

CURRENT AFFAIRS



JULY 2017

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Current Affairs – July 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 **July 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.

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Appointments

1. Shri Sanjay Gupta appointed as the Chairman of the Society and Board of Governors of IIM Amritsar

Shri Sanjay Gupta, CEO & Whole Time Director, Jagran Prakashan Limited has been appointed as Chairman of the Society and Board of Governors of Indian Institute of Management Amritsar for a period of five years.

Shri Sanjay Gupta is the Editor in Chief of Dainik Jagran since 2014 and has been associated with the Jagran Group for more than two decades.

He also served as a Member of Board of Governors in Indian Institute of Management Lucknow from 2004 to 2009 and as Member, Board of Governors of Motilal Nehru National Institute of Technology, Allahabad from 2003-2011.



2. Achal Kumar Joti appointed as new Chief Election Commissioner

Election Commissioner Achal Kumar Joti has been appointed as the next Chief Election Commissioner, CEC. He will succeed Nasim Zaidi. He will continue as CEC till 17th of January 2018. He had joined the three-member poll panel as an election commissioner on 8th of May 2015.

Mr Joti, a 1975-batch Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officer, retired as the Gujarat Chief secretary in January 2013. He will be the 21st CEC. As per the law, a CEC or an Election Commissioner can have a tenure of six years or hold office till the age of 65 years, whichever is earlier.



3. DGP Sanjay Kumar appointed as new NDRF chief

1985-batch Indian Police Service (IPS) officer Sanjay Kumar was appointed as new National Disaster Response Force chief director general, by Union Home Ministry.

The post was vacant after incumbent R K Pachnanda was appointed as the chief of the Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP). Prior to this appointment, Sanjay Kumar was working as Himachal Pradesh's director general of police. Sanjay Kumar is set to retire in December 2017.



Sanjay kumar has experience of working in central deputation earlier with the CISF, vigilance wing of the Railway Ministry and the Railway Protection Force.

4. Pradeep Kumar Rawat appointed as the new Ambassador of India to Indonesia

Shri Pradeep Kumar Rawat, presently Joint Secretary of East Asia in the Ministry has been appointed as the next Ambassador of India to the Republic of Indonesia.

Mr Rawat succeeded Nengcha Lhouvum Mukhopadhaya, who retired from service. He is an Indian Foreign Service (IFS) officer of the 1990 batch.

He will have to represent India to Indonesia and improve bilateral relations between the two nations. Pradeep Rawat will have duties to enhance co-operation between the two nations.



5. Tata Global Beverages Limited appointed N Chandrasekaran as its Chairman

Head of TATA Sons, Natarajan Chandrasekaran was appointed as the Chairman as an Additional Director of its board. Another appointment was of Siraj Azmat Chaudhry as Non-Executive Independent Director.

Earlier, ousted Tata Sons Chairman Cyrus Mistry was voted out as chairman by the board of the Tata Global Beverages and Harish Bhat was appointed in his place.

Tata Global Beverages Limited is an Indian multinational non-alcoholic beverages company headquartered in Kolkata, India.



6. Sandeep Chakravorty appointed as New York Consul General

1996 Indian Foreign Service officer, India's Ambassador to Peru Sandeep Chakravorty was appointed as the head of the Indian consulate in New York, replacing Riva Ganguly Das.

He has also served as India's Deputy High Commissioner in Dhaka. He also served in India's missions in Madrid and Bogota and on several desks including working as Press Relations Officer and to the minister of state for external affairs.

He has experience of serving in Eurasia Division dealing with Central Asia and in the East Asia Division dealing with China, Japan, Korea and Mongolia.



7. John Joseph appointed as chief of GST intelligence agency

John Joseph, a 1983 batch, Indian Revenue Service officer, was selected as the Director General of Goods and Services Tax Intelligence (DG GSTI). Intelligence unit will have to check evasion of Goods and Services Tax.

Mr Joseph has experience of working in the Finance Ministry's important departments, including the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI).

Directorate General of Central Excise Intelligence (DGCEI) has been renamed as DGGSTI. Another appointment was assigned to 1985 IRS officer, Debi Prasad Dash as Director General of the DRI. DRI is agency to check smuggling and black money.



8. Subhash Garg appointed as Economic Affairs Secretary

Ministry of Finance appointed IAS officer Subhash Chandra Garg as Secretary of the Department of Economic Affairs (DEA), in the Finance Ministry. Prior to this appointment, he was World Bank Executive Director for Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, and Sri Lanka.

He has replaced Shaktikanta Das, who retired after an extended tenure on May 31. Ge will have duties to oversee capital markets, Budget preparation as well as infrastructure financing and decide on borrowing. Mr Garg has experience of working with the Central Government in various capacities for more than 30 years.



9. Aarthi Subramanian appointed as Chief Digital Officer of TATA Sons

Tata Group appointed Aarthi Subramanian as TATA Sons' chief digital officer, who was serving as an executive director at TCS. She has been working with TATA group for more than 26 years.

She has worked with Tata Consultancy Services with diverse roles in India, Sweden, the US and Canada. Post this appointment, Aarthi Subramanian appointed Saurabh Agrawal as the group Chief Financial Officer and Shuva Mandal as Group General Counsel.



As a chief digital officer, Aarti will have to intensify driving digital adoption across group companies.

10. Gopal Baglay appointed Joint Secretary in PMO

The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) has approved the appointment of External Affairs Ministry spokesperson Gopal Baglay as Joint Secretary in the Prime Minister's Office. He will replace Vinay Mohan Kwatra, who has been already named as India's Ambassador to France.

The ACC has appointed Mr Baglay for a period of three years. Baglay is a 1992 batch Indian Foreign Service officer. Raveesh Kumar, Consul General of India in Frankfurt, will replace Baglay as the spokesperson of External Affairs Ministry.



11. Google CEO Sundar Pichai joined Alphabet Board of Directors

Google CEO Sundar Pichai has been appointed to the board of directors of Alphabet. Alphabet Inc., is the parent company of the web search giant.

Sundar joins the company's founders, Larry Page and Sergey Brin; its chairman, Eric Schmidt; and nine other veterans of technology, finance and automotive industries. Pichai joined Google in 2004.

Pichai became the CEO of the company in August 2015. During his tenure, Google's stock has risen about 50 percent.



12. Ajay Kanwal appointed as CEO of Janalakshmi Financial Services

Janalakshmi Financial Services (JFS), the largest microfinance company, has appointed Ajay Kanwal as its new Chief Executive Officer (CEO). He will take charge of office from August 1. V. S. Radhakrishnan, the current CEO, will take over as Vice-Chairman.

Kanwal has 27 years of experience in both consumer and commercial banking sector. Currently, Kanwal is a senior adviser to private equity firm TPG Capital and global payments company Mastercard. The microfinance company is in the process of becoming a small finance bank.



13. ADB appointed Subhash Chandra Garg as India's Alternate Governor

Shri Subhash Chandra Garg, Secretary, Department of Economic Affairs (DEA), Ministry of Finance, Government of India has been appointed as India's Alternate Governor on the Board of Governors of the Asian Development Bank (ADB), Manila, Philippines with effect from 12th July, 2017. Shri Garg has been appointed in place of Former Secretary, DEA, Shri Shaktikanta Das.



The Asian Development Bank is an international development finance institution dedicated to reducing poverty in Asia and the Pacific through financial assistance. ADB is composed of 67 members.

14. ACC Appointments

The Appointment Committee of the Cabinet has approved the following appointments for an initial period of two years:

- Shri Sanjay Kothari, IAS (HY 78) (Retd.), presently Chairman, Public Enterprises Selection Board (PESB) as Secretary to the President.
- Shri Bharat Lal, IFoS (GJ 88) as Joint Secretary to the President.
- Shri Ashok Malik, Distinguished Fellow, Observer Research Foundation, New Delhi as Press Secretary to the President.



Awards

1. Two Indian-Americans honoured with Great Immigrants Award

Indian-Americans, Shantanu Narayen and Vivek Murthy, were honoured with the prestigious 'Great Immigrants' annual award on US's Independence Day on July 4. Shantanu is Adobe Chief while Vivek Murthy is former US Surgeon General.



Other honorees include Canadian-origin social entrepreneur Jeff Skoll, who has been awarded the 2017 Carnegie Medal of Philanthropy, PayPal co-founder of Ukrainian origin Max Levchin, Iranian-origin philanthropist and entrepreneur Hushang Ansary.

2. Danfoss India honored with Golden Peacock environment management award

The Golden Peacock Award, presented to those with excellent corporate management was presented to Danfoss India at Hyderabad International Convention Centre in the presence of Supreme Court Justice Kurain Joseph and other several dignitaries for its manufacturing facility at Chennai which is also rated platinum by Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED).



Danfoss India is an industry focused on climate and energy efficient solutions, company's works towards sustainable development via its energy-efficient products. Danfoss manufacturing facility at Oragadam, Chennai was recently conferred with a LEED Platinum rated certification, because of its green and sustainable setup.

3. Indian Railways Organization for Alternate Fuel won Golden Peacock Award for Eco Innovation

Indian Railways achieves a major landmark in the field of Eco friendly fuel technologies at Indian Railways Organization for Alternate Fuel (IROAF) was awarded the coveted National level "Golden Peacock Award for the Year 2017 for Eco-Innovation" for substitution of fossil fuels (Diesel) by environment friendly CNG in DEMU passenger train services.



The CNG based dual fuel 1400 HP engine used in DEMU trains developed by IROAF has

successfully substituted diesel fuel with CNG upto 20%. Golden Peacock Awards, instituted by the Institute Of Directors, India in 1991, are now regarded as a benchmark of Corporate Excellence worldwide.

4. Tata Steel bags Prime Minister's Trophy for best performing Integrated Steel Plant

Tata Steel Limited, Jamshedpur, was conferred with the Prime Minister's Trophy for the best performing Integrated Steel plant in the country during the performance year 2014-15 and 2015-16.

This makes it the third consecutive-year for the firm to be honoured with this coveted award. Tata Steel has been recognised as the best integrated steel plant for 12 times and has won the PM's Trophy 10 times.



5. President awards Massive Open Online Courses award to IIMB

Indian President Shri Pranab Mukherjee honored the contribution of IIM Bangalore for making management education accessible to all through Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs). IIM Bangalore is also the National Co-ordinator for management education on SWAYAM and has completed five MOOCs on the SWAYAM platform.

President Mukherjee presented the award to Prof. PD Jose, Chairperson, IIMB Digital Learning, who accepted the award on behalf of IIM Bangalore. The IIMBx MOOCs Programme is IIMB's digital learning gateway and has offered MOOCs to more than 5 lakh global learners.



6. President of India Presented 'Pranab Mukherjee Award for Academic Excellence'

The President of India, Shri Pranab Mukherjee, presented the 'Pranab Mukherjee Award for Academic Excellence' to Shri Aman Aggarwal for scoring the highest aggregate in Class XII CBSE Examination, 2017 among the students of Dr. Rajendra Prasad Sarvodaya Vidyalaya located in the President's Estate today (July 19, 2017) at Rashtrapati Bhavan.

Both the 'Omita Paul Award for Academic Excellence' for scoring highest aggregate marks amongst girls in Class XII CBSE



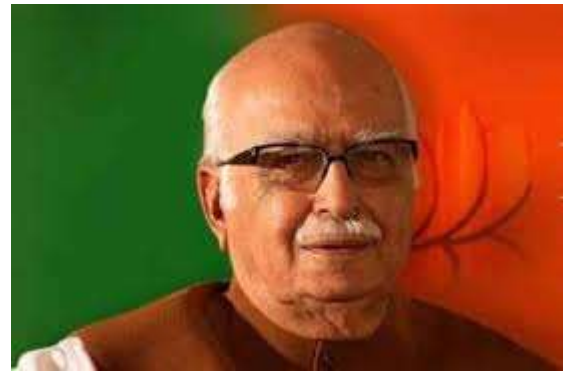
Examination, 2017 as well as the 'Kunjannamma Mathew Award' for Academic Excellence' for scoring highest marks in Mathematics amongst the girls in Class XII CBSE Examination, 2017 were presented to Kumari Muskan Sharma.

7. L K Advani gets Lifetime Achievement Award for contributions in Lok Sabha

Veteran BJP leader L.K. Advani received the Lifetime Achievement Award for his contributions as a parliamentarian in the Lok Sabha. JD-U leader Sharad Yadav also received the Lifetime Achievement Award as a Rajya Sabha representative. The function was organized by the Lokmat Media Group to honor distinguished Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha members.

Awardees from the Lok Sabha:

- Best Parliamentarian- Revolutionary Socialist Party MP N.K. Premachandran,
- Best Woman Parliamentarian- Congress leader Kumari Sushmita Dev and
- Best Debut Woman Parliamentarian- BJP leader Meenakshi Lekhi



Awardees from the Rajya Sabha:

- Best Parliamentarian- CPI-M leader Sitaram Yechury,
- Best Woman Parliamentarian- Samajwadi Party MP Jaya Bachchan and
- Best Debut Woman Parliamentarian- Congress MP Rajni Patil

8. V. O. Chidambaranar Port bagged National Award for Excellence

V. O. Chidambaranar Port bagged National Award for Excellence in Cost Management for the year 2016 from 'The Institute of Cost Accountants of India' under the category "Transportation and Logistics".

