai, Dacharla Panduranga Rohith, has developed a Nano missile. He was recognised by World Records of India. The Bureau of the World Records of India accepted and recognised the prototype as the smallest working missile.



Working on his project, Rohith prepared a missile one cm length, which can fly by burning the red phosphorus, and hit the target of three metres distance.

## 12. Microsoft unveiled Project Brainwave for real-time AI

Microsoft launched a new deep learning acceleration platform, codenamed Project Brainwave. The system has been designed for real-time AI, which means the system processes requests as fast as it receives them, with ultra-low latency.



The system can handle complex, memory-intensive models such as Long Short Term Memories (LSTM), without using batching to juice throughput. Microsoft is also planning to bring the real-time AI system to users in Azure.

## 1. Rahul, Manu-Sumeeth clinch titles at Lagos Open

Indian shuttler C Rahul Yadav and men's doubles pair of Manu Attri and B Sumeeth Reddy won the men's singles and men's doubles title respectively at Lagos International challenge in Nigeria.

Rahul defeated compatriot Karan Rajan Rajarajan 21-15 21-13 in the final to win the title. Rahul had recently won the bronze medal in the Russain Open Grand Prix.

Manu and Sumeeth surpassed Godwin Olofua and Anouluwapo Juwon Opeyori of Nigeria to win the title.



## 2. Los Angeles to host 2028 Summer Plympics and Paris gets 2024

Los Angeles agreed with the International Olympic Committee on plans to host the 2028 Summer Games. Paris will host the games in 2024.

The 2020 Olympics will be held in Tokyo, Japan. For 2024, Budapest, Rome, Hamburg, and Boston all dropped out after facing popular resistance.

Paris and Los Angeles have both hosted the Olympics twice before; Paris in 1900 and 1924 and Los Angeles in 1932 and 1984.



## 3. Justin Gatlin won the 100 meters final

Justin Gatlin of USA won the 100m final at IAAF World Championships in Athletics. Christian Coleman, also from USA, won the silver. Usain Bolt came third in his final 100m race.

This was the first time Bolt was beaten in a global-championship 100m final. The 35-year-old Gatlin was twice banned for doping. He had won the Gold medal in Olympics in 2004.



#### 4. Vijender beats Zulpikar to win WBO Oriental Super Middleweight title

Vijender Singh beat his Chinese opponent Zulpikar Maimaitiali to retain the WBO Asia Pacific Super Middleweight title.

Singh also snatched the WBO Oriental Super Middleweight title from the Chinese. It was Vijender's ninth successive win in his professional career.

Vijender has been awarded the Padma Shri for outstanding contribution to Indian sports. He has also been awarded the Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna award—India's highest sporting honour.



#### 5. Kynan Chenai bagged bronze at the 7th Asian Shotgun Championships

Indian shotgun champion Kynan Chenai bagged a bronze medal in men's trap event at the 7th Asian Championship Shotgun at Astana, Kazakhstan.

He scored 30 with bronze medal at 2nd position, following Kuwait's Abdulrahman Al Faihan with gold medal at 39 scores and Kuwait's Talal AlRashidi, who bagged the silver at score of 38.



Various other Indian participants such as Zoravar Singh Sandhu and Birendeeep Sodhi finished at 17th place and 36th place respectively.

#### 6. Real Madrid defeated Manchester United to win 2017 UEFA Super Cup

Real Madrid bagged third UEFA Super Cup in four years, beating Manchester United, held in in Skopje, Macedonia. Real Madrid are champions of Europe three times in the last four years and one of the great teams of the 21st century. Some players whose performance was appreciated were Nemanja Matic, Paul Pogba and Marcus Rashford.

The UEFA Super Cup is considered as one trophy that is not part of the Jose Mourinho collection.



## 7. Ace shooter Maheshwari won bronze at Asian Shotgun Championship

India's ace shooter Maheshwari Chauhan bagged bronze medal at the Asian Shotgun Championship, held in Astana, Kazakhstan. Other players Rashmi Rathore and Saniya Sheikh along with the Maheshwari shot 190, finishing behind gold medallists China, who shot 195. Kazakhstan bagged the bronze shooting 185.

Shooter Maheshwari Chauhan bagged third place with a score of 40 while China's Meng won gold shooting 55 and Sutiya bagged silver finishing a point behind Meng. India finished with two gold, a silver and 3 bronze medal.



## 8. Mairaj-Rashmi unanimously bagged gold medal at Asian Shotgun Championship

At the event of 7th Asian Championship Shotgun in Astana, Indian players Mairaj Ahmad Khan and Rashmi Rathore won gold medal in the skeet mixed team event, thereby beating Chinese pair of Liu Jiangchi and Gao Jianmei.

The victory was a close-to-close win with scores of 28-27. Other players Vladislav Mukhamediyev and Olga Panarin settled with bronze medal.

India bagged with eight medals at the championship.



## 9. Indian boxers bagged 10 medals at Serbian tourney

The boxing players of India bagged 10 medals in the 6<sup>th</sup> Golden Glove Women's Boxing Tournament held at Vojvodina, Serbia.

India bagged two gold, four silver and four bronze medals in the tournament. Some players like Jyoti won Gold in 51 kg category, and Vanlalharitpuii bagged it 60 kg category.

Silver medals were received by Anjali in 48kg, Sakshi in 54kg, Ashtha in 69kg and Anupama in 81kg categories. Mandeep in 57kg, Nisha in 64kg, Shruti in 75kg and Neha in 81+kg category.



## 10. Alexander Zverev won Rogers Cup

Alexander Zverev of Germany beat Roger Federer in the Rogers Cup final with a 6-3, 6-4 victory. The 20-year-old Zverev posted a 10th straight match victory. It was also his fifth title of 2017. Zverev is the youngest Rogers Cup finalist since Novak Djokovic in 2007.



Ukraine's Elina Svitolina beat Caroline Wozniacki to win the women's final of the Rogers Cup. In the doubles final, Frenchmen Pierre-Hugues Herbert and Nicolas Mahut beat Rohan Bopanna of India and Ivan Dodig of Croatia.

## 11. World Dwarf Games 2017

The Indian contingent for the World Dwarf Games bagged as many as 37 medals from the games, which were held in Toronto, Canada. The Indian side stunned the world to secure a top-10 finish in the tournament by clinching 15 gold, 10 silver and 12 bronze medals at the mega event.



The 7th edition of the World Dwarf Games was held over a week at the University of Guelph in Ontario province and featured nearly 400 athletes from 24 countries.

## 12. Female Indian Football Star Oinam Bembem Devi awarded Arjuna Award

Oinam Bembem Devi of Manipur has been conferred with the prestigious Arjuna Award by the Union Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports. The award recognises outstanding achievement in national sports.



Bembem Devi is the flagbearer of Indian women's football for over two decades. She has led the country with distinction in women's football.

She is also nicknamed the 'Durga of Indian football' and is a Brand Ambassador for FIFA Live Your Goals, India. She is the 25th footballer to win the award and only the second woman to do so, after Shanti Mullick in 1983.

### 13. 2018 ITTF Team World Cup to be held in England

The 2018 ITTF Team World Cup will be conducted in London, England on 22-25 February 2018. England conducted the individual Men's World Cup at Liverpool in 2012 but it will be the first world title event to be staged in London since the 1954 World Championships at Wembley.



The 2017 ITTF Team World Cup will be held at the Copper Box Arena in the Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park from 22-25 February 2018.

There are 12 men and 12 women participant teams that will compete at the event.

### 14. Cristiano Ronaldo bagged Men's Player of the Year for third time

Cristiano Ronaldo was honoured with UEFA Men's Player of the Year award for the 2016/17 season. With this, he became first person to win this title for the third time. In Poll results, he became winner with 482 points.



Other recipients were Lieke Martens with UEFA Women's Player of the Year title, Gianluigi Buffon received Best Goalkeeper of the 2016/17 award, Luka Modrić with Best Midfielder of the 2016/17 award.

UEFA President's Award was honoured to Francesco Totti. Cristiano Ronaldo plays for team Real Madrid, and was recently named for FIFpro team of the year award.

### 15. PV Sindhu won silver in the World Badminton Championships

Ace shuttler P V Sindhu won silver after losing to Japan's Nozomi Okuhara in the final of world Badminton Championship at the Emirates Arena in Glasgow, Scotland. Saina Nehwal ended her campaign with a bronze.



Sindhu, who had won bronze twice in the 2013 and 2014 editions, became only the second Indian to win a silver medal after Saina Nehwal had achieved the feat in the last edition at Jakarta in 2015.

## 16. Hamilton won the Belgian Grand Prix

Lewis Hamilton won the Belgian Grand Prix 2017 and narrowed his gap in the championship to his rival Sebastian Vettel to just seven points.

Daniel Ricciardo of Red Bull was third in the race followed by Kimi Raikkonen and Valtteri Bottas in the top five respectively.

The Belgian Grand Prix is an automobile race, part of the Formula One World Championship. Michael Schumacher has won the Belgian Grand Prix for the maximum six times.



## 17. Messi becomes first ever player to score 350 La Liga Goals

Barcelona forward Lionel Messi scored a goal Alaves and became the first ever player to score 350 goals in La Liga. He scored a second goal in the match to extend the number to 351.

Messi scored the milestone goal in La Liga more than 12 years after his first, when he was only 17. He has 66 more than that of Real Madrid's Cristiano Ronaldo, his closest challenger in the all-time list.



## 18. Real Madrid defeat Barcelona to Win 2017 Spanish Super Cup

Real Madrid defeated Barcelona to win the Spanish Super Cup 2017. It was the 10th time Real Madrid collected the trophy. Real Madrid won the title 5-1 on aggregate.

The 2017 Spanish Cup was the 31st edition of the Supercopa de España. It is an annual two-legged football tie contested by the winners of the previous season's La Liga and Copa Del Rey competitions.

"We're not in our best moment, not on the level of the team or the level of the club. It's the first time we've felt Madrid are superior," Barcelona defender Gerard Pique told the reporters in the press conference after the match.