The award has been given for exemplary performance and initiatives of V. O. Chidambaranar Port towards reduction of cost per tonne, optimization of manpower, savings in electricity by installation of energy efficient LED lightings, implementation of solar energy systems, reduction of overall cost of handling by mechanization in port operation. Port has received this award thrice earlier, under the category "Service Sector".



Books & Authors

1. The President of India received the first copy of the book “PRESIDENT Pranab Mukherjee – A Statesman”

The President of India, Shri Pranab Mukherjee received the first copy of a book “President Pranab Mukherjee – A Statesman” from Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi who formally released it.



The book “President Pranab Mukherjee – A Statesman” has been published by The Statesman, one of India’s oldest English-language newspapers.

This book, a comprehensive photographic record of India’s 13th President, covers Shri Mukherjee’s Presidency and documents his various roles including those as a humane first citizen, as a thought-leader, as a patron of educational institutions & the arts and as the Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces etc.

2. Defence Minister released Booklet on Self-Reliance in Defence Production

Defence Minister Shri Arun Jaitley released a booklet highlighting efforts made by Department of Defence Production in the last three years in pursuance of self-reliance in defence sector.



The booklet is a compilation of the achievements of the Department of Defence Production in the field of indigenous production of weapon systems/platforms and policy initiatives undertaken in the past three years.

The booklet mentions a number of policy initiatives which have been taken by the Department of Defence Production. The booklet also mentions that Ordnance Factories and DPSUs, working under the administrative control of Department of Defence Production.

3. President of India received the first copy of the book “President’s Lady” (Pranaber Preyosi)

The President of India, Shri Pranab Mukherjee, received the first copy of the book “President’s Lady” (Pranaber Preyosi) on his wife Late Smt. Suvra Mukherjee from the Vice President of India, Mohd. Hamid Ansari who formally released it at a function held at the Rashtrapati Bhavan.



The book was authored by Ms. Sangeeta Ghosh. According to the President, Late Smt. Suvra Mukherjee was essentially a private person with a strong interest in music (particularly Tagore music) and paintings.

4. Defence Minister released a Book on Historic 2800 Kms Expedition – ‘Ganga Avahan’

The Defence Minister Shri Arun Jaitley released a Coffee Table Book titled ‘Ganga Avahan – The Epic Tale of a Historic Swim’. The ‘Ganga Avahan’ was a pioneering and historic exploratory open-water swim expedition on the Ganga River.



This was the first ever human effort to swim down the entire stretch of the river and also the longest ever social campaign.

The Coffee Table Book chronicles their entire extraordinary and indeed fascinating journey, detailing experiences, outreach and challenges along the vast civilizational cradle that is the Ganga. The Foreword of this epic expedition is written by the Prime Minister.

5. Book ‘Future of Indian Universities: Comparative and International Perspectives’ released

The President of India, Shri Pranab Mukherjee received the first copy of the book ‘Future of Indian Universities: Comparative and International Perspectives’ from Nobel Laureate Professor Amartya Sen who formally released it at a function held at Rashtrapati Bhavan.



The book ‘Future of Indian Universities: Comparative and International Perspectives’ has been compiled by Professor (Dr.) C. Raj Kumar, Vice Chancellor of JGU University and is published by Oxford University Press.

Committees

1. Committee formed by Karnataka Government to study legalities for separate State flag

A nine-member committee was formed by Karnataka government to study and submit report for the possibility of designing a separate state flag and providing it a statutory standing. Committee will be chaired by Principal Secretary, Department of Kannada and Culture.

Members of the committee constitute Secretaries to the Departments of Personnel and Administrative Services, Home, Law and Parliamentary Affairs, president of Kannada Sahitya Parishat, chairman of Kannada Development Authority, vice-chancellor of Kannada University, Hampi, and Director of Department of Kannada and Culture.



2. SC allowed Centre to replace MCI oversight committee

The Supreme Court has allowed the Centre to replace the oversight committee set up to supervise the functioning of the Medical Council of India (MCI).

A five-judge Constitution bench, headed by Chief Justice J S Khehar, said the Centre had proposed the names of five eminent doctors to replace the oversight committee whose term had just expired.

The bench also gave the Centre liberty to replace any doctor in the list with another if he does not wish to be a part of the oversight committee. The committee was led by former Chief Justice of India R.M. Lodha.



3. Delhi government constitutes State Names Authority

The Delhi government has constituted the State Names Authority, a separate body which has the mandate to name government roads and institutions under the state purview. The authority will expedite clearance of pending proposals on naming roads in Delhi.

The authority will be headed by the deputy CM Manish Sisodia. The authority will have a total



of 34 members. The Union home secretary, the Union HRD secretary, the DDA vice-chairman, the Delhi PWD secretary and the Delhi Principal secretary (Home) will also be among its members.

4. RBI has constituted an Internal Advisory Committee (IAC)

Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has constituted an Internal Advisory Committee (IAC) for referring accounts for resolution under Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016 (IBC).

The IAC recommended for IBC reference all accounts with fund and non-fund based outstanding amount greater than Rs. 5000 crore, with 60% or more classified as non-performing by banks as of March 31, 2016.

Accordingly, RBI has issued directions to certain banks for referring 12 accounts, qualifying under the aforesaid criteria, to initiate insolvency process under the IBC. As regards the other non-performing accounts which do not qualify under the above criteria, the IAC recommended that banks should finalize a resolution plan within six months.



5. AYUSH Ministry constituted National Steering Committee

The Department of Science and Technology (DST), Government of India has constituted a National Steering Committee to initiate a National Programme on "Scientific Validation and Research on Panchgavya" (SVAROP).

Central Council for Research in Ayurvedic Sciences (CCRAS), an autonomous Ayurvedic research organization of the Central Government, has undertaken study to evaluate the immune-modulatory activity and safety/toxicity of Panchgavya Ghrita, which is an Ayurvedic formulation made from cow's five products (milk, curd, ghee, urine and dung) as mentioned in Ayurvedic classical texts and Ayurvedic Formulary of India, Part I.



Deaths

1. Veteran cartoonist Mangesh Tendulkar died at 83

Famous cartoonist Mangesh Tendulkar passed away at the age of 83 due to bladder cancer. He was famously known as a 'Satirist (vyang chitrakar)' for his satire cartoons that gave a social message.

He had been winner of the president's medal in 1980, Marathi Natya Parishad Award in 1993 and Pulotsav award in 2003.

Mangesh Tendulkar's famous cartoons displayed an active life and expressed his straightforward views about various civic issues. His cartoons were displayed on traffic signals, depicting violations of traffic norms.



2. China's Nobel laureate Liu Xiaobo died

China's most famous political prisoner, the Nobel laureate and democracy icon Liu Xiaobo, passed away at the age of 61 years. Liu was awarded the 2010 Nobel Peace Prize for his long and non-violent struggle for fundamental human rights in China.

The Chinese intellectual and activist is the first Nobel peace prize winner to die in custody since German pacifist Carl von Ossietzky, the 1935 recipient, who died under surveillance after years confined to Nazi concentration camps.



3. Iranian mathematician Maryam Mirzakhani died

Maryam Mirzakhani, an Iranian mathematician who was the first woman to win the coveted Fields Medal, has died of cancer in a US hospital. She was 40. Mirzakhani, a professor at Stanford University in California, won the Fields Medal, the equivalent of the Nobel Prize for Mathematics in 2014.

The award recognized her sophisticated and highly original contributions to the fields of geometry and dynamical systems, particularly in understanding the symmetry of curved surfaces such as spheres.



4. Former Sikkim CM Nar Bahadur Bhandari passed away

Former Sikkim Chief Minister Nar Bahadur Bhandari passed away at the age of 77 years. He was one of the longest-serving chief ministers of Sikkim having served three-terms as Chief Minister.

He became the Chief Minister of Sikkim for the first time in 1979, then in 1984 and further in 1989. Mr. Bhandari was the second Chief Minister of the state after it officially became a part of the Indian Union in 1975. Bhandari was a teacher in a government school before he joined active politics.



5. Chester Bennington, lead singer of Linkin Park, passed away

Chester Bennington, the lead singer of band Linkin Park, has passed away at the age of 41 years. His death is being treated as a suspected suicide.

Bennington joined the group in 1999. The band's debut album Hybrid was nominated for a Grammy award for best rock album. Their second album, Meteora, has sold over 27m units. Linkin Park's most recent album One More Light was released in May 2017.



6. Senior Congress leader Shivajirao Patil passed away

Senior Congress leader and leader of Cooperative movement in Maharashtra, Shivajirao Patil, passed away in Mumbai at the age of 92 years. He was a former MP and also a former member of the Maharashtra Legislature and the state cabinet. He was awarded the Padma Bhushan in 2013.

Patil was a member of the Rajya Sabha during 1992-98, an MLC from 1960 to 67 and an MLA for three consecutive terms from 1967 to 1980.



7. Former ISRO Chairman U R Rao passed away

Former Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) Chairman Professor U R Rao passed away at the age of 85 years.

Professor Rao served as ISRO Chairman for 10 years during 1984-1994. Rao was an internationally-renowned space scientist and had received many honours and awards, including the Padma Bhushan and Padma Vibhushan.

He was inducted into International Aeronautical Federation (IAF) Hall of Fame last year during the closing ceremony of IAF Congress 2016 in Guadalajara, Mexico.



8. Renowned scientist Professor Yash Pal passed away

Renowned scientist Professor Yash Pal passed away at age of 90. The globally renowned physicist and higher education reformer began his career at Mumbai's Tata Institute of Fundamental Research.

Professor Yash Pal was appointed as the Chief Consultant of the Planning Commission. He acted as the Secretary of Department of Science and Technology from 1984 to 1986.

He was appointed as the Chairman of University Grants Commission where he served a full single-term of five years and also served as the Chancellor of Jawaharlal Nehru University.



9. Former freedom fighter K.E. Mammen passed away

Freedom fighter K.E. Mammen passed away at the age of 96 years. He had participated in the Quit India Movement. He was a staunch believer of Gandhian principles. Recently, he was on the forefront of the anti-liquor campaign in the state.

He is a recipient of numerous awards, including Ramashramam Award and Lohi Vicharavedi Award as well as TKV Foundation Award. He was honored with the Mother Teresa Award for his relentless fight against the social evils.



10. Former Karnataka CM Dharam Singh died

Former Karnataka Chief Minister N Dharam Singh died due to cardiac attack at age of 80 years. He served as the 17th Chief Minister of the state Karnataka.

He had experience of working with various Chief Ministers such as Devaraj Urs, R. Gundu Rao, S. Bangarappa, M. Veerappa Moily and S.M. Krishna. He had also served as President of the Karnataka Pradesh Congress Committee.

Dharam Singh represented the Karnataka Legislative Assembly for consecutive 7 times and served as a member of the Lok Sabha from the Bidar constituency.



1. Successful Flight Test of QRSAM

Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) developed Quick Reaction Surface to Air Missile (QRSAM) was successfully flight tested from ITR Chandipur, off the Odisha Coast.

All the technologies and subsystems incorporated in the missile have performed well, meeting all the mission requirements.

All the Radars, Electro Optical Systems, Telemetry Systems and other stations have tracked the Missile and monitored all the Parameters. The Missile test met all the objectives.



2. Trilateral Malabar exercise started on July 10

The 21st edition of the Malabar naval exercise involving Indian, American and Japanese navies kick started on July 10 in the Bay of Bengal.

A sizeable number of aircrafts, naval ships, and nuclear submarines of the navies of the three countries participated in the annual exercise.

The aim of the Malabar exercise is to achieve deeper military ties and greater interoperability among the three navies in the strategically-important Indo-Pacific region.



3. Indo-Thailand joint military exercise held in Himachal Pradesh

Indo-Thailand joint military training exercise was conducted for over 14 days in Himachal Pradesh. It started at Bakloh in Chamba district, so as to develop closer relations while improving skills and exchanging experiences between the two armies.

It is named as Maitree. Maitree 2017 is a part of a series of joint exercises between the Indian Army and the Royal Thailand Army. Earlier edition of the exercise was held at Krabi in Thailand in 2016. Various drills were conducted for the neutralisation of likely threats.



4. Indo-Sri Lankan Joint Exercise

The IAF participated in a joint exercise with Sri Lankan forces. A transport aircraft of IAF had ferried a contingent of 65 members of IAF personnel to Sri Lanka with an aim of carrying out joint training.

The contingent included a sky diving team along with the Air Warrior Drill Team. While at Colombo, joint para drops were carried out along with Sri Lankan troops.

This exercise offered an opportunity to both, the IAF and SLAF contingent members, to observe each other's Standard Operating Procedures as well as exchange ideas on joint operations.



5. MoU Signed Between Department of Defence Production and GSL

Goa Shipyard Limited (GSL), a mini-ratna Defence Public Sector Undertaking (DPSU), signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for the financial year 2017-18.

This year's MoU target for 'Revenue from Operations' has been set at Rs 1150 crore, which is 43% higher than the financial year 2016-17 target of Rs 800 crore.

Notably in financial year 2016-17, the Shipyard achieved historical high VoP of Rs 1030 crore and PBT of Rs 177 crore. GSL was adjudged as 'Best Performing Shipyard' by MoD. Export target has been set at 28 percent of 'Revenue from Operations', which is highest among DPSU Shipyards.



6. MoU Signed between Department of Defence Production and HSL

Hindustan Shipyard Limited (HSL), a Schedule 'B' Central Public Sector Enterprise (CPSE) under the administrative control of Department of Defence Production, Ministry of Defence signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for the financial year 2017-18 with the Ministry.

The MoU, outlines targets on various performance parameters for the company during the year. The revenue from operations has been targeted at Rs 600 Crore.



7. MoU Signed between Department of Defence Production and GRSE

A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between Ministry of Defence and Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers Limited (GRSE) for the targets and achievements expected on various MoU performance indicators of the company during 2017-18.

The company has targeted to achieve a turnover of Rs 1350 crore which is about 40% more than actual achievements of last financial year (2016-17).

During the current year, the company planned to spend Rs 50 crore as CAPEX for further strengthening the infrastructure facilities including improving the design capabilities for construction of P-17A ships.



8. Mou Signed between Department of Defence Production and BDL

Bharat Dynamics Limited (BDL), a mini-ratna Defence Public Sector Undertaking (DPSU) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Ministry of Defence for the financial year 2017-18.

The revenue from operations, as per the MoU, has been targeted at Rs 5300 crore, which is an increase of 20% over the previous year. BDL has planned to spend an amount of Rs 140 crore for modernization and Capital expenditure.



9. Maiden flight of HTT-40 Trainer Aircraft successfully completed

The maiden flight of 2nd Prototype (PT-2) of Basic Trainer Aircraft (HTT-40) has been successfully completed without any glitch. The aircraft flew for one hour carrying out important manoeuvres, touching altitude of 20000 ft and maximum speed of 185 kmph.

Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) aims to get the aircraft certified by December 2018 which will be followed by series production.



In February 2015, the Defence Acquisition Council (DAC) approved procurement of 70 Basic Trainer Aircraft from HAL. Considering this, HAL has planned to set up facility for manufacturing of 15-20 aircraft per annum. HTT-40 is funded by HAL with its own resources.

10. MoU Signed between Department of Defence Production and BEL

Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL), a Navratna Schedule 'A' Central Public Sector Enterprise (CPSE) under the Department of Defence Production, Ministry of Defence signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for the financial year 2017-18 with the Ministry.

The revenue from operations has been targeted at Rs. 9000 crore. The Operating Profit to Revenue from Operations target has been set at 14% and PAT to Average Network has been set at 15%.



11. First Two NOPVs Shachi and Shruti launched by RDEL

Reliance Defence and Engineering Limited launched the first two Naval Offshore Patrol Vessels (NOPVs) at their shipyard in Pipavav, Gujarat. The ships are part of a five ship project being constructed for the Indian Navy.

The primary role of NOPVs is to undertake surveillance of the country's vast Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) besides operational tasks. The NOPVs would increase the ocean surveillance and patrolling capabilities of the Indian Navy.



The NOPVs being constructed at RDEL are patrol ships and are armed with 76mm Super Rapid Gun Mount (SRGM) system along with two 30mm AK-630M guns.

1. GST Council cut tax rate on fertilizer to 5% from 12%

The GST Council has reduced the tax rate on fertilizer from previously decided 12% to 5%. Till June 30, taxes on fertilizers were in the range of 0-6% in different states.

The decision to reduce the tax rate on fertilizer was taken because of apprehensions that price of the crop nutrient may go up.

The GST Council also decided to cut tax rate on exclusive parts of tractors from 28% to 18%. The GST council did not reduce the rate of 18 per cent on crop protection chemicals.



2. BHEL inked pact with KHI of Japan for manufacturing coaches for metro trains

Bharat Heavy Electricals Ltd has entered into a technology collaboration agreement with Kawasaki Heavy Industries Ltd (KHI) of Japan for manufacturing of stainless steel coaches and bogies for metros.

The agreement covers establishing design, engineering and manufacturing facilities at BHEL using Japanese technology. It will also entitle BHEL for all technology advances and upgrades. BHEL supplies electric as well as diesel locomotives, EMUs, and propulsion systems for Indian Railways.



3. Net income tax collection grew by 14.8% in first quarter

Net direct tax collection grew by 14.8% to 1.42 lakh crore rupees at the end of first quarter on account of surge in advance tax payments. Net direct tax collections represent 14.5% of the total Budget Estimates of 9.8 lakh crore rupees for Direct Taxes for 2017-18.

During April to June, the government also issued refunds to the tune of 55 thousand 520 crore rupees. This was, however, 5.2% lower than the refunds issued during the corresponding period last fiscal. The collection under Corporate Income Tax grew at 4.8% while the growth under Personal Income Tax including Securities Transaction Tax remained 12.9%.



4. Direct Tax Collections up to June 2017 for FY 2017-2018 stood at Rs 142 Lakh crore

The provisional figures for Direct Tax collections up to June 2017 show that net collections are at Rs 1.42 lakh crore which is 14.8% higher than the net collections for the corresponding period of last year.

Net direct tax collections represent 14.5% of the total Budget Estimates of direct taxes for FY 2017-18 (Rs. 9.8 lakh crore).

An amount of Rs 58,783 crore has been received as Advance Tax up to 30th June, 2017 reflecting a growth of 11.9% over the Advance Tax payments of the corresponding period of last year.



5. GST facilitation cell established to guide industry about GST regime

The Ministry of Food Processing Industries has established a four member GST Facilitation Cell to guide the industry about the new tax regime. The members of the GST Facilitation Cell can be accessed through Toll Free No 1800111175 or from <http://www.mofpi.nic.in>

The cell will be headed by Shri Bijaya Kumar Behera, Economic Advisor and Shri G Srinivasan, Shri S N Ahmed, Assistant Director, Shri Bikram Nath, Assistant Director as its Members. The Ministry is in the process of organising several programmes for the industry to sensitise associates about GST, conduct seminars to disseminate information about the new tax regime.



6. No GST on free food supplied in Anna Kshetras

No GST will be applicable on such food supplied free. Further, prasadam supplied by religious places like temples, mosques, churches, gurudwaras, dargahs, etc. attracts Nil CGST and SGST or IGST.

However, some of the inputs and input services required for making prasadam would be subject to GST. These include sugar, vegetable edible oils, ghee, butter, service for transportation of these goods etc.

Under GST regime, it is difficult to prescribe a separate rate of tax for sugar, etc. when supplied for a particular purpose. Therefore, GST does not envisage end use based exemptions.



7. Siemens to set up its first digital factory in India

Germany's Siemens will provide smart facilities to small and medium-scale enterprises in India by setting up its digital factory for the first time in the country. Siemens is in view to set up factory in Mumbai to sell a range of plant automation equipment and software to Indian manufacturing units.

Siemens is already established in Germany and China and it aims to facilitate a variety of hardware and software products through its digital factory. Digital factory is one of the nine divisions at Siemens.



8. Consumer Affairs Ministry announced MRP to be only price decider from Jan 1, 2018

Consumer Affairs Ministry announced that the Maximum Retail Price (MRP) inclusive of all taxes, will be the only price decider with effect from January 1, 2018.

According to amended rules, the price of a packaged good would no longer depend on the place from where it is purchased, be it a store, a mall, a five-star hotel or an airport, it has to be sold at one and only price.

Any vendor charging differential prices for the same product will have to face a new legal provision that 'no person shall declare different MRPs on an identical pre-packed commodity'.



9. India to import crude oil from US

It is for the first time that world's third-largest oil importer, India will import crude oil from the United States. US has been India's largest arms provider.

The settlement took place in June, when PM Modi visited America and met with Trump. IOC has bought 2 million barrels of crude oil from North America, American Mars Crude and 4,00,000 Barrels from Western Canadian, which is expected to be delivered in October to India.



India has recently joined other Asian countries, to buy US crude oil. Other Asian countries are South Korea, Japan, China, Thailand, Australia and Taiwan.

10. Government of India issued 2017-18 – Series II bond tranche

Government of India, in consultation with the Reserve Bank of India, has decided to issue Sovereign Gold Bonds 2017-18 – Series II.

The Bonds will be sold through banks, Stock Holding Corporation of India Limited (SHCIL), designated post offices and recognised stock exchanges viz., National Stock Exchange of India Limited and Bombay Stock Exchange.

The investors will be compensated at a fixed rate of 2.50% per annum. The minimum investment will be 1 gram of gold and maximum will not be more than 500 grams per person per fiscal year.



11. Services provided by educational institution fully exempt from GST

The Union Government has clarified that services provided by an educational institution to students, faculty and staff are fully exempt from GST.

The Ministry said, there is no change in tax liability relating to education and related services in the GST, except reduction in tax rate on certain items of education.

It clarified that no GST will be on the annual subscription or fees charged as lodging and boarding charges by educational institutions from its students for hostel accommodation.



12. India's GDP could rise to \$8 trillion in 15 yrs: NITI Aayog Vice-Chairman

NITI Aayog Vice Chairman Arvind Panagariya has said, India's GDP could rise to about 8 trillion dollars over the next 15 years if the country registers an economic growth of 8% annually.

He said, with that level of economic growth, living standards and amenities that are taken for granted in the west will become accessible to a very large part of the population in India in the coming 15 years.

Mr Panagariya listed the big-item and big ticket reforms such as the Goods and Services Tax, Insolvency and Bankruptcy Act and the Aadhaar Act implemented by the government which would trigger the benefits in the economy.



13. Kharif Crop sowing crosses 563 lakh hectare area

Kharif crops have been sown in over 563 lakh hectare as against 521 lakh hectare last year. It is nearly 42 lakh hectare more than last year figure.

Crop sowing data released by the Agriculture Ministry, reveals that the rice has been sown in over 125 lakh hectare which is about 5 lakh hectare more than the last year.

Over 74 lakh hectare area has been covered under the cultivation of pulses which is more than 14 lakh hectare of the sown area under the crop last year. The coarse cereals have been sown in over 113 lakh hectare, oilseeds in nearly 104 lakh hectare and cotton in over 90 lakh hectare.



14. Export Facilities to MSMEs

The share/ contribution of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) in the exports of the country are as follows:

Years	Share of Exports from MSME in India's Total Exports
2013-14	42.42%
2014-15	44.76%
2015-16	49.86%



Source: Ministry of MSME based on DGCI&S data.

15. Key Steps by government to support MSME exports

The followings are the key steps taken by Government to give priority and provide other facilities to support MSME exports:

- The Merchandise Exports from India Scheme (MEIS)
- The Government also provides double weightage to exports of MSMEs for grant of one-star export house status under the Status Holder Recognition Scheme of the Foreign Trade Policy 2015-20.



- The Government launched Interest Equalization Scheme on Pre and Post Shipment Rupee Export Credit w.e.f. 01.04.2015 for five years.
- The Government introduced Special Advance Authorisation Scheme for export of articles of Apparel and Clothing Accessories w.e.f 1st September 2016.
- The Government has implemented the Niryat Bandhu Scheme.

16. e-wallet service Mobikwik partnered with Samsung Pay Mini

Indian e-wallet service provider Mobikwik has partnered with Samsung. It will be integrated into Samsung Pay Mini. Samsung Pay Mini users can pair their Mobikwik accounts in the near future with the service to pay at 1.4 million locations throughout India.



Samsung Pay, the mobile payments service of the world's largest handset maker, was launched in India in March 2017. It allows users to just tap and pay using the debit/credit cards and wallets stored on their mobile devices.

17. Five P Venture inks pact with Central Silk Board

Five P Venture India Private Ltd has inked an agreement with Central Silk Board (CSB) for development and commercialization of handloom silk products.



The MoU was signed at the first-ever mega trade fair for the textile sector organized by the Ministry of Textiles at Gandhinagar. It would help boost the eco-system of Chennimalai handloom cluster. It would also help revive the heritage skills of the handloom weavers in Chennimalai belt.

18. India on track to grow at 7.4%: ADB

Asian Development Bank retained India's growth projection at 7.4%. The ADB said that implementation of the Goods and Services Tax (GST) is expected to improve ease of doing business and facilitate growth in the medium term.



In a supplement to its Asian Development Outlook (ADO) 2017 report, ADB revised the forecast for developing Asia from 5.7% earlier. For 2018, it was raised from 5.7% to 5.8 per cent. For India, it maintained the growth forecasts at 7.4% for 2017-18 and 7.6% for fiscal 2018-19.

19. India to reclaim position as fastest growing global economy this year: Reuters poll

According to a Reuters Poll, India will reclaim its position as the fastest growing major global economy this year, partly propelled by benefits from a new tax system and bolstered by an expected central bank interest rate cut.

The median forecast from the poll of over 35 economists showed India's economy is expected to expand 7.3% in the fiscal year ending March 2018. While that is a downgrade from the previous poll's forecast of 7.5%, it is better than the International Monetary Fund's projection of 7.2%. It is also stronger than the poll predicting China's growth by 6.6% in calendar year 2017.



20. Google introduces recruiting app 'Hire' for businesses

Google has launched 'Hire', a recruiting app for small- and medium-sized businesses. The app would compete with Microsoft-owned LinkedIn. 'Hire' integrates seamlessly with G Suite apps like Gmail and Google Calendar.

With the introduction of Hire, customers now have a hiring app alongside G Suite's familiar, easy-to-use tools that can help them run an efficient recruiting process. Businesses can also schedule interviews in Hire with visibility into an interviewer's schedule from Calendar.



21. Reliance Industries Limited crossed market capitalization of Rs 5 lakh crore

Reliance Industries Limited crossed a market valuation of more than Rs 5 lakh crore, becoming the second Indian company after Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) to achieve this milestone.

The stock topped Tata Consultancy Service (TCS) in terms of market-cap, gaining as much as 1.8%. The market cap of RIL stood at Rs 5,04,458.09 on BSE (Bombay Stock Exchange) while that of TCS stood at Rs 4,58,605 crore.



The RIL stock has surged nearly 11% in July and over 41% year-to-date.

22. Remittances from Abroad

As per the World Bank, India is the largest remittance receiving country in the world in 2016. Remittances received by top 4 countries in 2016 are given in table below:

	US\$ billion
India	62.7
China	61.0
Philippines	29.9
Mexico	28.5



As per the World Bank’s Migration and Development Brief 27 (April 2017), for the first time in recent history, remittance flows to developing countries registered a decline for two successive years.

India, the largest remittance-receiving country worldwide, led the fall with a decrease of 8.9% in remittance inflows. Low oil prices and weak economic growth in the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries is one of the major reasons for the fall in remittances.

23. Forex reserves at record high of USD 389.059 billion

India’s Foreign Exchange Reserves rose by USD 2.681 billion to touch a new life-time high of USD 389.059 billion in the week to July 14, helped by increase in Foreign Currency Assets (FCAs).

According to Reserve Bank of India data, FCAs, a major component of overall reserves, surged by USD 2.677 billion to USD 364.908 billion. The RBI data also showed that Gold reserves remained unchanged at USD 20.348 billion.

It stated that the special drawing rights with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) rose by USD 1.8 million to USD 1.479 billion. It also stated that country’s reserve position with the IMF too increased by USD 2.7 million to USD 2.322 billion.



24. NITI AAYOG stated that India likely to clock 7.5% growth this fiscal

NITI Aayog Vice Chairman Arvind Panagariya announced that India is likely to clock a 7.5% economic growth in the current fiscal and in New York, growth rate will begin to touch 8% in the last quarter of the current fiscal but the average for the year will be about 7.5%.

NITI AAYOG acknowledged the job creation in the country, especially at the lower, semi-skilled level, truly is the biggest challenge, probably bigger than growing at 8%. According to NITI Aayog, India's better performing sectors such as automobile, auto parts, engineering goods, and IT enabled services, are not very employment-intensive.



25. IMF lowered forecasts for US, UK economic growth

International Monetary Fund lowered its forecasts for US and UK economic growth, following weaker than expected activity in the first three months.

IMF expects the UK to grow by 1.7% in 2017, compared with the 2%, it was previously forecasted. It said, the US will now grow 2.1%, as against the 2.3%, it was predicted in April. Its prediction that the global economy will grow by 3.5% in 2017, and 3.6% in 2018.



26. Yatra acquired Air Travel Bureau

Yatra has acquired corporate travel service provider company Air Travel Bureau (ATB) for an undisclosed amount. It has entered into a definitive agreement through its subsidiary, Yatra Online Pvt, to acquire ATB.

Yatra will acquire all outstanding shares of ATB and assume its debt. ATB is India's 'largest corporate travel services provider'. It specializes in corporate travel management, MICE operations and leisure tourism. It has got gross bookings of Rs 1,500 crore and a client base of 400 companies in the country.



27. Michael Kors bought Jimmy Choo for \$1.2 Billion

Michael Kors Holdings Ltd., the luxury handbag maker, has agreed to acquire luxury shoe maker Jimmy Choo PLC for \$1.17 billion in its first ever acquisition.

The acquisition will give Michael Kors a new avenue for international growth and a foothold in the luxury shoe market.

Jimmy Choo was started in 1996 by British Vogue editor Tamara Mellon and designer Jimmy Choo. Jimmy Choo has more than 150 stores around the world.



28. Microsoft launched 'Made for India' Kaizala app

In a move by Microsoft to enhance the collaboration and communication experience for Indian enterprises, it launched a 'Made for India' app named as Kaizala app.

The App is a combination of messaging and digitally integrated modern workplace. App will allow users to interact with people within the organization as well as outside like partners and vendors in a seamless manner.

Since Kaizala app provide additional features of advanced reporting and analytics, group management controls etc., it is already used by organizations like YES Bank, Apollo Telemedicine, Republic TV etc.



29. India's Foreign Exchange Reserves touch record high of USD 391.33 bn

India's Foreign Exchange Reserves touched a new record high of USD 391.33 billion aided by increase in foreign Currency Assets (FCAs).

According to Reserve Bank of India data released, FCAs, a key component of overall reserves, surged by USD 2.24 billion to USD 367.15 billion, according to RBI data.

RBI data also showed that Gold reserves remained unchanged at USD 20.35 billion. The special drawing rights with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) went up by USD 12.1 million to USD 1.491 billion.



30. Government collected more than ₹2.35 lakh crore as cesses in 2016-17

Government collected more than two lakh 35,000 crore rupees last fiscal by way of a host of cesses, including those on education, Swachh Bharat and Krishi Kalyan.

The total revenue generated from cesses and surcharges under direct tax was around 47,000 crores. The amount generated from the cesses and surcharges under the indirect tax category stood at around one lakh 88,000 crore rupees in 2016-17.



In the 2015-16 Budget, Finance Minister Arun Jaitley had proposed to levy a Swachh Bharat cess of up to 2% on all or certain services, if need arises.

Environment

1. One of the biggest icebergs broken away from Antarctica

One of the biggest icebergs ever recorded has broken away from Antarctica. The giant block is estimated to cover an area of roughly 6,000 sq km; that's about a quarter the size of Wales.

An infrared sensor on the American space agency's Aqua satellite spied clear water in the rift between the shelf and the berg. The European Sentinel-1 satellite-radar system should also have acquired imagery to confirm the break.

Currents and winds might eventually push it north of the Antarctic where it could become a hazard to shipping.



2. Ahmedabad declared as world heritage city by UNESCO

41st session of UNESCO's world heritage committee announced India's Ahmedabad city as a World Heritage City at a meeting held in Krakow, Poland. Gujarat's Ahmedabad city is believed to be founded by Ahmed Shah, 600 years ago. With this announcement, Ahmedabad became India's first World Heritage City.

Other competitors in the list were Delhi and Mumbai. Ahmedabad received votes from 20 countries due to its peaceful co-existence of dominant Hindu, Islamic and Jain communities. There were only two other cities from Indian sub-continent in the list- Nepal's Bhaktpur and Sri Lanka's Galle.



3. 'White tiger' spotted in the Nilgiris for the first time

A rare 'white tiger' with a pale skin color has been spotted for the first time in the Nilgiris by a wildlife photographer, Nilanjan Ray at an undisclosed location on a recent trip to the Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve.

It is yet to be ascertained whether the white tiger is a true genetic mutant. As per the scientists, genetic mutation among tigers changes an amino acid responsible for the normal colour being formed, resulting in "natural polymorphism". According to the scientists, white tigers lack pheomelanin, which is responsible for the red-yellow hue in the skin coat.



4. New Giant ocean sunfish species discovered

An international team of researchers have discovered a new species of ocean sunfish. The new species has been named the hoodwinker (*mola tecta*).

Ocean sunfish are the heaviest type of bony fish that can weigh over two tonnes and grow to three metres long. The species prefers cold water, and has so far been found around New Zealand, around the southeast coast of Australia, off Africa and southern Chile.



5. Environment Ministry approved proposals for climate adaptation projects in 3 States

The Union Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change has approved the proposal for climate adaptation projects submitted by Rajasthan, Gujarat and Sikkim. The three projects were approved by the National Steering Committee on Climate Change.

The projects will receive funds under the National Adaptation Fund for Climate Change (NAFCC). The projects in Rajasthan and Sikkim are targeted at water security, while in Gujarat, the project will focus on increasing the adaptive capacity of communities dependent on natural resources in the Kachchh district. The Ministry has approved 21 projects worth about ₹435.72 crore in the last two years.



1. Nandan Nilekani and Sanjeev Aggarwal launch \$100-million start-up fund, Fundamentum

Former Unique Identification Authority of India chairman and Infosys Ltd co-founder Nandan Nilekani along with venture capitalist Sanjeev Aggarwal has launched a \$100-million start-up fund called The Fundamentum Partnership for mid-stage consumer technology and software start-ups that could be the next big thing.

The duo have hired Indian Institute of Technology (IIT)-Kanpur graduate and entrepreneur Ashish Kumar and IIT-Kharagpur graduate Pratik Guha to manage the funds. Fundamentum will look to back mostly tech-based start-ups and focus on areas such as consumer Internet.



2. Financial Stability Board (FSB) listed India as 'compliant' on implementation of priority area reforms

The Financial Stability Board (FSB) has listed India as a 'compliant' jurisdiction with regard to Basel III reforms in risk-based capital and as 'largely compliant' on liquidity coverage ratio. FSB is an international body for global financial system.

The other nations in the list are Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Japan, Mexico, South Korea, Russia, Singapore, South Africa, Switzerland, Turkey and the US. France, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, Spain and the UK have been found to be 'materially non-compliant' on at least one parameter.



3. ICICI Bank terminated joint venture agreement with Fairfax

ICICI Bank has terminated its the joint venture agreement with Fairfax Financial Holdings Ltd ahead of the IPO of ICICI Lombard General Insurance Company -- a JV between the two entities.

A Termination Agreement is a customary provision for an IPO. The agreement is executed for the protection of the parties in the event of non-completion of the proposed IPO on or before a mutually agreed date. With the proposed IPO, ICICI Lombard is all set to become the first private sector general insurer in the country to go public.



4. Government lowers interest rate by 0.1 % on small saving schemes for July-Sep quarter

The government has cut the interest rates on small savings schemes by 10 basis points for the July-September period.

The rates have been reduced across the board for schemes such as National Savings Certificate, Sukanya Samriddhi Account, Kisan Vikas Patra (KVP) and Public Provident Fund (PPF). However, interest on savings deposits has been retained at 4% annually.



PPF will fetch a lower annual rate of 7.8% while KVP will yield 7.5% and mature in 115 months. The Sukanya Samriddhi Account will offer 8.3% annually. Investments in the five-year Senior Citizens Savings Scheme will yield 8.3%.

5. FINO Payments Bank commenced operations

FINO Payments Bank Limited has commenced operations as a payments bank with effect from June 30, 2017. The Reserve Bank has issued a licence to the bank under Section 22 (1) of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949 to carry on the business of payments bank in India.



FINO PayTech Limited, Navi Mumbai was one of the 11 applicants which were issued in-principle approval for setting up a payments bank. The regulator has also given its nod to

appoint Rishi Gupta as the chief of the payments bank.

6. Rajkiran Rai G assumed charge as the new MD and CEO of Union Bank of India

Mr Rajkiran Rai G has taken charge as the new Managing Director & CEO of Union Bank of India. He has been appointed by the government to head Union Bank of India for a period of three years from the date of his taking over charge of the post or until further orders, whichever is earlier.



Prior to his appointment, Rai was Executive Director of Oriental Bank of Commerce. He started his career in 1986 as an Agricultural Finance Officer in Central Bank of India.

7. Government appointed Melwyn Rego as the new MD and CEO of Syndicate Bank

Mr Melwyn Rego has assumed charge as Managing Director & CEO of Syndicate Bank. Rego will be at the helm of the bank till the remainder of the term up to August 13, 2018.

Prior to joining Syndicate Bank, Rego was MD & CEO of Bank of India. He started his career with IDBI Bank Ltd in 1984 and rose to the position of Deputy Managing Director.



8. RBI's financial stability report predicts India's economic growth rate at 7.3% in 2017-18

The Financial Stability Report 2017 released by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) predicted India's economic growth scale to 7.3% in terms of gross value added (GVA) in the current fiscal year on account of ongoing accelerated reform initiatives like goods and services (GST) and continuing political stability.

The report is also optimistic for a lower fiscal deficit at 3.2% for this year down from 3.5% in 2016-17. It expected the CPI inflation to be in the range of 2-3.5% in the first half of the year and 3.5-4.5% in the second half.



9. EPFO signed agreement with another five banks

EPFO has signed agreement with another five banks viz. Bank of Baroda, ICICI Bank, HDFC Bank, Axis Bank, Kotak Mahindra Bank for collection of remittances and payments to beneficiaries, at zero transaction charges.

It will facilitate all the stakeholders of EPFO by allowing the employers to deposit their EPF dues in a hassle-free, anywhere, anytime manner and PF members by direct payments of their bank accounts.

Consequent upon signing of agreement, the employers having bank account with these banks may deposit EPF dues directly in EPFO's account using internet banking on real time basis.



10. SEBI amended guidelines for foreign investors looking to operate at IFSC

Markets regulator SEBI has amended the guidelines for eligible foreign investors looking to operate at the International Financial Services Centre, IFSC.

According to the new guidelines, a trading member of a stock exchange in the IFSC can now carry out the due diligence for an eligible foreign investor, EFI, who is not registered with the regulator as a Foreign Portfolio Investor, FPI.



The provision has been made for the account opening process of an EFI. Guidelines have been amended after discussions with various market participants.

11. South Indian Bank tied up with PFG Forex to ease remittance

In order to benefit Indian expatriates from Australia via improved remittance facility, South Indian Bank tied up with PFG Forex.

Recently, SIB's international banking division was awarded the ISO 9001: 2015 certification for complying systems and procedures as per the standards laid down by the International Organization for Standardisation.

With this facility, NRIs can visit the PFG Forex outlets across Australia for quick and smooth remittances to India.



South Indian Bank is already in banking arrangement with National Australia Bank and Fly World Money Exchange.

12. YES Bank launched OS-integrated UPI platform

In order to launch OS-integrated UPI (Unified Payment Interface) payment platform in India, YES bank partnered with Indus OS.

Customers with Indus OS will be able to use this UPI payment platform on SMS/ messaging, initiate payments through a "₹" symbol in Indus Keyboard, and send money via chatting on apps like WhatsApp.



The UPI platform will be linked to Aadhaar as well. It aims to further boost the existing growth rate of UPI-based transactions. Indus OS is operating system made for the Indian masses, so as to explore and revolutionise digital products and solutions.

13. Canara HSBC Oriental Bank of Commerce Life Insurance in Banca tied up with Dhanlaxmi Bank

Canara HSBC Oriental Bank of Commerce Life Insurance joined hands with Dhanlaxmi Bank for Banca tie up.

They have signed MoU wherein the Bank will be a corporate agent for 3 years offering products like retirement accumulation and guaranteed lifetime income, child insurance, savings for multiple needs through guaranteed endowment, and wealth insurance plans for high net worth individuals.

Dhanlaxmi bank will help in catering clients and business scope of insurance company in Tier II and III cities.



14. NBFCs allowed to offer new pension scheme, as per RBI directives

As per RBI directives, non-banking finance companies with asset size of Rs. 500 crore and above that have made a net profit in the preceding financial year, will be allowed to sell NPS to their clients after registration with the pension regulator.

It has also been mentioned in the directives that NBFCs extending such services shall ensure that the NPS subscription collected by them from the public is deposited on the day of collection itself with the trustee bank. New Pension Scheme is for the people from unorganised sectors to enjoy the benefits of pension.



15. Nepal SBI launched its first sbiINTOUCH in Kathmandu

A subsidiary of the State Bank of India, Nepal SBI Bank launched its paperless and fully digital banking services in Kathmandu, Nepal for the first time.

Various facilities such as opening of new accounts, cash deposit, cash withdrawal, distribution of debit card, ATM and online banking information will be available just on one touch of screen termed as sbiINTOUCH. It also has a robot, which provides important information to customers in an interactive manner.



It was an initiative by SBI to attract and involve more number of customers towards digital banking.

16. Axis Bank in union with Inter-American Investment Corporation to facilitate trade

Axis bank in union with Inter-American Investment Corporation (IIC) to facilitate trade with Latin America and the Caribbean. With this, it became the first Indian bank to participate in the Trade Finance Facilitation Programme as a confirming bank.

This will enhance trade relations between India and Latin America and the Caribbean. Axis bank will ease transaction process and foster bilateral trade relations.

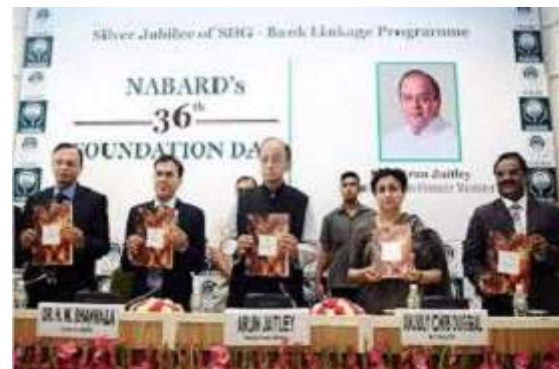
Inter-American Investment Corporation (IIC) will be participating on behalf of the Inter-American Development Bank. IIC is a member of the Inter-American Development Bank Group.



17. NABARD celebrated 36th Foundation Day

Self Help Group Bank Linkage Programme (SHG BLP), the pioneering initiative of Financial Inclusion by NABARD completed 25 years. NABARD dedicated its 36th Foundation Day to celebrate the Silver Jubilee of SHG Bank Linkage Programme. The Union Finance Minister Shri Arun Jaitley was consented to be the Chief Guest.

As on 31st March, 2017 these groups had savings of more than Rs 16,000 crore in banks and double of that amount in their internal lending. The Program had a catalytic effect in sourcing collateral free loans to the tune of Rs 61,000 crore to these poor women.



18. RBI limited Customer liability in Online Banking

RBI has issued directions on 'Customer Protection – Limiting Liability of Customers in unauthorised Electronic Banking Transactions'.

- Customers will not suffer any loss if unauthorised online banking transactions are reported within three days and the amount involved will be credited in the accounts concerned within 10-days.
- In case the third party fraud is reported with a delay of four to seven working days, a customer will face liability of up to Rs 25,000.
- There will be "zero liability of a customer" in case of third party breach where the deficiency lies "neither with the bank nor with the customer but lies elsewhere in the system".



19. Yes Bank Launched 'Yes GST' Program to Assist MSMEs Become GST- Ready

YES BANK along with YES Global Institute has launched 'YES GST' program for MSMEs under its MSME CSR initiative, 'Say YES to Sustainable MSMEs in India'.

Through the program, the bank will help MSMEs understand the impact of the proposed changes and prepare them for migration to the new GST tax system.

YES BANK has set up a GST Advisory Council to provide well researched conceptual guidance on matters pertaining to law, processes and financial literacy.



20. OPIC funded \$150 mn to YES Bank for SME lending

Private lender YES Bank received financial assistance of \$150 million from the Overseas Private Investment Corporation (OPIC), US government development finance institution and Wells Fargo to provide lending to women entrepreneurs and small and medium-sized enterprises in India. As per the agreement, OPIC will provide \$75 million in syndicated financing jointly arranged by Wells Fargo Bank.



Out of this \$75 million, \$50 million of the financing would be used to support women startup business. Since SME contribute about 45 per cent of industrial output, bank intends to support SME business in low-income states.

21. Digital transactions 'leapfrogged' by 3 years post note ban

India has leapfrogged three years of digitisation in just seven months post demonetisation and the government's drive to promote use of debit and credit cards at point of sale or PoS terminals.



According to a SBI research report, the volume of digital transactions has crossed the 70,000 crore rupee level. It informs that banks have installed 11.8 lakh additional POS terminals to facilitate this movement.

The SBI Report claimed that an increase of 10,000 crore rupees of transactions by credit and debit cards at PoS terminals will lead to around 1.1 percent decline in Consumer Price Index based inflation.

22. RBI has set up an Enforcement Department (EFD)

Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has set up an Enforcement Department (EFD). EFD would serve as a centralised department to speed up regulatory compliance.

EFD has been set up to separate those who oversee the possible rule breaches and those who decide on punitive actions so that enforcement process operates fairly and is evidence based.



The EFD has become functional with effect from April 03, 2017. The EFD has been entrusted with the responsibility of enforcement action on commercial banks.

23. Rs. 180528 crore sanctioned under MUDRA loan in FY 2016-17

Loans under Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana (PMMY) Scheme have been extended by banks, Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs) and Micro Finance Institutions (MFIs) to small/micro business enterprises since April 08th 2015 with the objective of 'Funding the unfunded' through institutional finance by providing loans up to 10 lakh for manufacturing, processing, trading, services and activities allied to agriculture.



Details of year-wise targets and loans sanctioned under PMMY to all units, including small traders is as under:

Financial Year	Target (Rs. Cr)	Sanctioned (Rs. Cr)
FY 2015-16	122188	137449
FY 2016-17	180000	180528

24. Infusion of capital in Public Sector Banks

The Government of India (GoI) under the Indradhanush Plan, has earmarked Rs. 70,000 crores for infusion in PSBs between F.Y 2016 and 2019 as per the figures given below:

Financial Year 2015-16	Rs. 25,000 crore
Financial Year 2016-17	Rs. 25,000 crore
Financial Year 2017-18	Rs. 10,000 crore
Financial Year 2018-19	Rs. 10,000 crore
Total	Rs. 70,000 crore



The Government has already infused a sum of Rs.47,915 crore to PSBs during 2015-16 and 2016-17 based on quantitative analysis of growth and compliance levels

25. SBI creates a wholly owned subsidiary “SBI Infra Management Solutions Pvt. Ltd.” for providing real estate services

State Bank of India (SBI) has created a wholly owned subsidiary “SBI Infra Management Solutions Pvt. Ltd.” for providing real estate services to them.

The subsidiary has been formed to segregate the non-core activity of the SBI and improve operational efficiency. The SBI will continue to hold the existing (commercial and residential) as well as the new acquired property of the SBI and not in any way transfer them to the subsidiary.



The role of the subsidiary is envisaged as under:

- Transaction Management / Advisory Services
- Project Management
- Facility Management
- Implementation of Policies / Initiatives

26. ICICI Bank introduces instant personal loans through ATMs

ICICI Bank, India's largest private sector bank by consolidated assets, announced the launch of instant disbursement of personal loans through ATMs. This service enables existing salaried customers of the bank to get pre-qualified personal loans in their savings account instantly.

Through this offering, a customer can get personal loans of up to Rs. 15 lakh for a fixed tenure of 60 months. The facility improves customer experience as it offers a bouquet of unique features: swift application in simple steps and multiple eligible loan amount options based on pre-checked CIBIL.



27. SEBI signed a bilateral Memorandum of Understanding with ESMA

The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with The European Securities and Markets Authority (ESMA) under the European Markets Infrastructure Regulation (EMIR).

The MoU establishes cooperation arrangements, including the exchange of information regarding Central Counterparties (CCPs) which are established and authorised or recognised in India by SEBI, and which have applied for EU recognition under EMIR.



EMIR provides for signing of a cooperation arrangement between ESMA and the relevant non-EU authorities, whose legal and supervisory framework for CCPs have been deemed equivalent to EMIR by the European Commission.

28. BoB entered into MoU with DGS&D for services to govt's e-marketplace

Bank of Baroda entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with DGS&D, Govt. of India for extending various Banking Services to Government e-Marketplace.

Directorate General of Supplies & Disposal (DGS&D), GOI has been mandated to implement Government e-Marketplace (GeM), a landmark initiative of Government of India which is intended to bring about greater transparency and efficiency in public procurements. Bank of Baroda happens to be the second largest PSU Bank.



29. State Bank of India and Carlyle to Jointly Acquire GE Capital's Shares in SBI Card

State Bank of India, The Carlyle Group and GE announced that they have signed definitive agreements, whereby SBI and Carlyle will acquire GE Capital Group's (GE Capital) entire stake in SBI Card.

The transaction is expected to close by the fourth quarter of 2017, subject to regulatory approvals. Following the transaction, SBI and Carlyle will own 74% and 26% respectively in each of the two entities.

SBI Card is operated through two joint-venture companies, SBI Cards & Payment Services and GE Capital Business Process Management Services.



30. SIDBI started merchant banking operations to help MSMEs tap market

Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) has started full-fledged merchant banking operations to benefit the micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs).

SIDBI has supported over 125 venture capital funds and thus can provide support for listing the investee companies on SME exchanges through its merchant banking operations.

The initiative is aimed at enhancing the access of MSMEs to the capital markets, including the SME Trading Platform and Institutional Trading Platform.



31. Aurionpro Solutions launched Branch-in-a-Box product

Aurionpro Solutions launched its Branch-in-a-Box product. The Virtual Teller Machine (VTM), will be a fully integrated self-service kiosk for automating 90 % of banking transactions at a branch.

The Virtual Teller Machine (VTM) helps migrate routine transactions like eKYC, account opening, passbook printing, cash and cheque deposit, along with personalized instant card issuance and activation. Aurionpro is a global technology solutions leader that helps enterprises accelerate their digital innovation, securely and efficiently.



32. Axis Bank acquired Snap deal owned FreeCharge for Rs. 385 crore

Axis Bank bought Snapdeal-owned mobile payments provider Freecharge for worth Rs385 crore, where Axis Bank will get over 50 million customers of Freecharge along with its digital technology and human resources.



However, the deal is subject to regulatory approval from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and the restricted time-frame to complete the acquisition deal within two months.

Freecharge is a 200-member company, founded in 2010 by Mumbai based entrepreneur Kunal Shah. It started off its business with 'freecharge coupons', before turning into mobile wallet.

33. All RuPay ATM-cum-debit card holders eligible for insurance cover of up to Rs 2 lakh

All RuPay ATM-cum-debit card holders are presently eligible for accidental death and permanent disability insurance cover of up to 2 lakh rupees.



RuPay Classic cardholders are eligible for cover of 1 lakh rupees, whereas RuPay Premium cardholders are eligible for cover of 2 lakh rupees.

Insurance premium is paid by the National Payments Corporation of India. 872 cardholders received insurance claims during last financial year.

34. BSE signed an MoU with Egyptian Exchange

The Bombay Stock Exchange signed an MoU with Egyptian Exchange (EGX) for cooperation in exchange of information across business areas.



The MoU aims to cross list and trade securities that would provide new investment alternatives to investors in both markets.

The MoU will also help in integrating both the exchanges to build capital market flows. The Executive Chairman of EGX is Mohamed Omran while the Managing Director and CEO of BSE is Ashish Kumar Chauhan.

35. Axis Bank approved re-appointment of Shikha Sharma as CEO

Axis Bank Ltd has re-appointed Shikha Sharma as Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer for three years from June 2018.

Shikha Sharma joined Axis from ICICI Prudential Life in 2009 when she replaced PJ Nayak. She began her career with the erstwhile infra lender ICICI Ltd in 1980.

During her tenure, Axis Bank has grown its advances nearly 5 times to Rs3.85 trillion. Annual profits too grew from Rs1,815.36 crore in 2008-09 to Rs3,679.28 crore in 2016-17.



36. NPCI received final authorisation from RBI to function as BBPCU

National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI), the umbrella organisation for all retail payment systems in the country received the final authorisation letter from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to function as the Bharat Bill Payment Central Unit (BBPCU) and operate the Bharat Bill Payment System (BBPS).



The Bharat Bill Payment System (BBPS) is a Reserve Bank of India (RBI) conceptualised system driven by National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI). It is a one-stop payment platform for all bills providing an interoperable and accessible “Anytime Anywhere” bill payment service to all customers across India with certainty, reliability and safety of transactions.

37. IOB offers Bharat Bill Payment system

Indian Overseas Bank has gone live with the Bharat Bill Payment system for its customers. Indian Overseas Bank is one of the three public sector banks (apart from Bank of Baroda and Union Bank of India) to get the approval from RBI for providing the service.

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38. RBI sets up Supervisory Colleges for six Scheduled Commercial Banks

Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has set up Supervisory Colleges for six Scheduled Commercial Banks which have sizeable international presence.

The banks are: State Bank of India, ICICI Bank Ltd., Bank of India, Bank of Baroda, Axis Bank Ltd. and Punjab National Bank.

The objectives of the colleges are to enhance information exchange and cooperation among supervisors, to improve understanding of the risk profile of the banking group and thereby facilitate more effective supervision of internationally active banks.



Important Days

1. Unions observe 'Save public sector banks' day

In wake of alarmingly increasing bad loans and private corporate defaulters, the United Forum of Bank Unions observed July 19, the 48th anniversary of nationalisation of major banks, as 'Save public sector banks' day.

On this day, members wore a commemorative badge on the day, displayed posters in front of all branches, distributed leaflets and held rallies/demonstrations at all centers across the country.

According to Unions, banks should be saved from corporate defaulters and government should take stringent measures to recover the bad loans.



2. World Population Day 2017 observed across the globe

The 2017 World Population Day was observed across the globe on 11th July with the theme 'Family Planning, Empowering People, Developing Nations'.

It aims to expand access to voluntary family planning to 120 million additional women by 2020. It is possible through empowering women and educating them regarding the control methods.



World Population Day seeks to draw attention on the urgency and importance of population issues such as education, population control, sustainable growth etc.

3. World Youth Skills Day observed on 15th July

The World Youth Skills Day (WYSD) was observed across the world on 15th July. The theme for year 2017 was "Skills for All".

The day is observed to create more awareness and a discussion on training and the development of skills for the youth in order to create a better opportunity for them when it comes to employment.



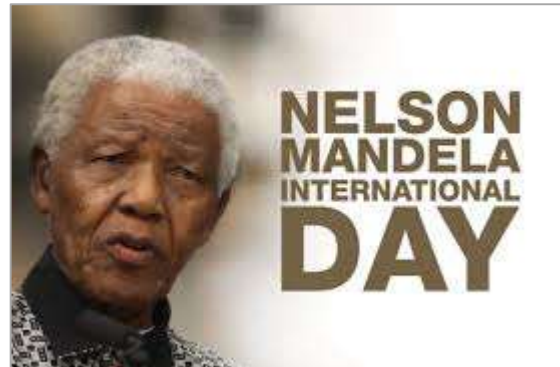
United Nations in union with WorldSkills.org organised campaigns #SkillsForAll and #WYSD, to raise awareness about the importance of investing in youth skills development.

4. Nelson Mandela International Day

The Nelson Mandela International Day, also known as Mandela Day, is observed on July 18 annually. This day remembers Mandela's achievements in working towards conflict resolution, democracy, human rights, peace, and reconciliation.

On this day, UN joins a call by the Nelson Mandela Foundation to devote 67 minutes of time to helping others, as a way to mark Nelson Mandela International Day.

Mandela Day also celebrates a campaign known as "46664", in reference to Nelson Mandela's Robben Island prison number. The campaign was originally launched to raise awareness of HIV/AIDS. However, its focus expanded to broader humanitarian work.



5. Kargil Vijay Diwas celebrated on 26th July

Kargil Vijay Diwas is named after the success of Operation Vijay and is observed annually on 26th July in honour of the Kargil War's Heroes. On the occasion, Defence Minister Arun Jaitley and three Chiefs of Services laid floral tribute at Amar Jawan Jyoti, India Gate.

The Kargil war was fought for more than 60 days. India regained possessions of Kargil. 'Operation Vijay' was launched to clear the Kargil Sector of infiltration by Pakistani soldiers and Kashmiri militants on the Indian side of the Line of Control.



6. World Hepatitis Day

World Hepatitis Day (WHD) takes place every year on 28 July and brings the world together under a single theme to raise awareness of the global burden of viral hepatitis and to influence real change.

The Theme for World Hepatitis Day 2017 is 'Eliminate Hepatitis'. To elevate the theme of elimination, NOhep, a global elimination movement, brings people together and provide a platform for people to speak out, be engaged and take action to ensure global commitments are met and viral hepatitis is eliminated by 2030.



7. International Tiger Day observed on 29th July 17

International Tiger Day which is celebrated to raise awareness for tiger conservation. 29th July was decided to be celebrated as Tiger day during the Saint Petersburg Tiger Summit in 2010.

Special programmes were organized all over the globe to mark the day. Union Minister for Environment and Forests Dr Harsh Vardhan attended a Global Tiger Day event in New Delhi. WWF and the Global Tiger Forum had announced that the world's tiger population had finally increased after several decades of constant decline.



International

1. US started rolling out expedited clearance of pre-approved, low-risk Indian travellers

US has started rolling out for India, its Global Entry programme which allows for expedited clearance of pre-approved, low-risk travellers. By expanding Global Entry eligibility, CBP is transforming the international arrivals process, making it more secure, efficient and welcoming, for the millions of Indian citizens who visit the US each year.

India is the 11th country whose citizens are eligible to enrol in the CBP initiative. Global Entry is currently available at 53 US airports and 15 pre-clearance locations.



2. Donald Trump appointed Indian American Krishna R Urs as ambassador to Peru

U.S. President Donald Trump has appointed Indian-American Krishna R Urs as the new US Ambassador to Peru. Mr Urs is currently Charge d'Affaires of the US Embassy in Madrid. He took over after James Costos resigned.

President Trump had recently nominated Kenneth Juster, the President's Deputy Assistant for International Economic Affairs and Deputy Director of the National Economic Council, to be the Ambassador in New Delhi. Trump has appointed Indian-American Nikki Haley as the US Permanent Representative to the UN.



3. Ana Brnabic elected as first gay woman Prime Minister of Serbia

Ana Brnabic became the first openly gay Prime Minister of Serbia after she was elected by the Serbian parliament. She is also Serbia's first female prime minister.

Serbia's President, Aleksandar Vucic, nominated Brnabic for the position of Prime Minister. Brnabic is quite new to the political scene of Serbia as she joined politics only last year when she became the country's first openly gay minister, heading the ministry for public administration and local self-government.



4. Japan and EU reach broad deal on Economic Partnership Agreement

Japan and the European Union have reached a broad deal on an Economic Partnership Agreement that would affect about 30% of the world's gross domestic product.

Japan's Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker announced the deal in Brussels.



The two sides settled important issues after four years of negotiations. The EP Agreement is the first of its kind among large, advanced economies, and would be one of Japan's biggest trade deals.

5. 5th Meeting of BRICS Education Ministers held in Beijing

Meeting of BRICS Ministers of Education was held on 5th July, 2017 at Beijing, China. The Indian delegation was led by Shri Prakash Javadekar, Minister of Human Resource Development. Delegation of all the five BRICS countries participated in the two-day deliberations. Beijing Declaration was adopted at the meeting.



Beijing Declaration identified some specific activities to deepen the cooperation among the BRICS Member States, encompassing the entire spectrum of education from school and higher education to vocational and technical education. At the conclusion of the BRICS Education Ministers' meeting, a bilateral meeting was also held between the Minister of Human Resource Development.

6. BRICS Health Ministers' Meeting held at China

BRICS Health Ministers' Meeting held at Tianjin, China. The Union Health Minister spoke on the theme - 'Strengthen Health System and Achieve Health-Related SDGs.



Highlighting the achievements of India in the health sector, Shri Nadda stated that India has expanded the number of vaccines under Universal Immunisation Programme (UIP) and launched Mission Indradhanush aimed at expanding coverage by reaching the unreached.

The Health Minister further informed that free dialysis services are provided free of cost to the poor under the recently launched Pradhan Mantri National Dialysis Programme which is on Public Private Partnership mode.

7. Informal BRICS Leaders Meeting in Hamburg

The leaders of the 5 BRICS countries held an informal meeting on the side-lines of G20 Summit in Hamburg, Germany. This was in run up to the forthcoming 9th BRICS Summit in September in Xiamen, China.



President Xi of China said he looked forward to welcoming the BRICS leaders. The Prime Minister appreciated momentum in BRICS under the Chairmanship of President Xi and extended full cooperation and best wishes for the BRICS Xiamen Summit.

The leaders discussed preparations and priorities for the forthcoming Xiamen BRICS Summit.

8. 21st India-Myanmar National Level Meeting held in Myanmar

21st India-Myanmar National Level Meeting took place at Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar. During the meeting, security, cooperation in prevention of drug trafficking, boundary matters, wildlife smuggling, visa and prisoners in jail of respective countries were discussed.



The two sides mutually agreed that all steps should be made to ensure tranquillity along the border and safety and wellbeing of people in the border areas.

India attached utmost importance to the discussions under the framework of National Level Meetings which involved representation from all agencies with relevance to security and border management.

9. Model United Nations Regional Conference held in Kathmandu

A Model United Nations (MUN) Regional Conference was held at Kathmandu. The event was organised by the US Embassy in partnership with the Youth Thinker's Society.



Youths from 12 South and Central Asian countries including India participated in 5-day conference. The basic aim of the MUN was to provide a platform to young minds to channelize energy and resources for a more prosperous and peaceful world.

The delegates discussed a wide range of issues including environment and water security, promoting human rights of migrant workers, finance security, nuclear non-proliferation and countering youth radicalisation.

10. European Parliament gave nod to first ever EU-Cuba pact

EU-Cuba cooperation deal, overlooking lingering concerns about human rights violations, was approved by European Parliament. With the approval of this deal, Cuba joins other Latin American countries with similar agreements with the EU for improvements in human rights.

Since, human rights have been of great concern in Europe, the European Parliament adopted a non-legislative resolution. The agreement lays the basis for trade relations but full implementation will require ratification by the EU's 28 member countries.



11. Pakistan test fired ballistic missile named NASR

Short-range surface-to-surface ballistic missile 'Nasr' was test fired by Pakistan, after successful series of training launches and tests.

NASR is a high-precision weapon system with the ability to be deployed quickly with an enhanced range of 60-70 kilometers. It is similar to that of 'Cold military doctrine' developed by Indian Army.

Army chief Gen Qamar Javed Bajwa, who witnessed the launch, appreciated the training and planning of Armed Strategic Force and role of engineers and scientists in the milestone launch of NASR.



12. 122 countries gave nod to historic UN treaty

In order to ban nuclear weapons, around 122 countries approved the first-ever treaty to ban nuclear weapons at the UN meeting.

According to UN conference President Elayne Whyte Gomez, 122 nations were in favour whereas Netherlands and Singapore opposed the said decision and Canada did not take part in negotiations.

Historically, in the last 20 years, it is the first multilateral nuclear disarmament treaty to be concluded in more than 20 years.

It will be offered for signatures in September and come into effect, when 50 countries have ratified.



13. Khaltmaa Battulga selected as Mongolia's new president

Veteran Martial Arts star Khaltmaa Battulga was elected as Mongolia's President with 50.6 % votes beating opponent, parliament speaker Miyegombo Enkhbold of the ruling Mongolian People's Party.

Besides being a politician, Khaltmaa Battulga is a businessman who owns a hotel, a Genghis Khan-themed amusement park, and food companies for baked goods and meats. Ex-president Tsakhia Elbegdorj will step down as president after finishing his second and final term.



Mongolia follows a parliamentary democracy where government is run by a prime minister, but the president has powers to veto legislation.

14. India is fourth largest foreign investor into UK

India has slipped by one spot to become the fourth-largest foreign investor into the UK. The USA, China and France occupy the top three positions in the ranking. India set up 127 new projects in Britain last year.

The data was published by the Department for International Trade. The UK has received two per cent more investment than the previous year post-Brexit. It claims the number one destination for inward investment in Europe.



15. US House passed bills to address human trafficking

The US House of Representatives has voted to reauthorize three bills to address the issue of human trafficking both inside and outside the US.

The three bills passed by the House were Empowering Law Enforcement to Fight Sex Trafficking Demand Act, Enhancing Detection of Human Trafficking Act and Frederick Douglass Trafficking Victims Prevention and Protection Act. The development was hailed by US President Donald Trump and rights activists.



16. Zimbabwe's Parliament passes bill, giving sweeping powers to President

Zimbabwe's parliament passed a bill amending the constitution to give the president sweeping powers to appoint the country's top judges without consulting any other institution.

As per the previous provisions, the president could only appoint a chief justice from individuals recommended by the judicial services commission and after public interviews of the candidates.

If the bill is passed as a law, Mugabe will get the sole responsibility to appoint the chief justice and their deputy.



17. Turkey hosted 22nd World Petroleum Congress International Conference

Turkey, Istanbul hosted 22nd World Petroleum Congress (WPC) International Conference. Theme for 2017 22nd World Petroleum Congress was 'Bridges to Our Energy Future'.

The 22nd WPC provided the platform for open dialogue to build bridges between consumers and producers, governments and industry to address developments and solutions for sustainable production and use of the world's energy resources.

Union Minister for Petroleum and Natural Gas, Dharmendra Pradhan witnessed the conference and chaired a ministerial session on the subject 'Current Economic Strategies in Indian Oil and Gas Sector'.



18. US House of Representatives passed Bill on defence co-operation with India

A \$621.5 billion defence expenditure bill to advance defence cooperation with India, was passed by the United States House of Representatives by making amendments to National Defense Authorisation Act (NDAA), 2018.

This amendment has mandated the Secretaries of Defence and State to develop with a strategy for advancing defence cooperation between India and the U.S in six months and address common security challenges.

The NDAA is a United States federal law specifying the budget and expenditures of the United States Department of Defence.



19. Sheikha Lubna al Qasimi tops poll of most powerful Arab women

According to Forbes Middle East, Sheikha Lubna al Qasimi, the UAE Minister of State for Tolerance has topped a poll of the most powerful Arab women in government this year.

Ms Qasimi was followed by two women from Egypt - Sahar Nasr, the country's minister of investment and international cooperation and Ghada Wali, the minister of social solidarity.

Forbes has also released a list of the top 100 most powerful Arab businesswomen for 2017, and the UAE represents the highest number of women, with 18, followed by Egypt, with 16.



20. Gopal Prasad Parajuli to be Nepal's Supreme Court Chief Justice

The Parliamentary Hearing Special Committee (PHSC) in Nepal has recommended acting Chief Justice Gopal Prasad Parajuli as the new Chief Justice of the country. He will continue to head till April 28 next year.

Parajuli had taken up the responsibility of acting Chief Justice after the retirement of then Chief Justice Sushila Karki on June 6, 2017. He is the senior-most Justice at the Supreme Court.



21. US and Australia launch HIFiRE 'hypersonic' missile

The US and Australia have jointly test-fired a hypersonic missile capable of travelling at Mach8 - eight times faster than the speed of sound.

The test was part of a project called the Hypersonic International Flight Research Experimentation Program (HIFiRE).

Hypersonic missiles are considered to have the potential to transform warfare as they are manoeuvred high enough to be safe from many existing air defences. The hypersonic weapons can strike enemies with a minimum of reaction time.



22. Sri Lanka signed bill to probe into disappearances of people

Sri Lanka President Maithripala Sirisena has signed the bill for Office of Missing Persons (OMP) paving way for its implementation.

The bill was long pending after its approval from Parliament last year in August. It seeks to set up an office to probe into disappearances of hundreds of people during and after LTTE war.

Tamil political parties and civil society groups have been long demanding for its implementation. At least seven thousand people disappeared during the last phases of war and their families have been protesting against it.



23. US Senate panel approved Wray's nomination as FBI director

The US Senate Judiciary Committee unanimously approved the nomination of Christopher Wray to be FBI Director following the dismissal of the agency's former Chief, James Comey, by President Donald Trump.

All 20 members of the committee voted to approve Wray, a white-collar crime lawyer and former assistant attorney general under President George W. Bush, sending his nomination to the full Senate for a vote.

Trump nominated Wray last month after firing Comey during an FBI investigation into whether Trump campaign associates colluded with the Russians to help him with the 2016 presidential election.



24. Australia joins International Solar Alliance

Australia became the 35th country to join the International Solar Alliance.

The International Solar Alliance is co-led by India and France. The aim was to support developing countries to boost their solar production capacity.

The French Development Agency has pledged 300 million euros to fund initial projects. India, through the Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency (IREDA) and Solar Energy Corporation of India (SECI), is contributing \$1 million to the ISA fund.



25. French Senate approved controversial anti-terror bill

France's conservative-dominated Senate has approved the controversial anti-terror bill by a majority. Senators passed the draft bill by 229 votes to 106. The document would now proceed to the lower house of the National Assembly for a vote in October.

The new security laws would replace a state of emergency imposed after November 2015 terrorist attacks in Paris. Under the proposed legislation, some of emergency state practices would become permanent law.



26. UK government appointed Brenda Marjorie Hale as first female President of SC

The UK government has appointed Brenda Marjorie Hale as the first female President of the Supreme Court, the senior-most judge of the country. Hale will take charge as the head of Britain's top judging panel in September following the retirement of current President, Lord Neuberger.

Three new justices have also been appointed to the Supreme Court - Lady Justice Black, Lord Justice Lloyd Jones and Lord Justice Brigg - who will take up the role when Lady Hale is sworn in officially as President on 2nd October.



27. China & Russia conduct large scale naval drills in Baltic Sea

China and Russia have conducted their large-scale naval drills - "Joint Sea 2017" - in the Baltic Sea.

Navies of both the countries held a series of drills as part of the "Joint Sea 2017" exercise program. A dozen vessels of different classes, and some 10 aircraft and helicopters from both sides took part in the first leg of the drills.

The Joint Sea naval exercises were held for the first time in 2012. The second phase of the navy drills in September will begin in the Sea of Okhotsk and the Sea of Japan.



28. World's largest super-carrier USS Gerald R Ford commissioned

The U.S Navy and Newport News Ship Building Company officially commissioned the USS Gerald R. Ford (CVN-78), a new class of "super-carrier" advanced nuclear-powered aircraft carrier at the Norfolk Naval Station in Norfolk, Virginia.

The keel for the US\$12.8 billion USS Gerald R Ford was laid down in 2009. The 1106-foot long carrier displaces 100,00 tons fully loaded and is powered by two new generation nuclear reactors.



29. World's 1st floating wind farm started to take shape off coast of Scotland

The world's first full-scale floating wind farm started to take shape off the north-east coast of Scotland. The revolutionary technology will allow wind power to be harvested in waters too deep for the current conventional bottom-standing turbines used.

The Peterhead wind farm, known as Hywind, is a trial which will bring power to 20,000 homes. Manufacturer Statoil says output from the turbines is expected to equal or surpass generation from current ones. It hopes to cash in on a boom in the technology, especially in Japan and the West coast of the US, where waters are deep.



30. Sri Lanka's cabinet 'cleared port deal' with China firm

Sri Lanka's cabinet cleared a revised agreement for leasing majority stake in Hambantota port to a Chinese state owned company.

Under the new deal, the Sri Lankan government has sought to limit China's role to running commercial operations at the port while it has oversight of broader security.

India raised concern in 2014 when a Chinese submarine docked in Colombo, where another Chinese firm is building a 1.4 billion US dollars port city on reclaimed land. The agreement will bring a revenue of 1.12 billion US dollars which is required for debt-ridden Sri Lankan economy.



31. BRICS Youth Forum opened in Beijing

2017 BRICS Youth Forum opened in Beijing to discuss the development of the youth in the countries of the grouping. Themed "Enhance BRICS Partnership, Promote Youth Development", the three-day forum gathered 50 youth representatives working as civil servants, scholars, entrepreneurs, artists and journalists from the BRICS countries.



Representatives will hold discussions on issues concerning youth policies and entrepreneurship, as well as the roles of BRICS youth in global governance, before formulating an action plan for the forum. In the past three years, the forum has had achievements in various fields, such as youth policies and employment through dialogue.

32. BRICS nations sign memorandum to facilitate taxation cooperation

Tax authorities of the five BRICS countries have signed a landmark document to establish a mechanism for taxation cooperation.



The BRICS Taxation Cooperation Memorandum, signed at the fifth meeting of BRICS Heads of Tax Authorities, is the bloc's first document that elevates taxation cooperation to the institutional level.

The authorities also agreed to cooperate on taxation information exchange, improve consultation procedures efficiency, boost taxation capacities and plan paths for coordination of taxation policies and tax collection.

33. Bolivian President declares total independence from World Bank and IMF

Bolivia's President Evo Morales declared that the nation has achieved "Total Independence" from the World Bank and the IMF.



Bolivia is now in the process of becoming a member of the Southern Common Market, Mercosur. Morales, a Democratic socialist, has managed to transform Bolivia into the fastest growing South American economy all while maintaining a balanced budget and slashing its once-crippling government debt.

The Morales administration made enormous transformations in the Andean nation.

34. Senior leader of PML-N Shahid Khaqan Abbasi elected as interim Pak PM

Former petroleum minister and senior PML-N leader Shahid Khaqan Abbasi was elected as interim prime minister of Pakistan. Mr Abbasi will run the government as interim prime minister until Nawaz Sharif's brother Shahbaz is elected as member of parliament.



The ruling party of deposed Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif met to choose the next prime minister, a day after country's Supreme Court removed the Premier from office after finding that he and his family concealed their assets.

35. Iran successfully launched satellite-carrying rocket

Iran successfully launched a satellite-carrying rocket into space. The rocket called 'Simorgh' was launched from the Imam Khomeini National Space Station in Semnan. "Simorgh" means "phoenix" in Persian.



The rocket is capable of carrying a satellite weighing 250 kilograms (550 pounds). Iran has sent several short-lived satellites into orbit over the past decade, and in 2013 launched a monkey into space. The last successful satellite rocket launch was done in February 2015.

36. Reince Priebus replaced as White House chief of staff

US President Donald Trump replaced his White House Chief of staff Reince Priebus. A day after his new Communications Director Anthony Scaramucci accused Priebus of leaking information to reporters, President Trump named General John Kelly as his next Chief of staff.



General John Kelly currently heads the Department of Homeland Security. The announcement of Mr Priebus's departure came after three Republican senators defied White House pressure to vote against health care reforms.

Miscellaneous

- The Assam government has decided to abolish all border check gates with effect from 31st July this year.
- The procurement of Rice is estimated to be 375 lakh tonnes during 2017-18 for Kharif crop.
- Punjab National Bank (PNB) and Bajaj Allianz General Insurance have signed an agreement for the distribution of insurance products through the branches.
- India's Ajay Singh has won the bronze medal in Asian Youth and Junior Weightlifting Championships at Kathmandu.
- The Asian Football Confederation (AFC) Competition Committee officially awarded Indonesia the hosting of the AFC Under-19 Championship from October 18 to November 4 of 2018.
- Olympic silver medallist P V Sindhu has been appointed a Group-I officer in Andhra Pradesh.
- The Election Commission of India (ECI) has launched a month long nationwide special drive for maximization of registration of eligible electors with focus on left out eligible young citizens in age group of 18-19 and removal of names of registered dead electors, if any, from electoral rolls.
- The Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU) announced waiver of fees for its transgender students of all programmes.
- SBI has waived charges for fund transfer of up to Rs 1,000 through its IMPS (Immediate Payment Service) to promote small transactions.
- The Union Government has empowered the Army to directly procure critical weapons systems and military platforms to maintain combat readiness for short duration intense wars.
- I H Manudev has won the first National Masters snooker tournament title in Chennai.
- The Union government will provide 20,000 crore rupees to promote infrastructural development and research stressing importance to the educational sector.
- Karnataka Bank, in association with its PNB MetLife, has launched Met Loan and Life Suraksha (MLLS), a single premium plan covering the loan liability of a customer.
- Karnataka bank has introduced KBL MLLS, an app for its employees to instantly calculate the insurance cover and premium based on loan liability of the borrowers.
- Union Minister of State for Home Affairs, Kiren Rijiju inaugurated the Research Institution of World Ancient, Traditional, Culture & Heritage (RIWATCH) Museum at Roing in Arunachal Pradesh.
- Yesteryear actress Madhubala is the latest celebrity to join the Bollywood brigade at Madame Tussauds, which is scheduled to open later this year in New Delhi.
- Germany has passed the controversial law that mandates a fine of €50 million on social media websites like Facebook and Twitter if they fail to remove hate speech within 24 hours.
- Wimbledon completed 140 years as a sporting event on 3 July 2017.

- Preeti Shenoy was recently honoured with the Indian of the Year Award by Brands Academy.
- Indian IPS officer, Mahesh Bhagwat, was recently conferred the 2017 Trafficking in Persons (TIP) Report Heroes Award by the US State Department.
- Germany passed the legislation in favour of the same-sex marriage.
- K K Venugopal has been appointed as the new Attorney General of India.
- Mobile application of Union health Ministry, eVIN, won the prestigious GSMA Asia Mobile Award 2017.
- French legal expert, Catherine Marchi-Uhel, was appointed as the head of the independent panel to assist in the investigation and prosecution of those responsible for most serious violations of international law in Syria.
- Czech tennis player, Karolina Pliskova, clinched the Eastbourne International Women's Singles title.
- Reliance Jio has launched the world's longest submarine cable system.
- Carrie Lam has been appointed as the first female Chief Executive of Hong Kong.
- Union Minister Piyush Goyal launched MERIT app and e-bidding portal.
- India's rank in the 2017 Global Cybersecurity Index, which released recently is 23.
- Long distance runner, G Lakshmanan, clinched the gold medal in men's 5000m race at the athletic meet at the 22nd Asian Athletics Championships.
- Saima Wazed Hossain has been appointed as WHO goodwill ambassador for Autism in South-East Asia Region.
- According to WHO, the antibiotic resistance is making the treatment impossible against Gonorrhoea.
- The theme for G20 Summit that concluded in Hamburg, Germany on 8 July 2017 was "Shaping the Interconnected World".
- Jaya Bachchan has won the award for Best Woman Parliamentarian of the Year (Rajya Sabha) at Lokmat Parliamentary Awards 2017.
- The footballer who was recently conferred the Mohun Bagan Ratna 2017 is Subrata Bhattacharya.
- The slogan for the 2017 International Tiger Day is "Fresh Ecology For Tigers' Protection".
- The theme of the 2017 United Nations World Day against Trafficking in Persons is "Act to protect and Assist Trafficked Persons".
- Bollywood actor, Inder Kumar, best known for sharing the screen space with Salman Khan in the movie Wanted, passed away recently.
- Canadian woman swimmer, Kylie Masse, won the 100m backstroke gold in a new world-record time at the World Aquatics Championships in Budapest.
- The book titled 'Indira: India's Most Powerful Prime Minister' has been written by Sagarika Ghose.

- David Ferrer won the 2017 Swedish Open Men's Singles title.
- Madhya Pradesh in July 2017 constituted a food commission.
- Researchers from a Spanish university have discovered a molecule that could be used to combat the effects of Zika virus.

1. Government imposed levy of 10% basic customs duty (BCD) on mobile phone parts and some electronic goods

The Government had constituted Inter Ministerial Committee [IMC] comprising of officers from various departments to identify electronic / IT / telecom products, which are not Information Technology Agreement [ITA] – I bound, for customs duty enhancement on them.

With effect from 01.07.2017, the Government has imposed 10% basic customs duty (BCD) on:

- Cellular mobile phones and specified parts of cellular mobile phones like charger, battery, wire headset, Microphone and Receiver, Key Pad, USB Cable etc.
- Certain other specified electronic goods.



2. GSTN unveiled excel template to help taxpayers perform easy data entry

Goods and Services Network (GSTN) has unveiled a simple excel based template that will facilitate the taxpayers in preparing and filing their monthly returns with maximum ease and minimal cost.

The excel template is a part of GST Council's approach to make tax compliance highly easy and convenient for taxpayers and also reduce the time of compliance to improve ease of doing business.

This excel workbook template can be freely downloaded from the GST Common portal (www.gst.gov.in), and can be used by taxpayers to collate all invoice related data on a regular basis.



3. Mou signed between Department of Defence Production and MDL

Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Ltd (MDL), a Miniratna Schedule 'A' DPSU under the Department of Defence Production, Ministry of Defence signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for the financial year 2017-18 with the Ministry.

The MoU outlines the targets and various performance parameters for the company. The revenue from operations has been



targeted at 4500 crore. Significant milestones to be achieved under Project 75 (Scorpene Submarines) and shipbuilding projects of 15B (destroyers) and 17A (frigates) also form part of the MoU.

4. ADB and India Sign \$220 Million loan agreement for State Highways of Rajasthan

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the Government of India signed a \$220 million loan for improving connectivity as well as transport efficiency and safety on State Highways of Rajasthan.



The loan is the first tranche of the \$500 million Rajasthan State Highways Investment Program, approved by ADB Board, that will upgrade about 2,000 kilometers of state highways and major district roads to two-lane or intermediate-lane standards to meet road safety requirements. It will have a 25-year term, including a grace period of 8 years. The total cost of the project is \$1.415 billion.

5. Centre sanctioned Rs 107 crore for tourism development in Puducherry

The Union Government sanctioned Rs 107 crore for tourism development in Puducherry. The Union Ministry of Tourism has approved two projects, Spiritual Tourism Circuit and Heritage Tourism Circuit in the Union Territory.



Puducherry is striving hard to develop the city as a premier Tourist destination in the South.

Spiritual Tourism circuit aims to connect the famous temples and other places of worship to attract both domestic and foreign tourists.

The department will take up beautification of the beach promenade and development of Franco-Tamil village under the Heritage circuit project.

6. India contributed \$500,000 to UN Peacebuilding Fund

India has contributed \$500,000 to the UN Peacebuilding Fund. India has so far contributed \$5 million to the Peacebuilding Fund. India has been a member of the Peacebuilding Commission since its inception in December 2005.

The Peacebuilding fund was launched to support activities, actions, programmes and organisations that seek to build a lasting peace in countries emerging from conflict.

The United Nations Peacebuilding Fund (PBF) is currently supporting more than 120 projects in 25 countries.



7. Foundation stone of country's biggest Global Skill Park laid in Bhopal

Union Minister of State for Skill Development and Entrepreneurship Rajeev Pratap Rudy and MP Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan laid the foundation stone of the country's biggest Global Skill Park in Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh. The government has allocated 37 acre land in Narela Shankari area of Bhopal for the Global Skill Park.



The park will be constructed at a cost of 645 crore rupees with the support of Singapore's Institute of Technical Education and Education Services (ITEES).

8. India Signed 7 Agreements with Israel

India and Israel signed seven agreements to increase cooperation in key sectors like space, agriculture and water conservation after Prime Minister Narendra Modi held in-depth talks with his Israeli counterpart Benjamin Netanyahu.

- A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed for setting up of USD 40 million worth India-Israel Industrial Research and Development (R&D) and Technical Innovation Fund.
- MoU for Water Conservation in India
- MoU on State Water Utility Reform in India



- India-Israel Development Cooperation - three year Work Program in Agriculture 2018-2020
- Plan for Cooperation in Atomic Clocks
- MoU regarding cooperation in GEO-LEO Optical Link
- MoU regarding cooperation in Electrical Propulsion for Small Satellites

9. 10th Session of the India- Jordan Trade and Economic Joint Committee (TEJC)

The 10TH India-Jordan Trade and Economic Joint Committee (TEJC) Meeting was held in New Delhi on 4th and 5th July, 2017. The two countries emphasized the need for diversification of bilateral trade and deepening their engagements for greater cooperation in investment sector.

During the TEJC meeting, the two sides also reaffirmed their mutual interest and discussed the roadmap for cooperation in various fields such as Fertilizer Sector, Customs, Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement, Visa and Consular issues, Health and Pharmaceuticals, Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises, Maritime Transport, Rail Transport, and Air Transport, Renewable Energy, Agriculture sector etc.



10. MERIT app and e-Bidding portal launched

Union Minister of State for Power, Coal, New & Renewable Energy and Mines, Shri Piyush Goyal launched 'MERIT app (Merit Order Despatch of Electricity for Rejuvenation of Income and Transparency - <http://meritindia.in/>)' and the e-bidding portal for providing e-Bidding solution to States to select Independent Power Producers (IPPs) for procurement of power by transferring their domestic coal under the scheme of flexibility in utilization of domestic coal.

The app displays extensive array of information regarding the merit order such as daily state-wise marginal variable costs of all generators, daily source-wise power purchases of respective states.



11. India declared itself free from Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza

India had reported outbreaks of Highly Pathogenic Avian influenza at various epicenters in Delhi, Gwalior (MP), Rajpura (Punjab), Hissar (Haryana), Bellary (Karnataka), Allappuzha and Kottayam (Kerala), Ahmedabad (Gujarat), Daman (Daman) and Khordha and Angul.



All the outbreaks of Avian Influenza (HPAI) mentioned above were notified to OIE and the control and containment operations were carried out as per the Action Plan on Preparedness, Control and Containment of Avian Influenza. In view of the above, India has declared itself free from Avian Influenza (H5N8 and H5N1) from 6th June, 2017 and notified the same to OIE.

12. “JIGYASA” - Student-Scientist connect programme launched

Jigyasa, a student- scientist connect programme was officially launched in Delhi. The focus is on connecting school students and scientists so as to extend student’s classroom learning with that of a very well planned research laboratory based learning.



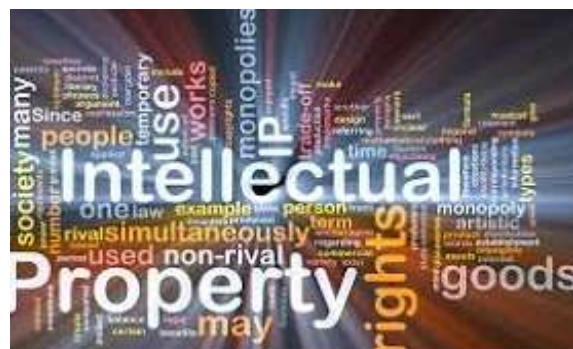
The “JIGYASA” would inculcate the culture of inquisitiveness on one hand and scientific temper on the other, amongst the school students and their teachers.

The Programme is expected to connect 1151 Kendriya Vidyalayas with 38 National Laboratories of CSIR targeting 100,000 students and nearly 1000 teachers annually.

The program will also enable the students and teachers to practically live the theoretical concepts taught in science by visiting CSIR laboratories and by participating in mini-science projects.

13. Scheme for IPR Awareness – Creative India; Innovative India launched

Taking forward the National Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) Policy 2016, a ‘Scheme for IPR Awareness – Creative India; Innovative India’ has been launched by Cell for IPR Promotion and Management (CIPAM) under the aegis of the Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion.



The Scheme for IPR Awareness aims to conduct over 4000 IPR awareness workshops/seminars in academic institutions (schools and colleges) and the industry, including MSMEs and Startups, as also IP training and sensitization programmes for

enforcement agencies and the judiciary. The Scheme for IPR Awareness would be implemented through partner organizations to promote innovation and entrepreneurship.

14. NSG organised first International Aviation Security seminar

National Security Guard (NSG) organised the seminar, with the aim of bringing all major stakeholders under one roof and facilitate them sharing views/opinion, discussions, brain storming with the matters concerning Aviation Security.

Prominent personalities/speakers from various organizations/aviation sector delivered lectures and shared valuable views on the matter of aviation security.

Weapons and equipment were also displayed showcasing the current weapons and systems used by the forces and cutting edge systems considered for future planning. The Minister of State for Civil Aviation Shri Jayant Sinha addressed the seminar.



15. First Edition of WINGS 2017 hosted in Delhi

The First edition of WINGS 2017 – “Sab Uden, Sab Juden”- Expanding Regional Connectivity was hosted in New Delhi by the Ministry of Civil Aviation. Around 338 delegates from Government and Civil Aviation sector participated in the first edition of WINGS-2017.

The event saw participation from 28 States and Union Territories and out of this 19 states and Union Territory made presentation emphasizing the incentives or special packages to the airlines other than the support offered by Government of India under RCS- UDAN.

The States enthusiastically capitalized upon the unique platform provided by the ministry.



16. Finance Minister Shri Arun Jaitley launched a Mobile App “GST Rates Finder”

The Union Finance Minister Shri Arun Jaitley launched a mobile app “GST Rates Finder”. This Mobile app helps users find rates of GST for various goods and services. The user can determine the GST rate for a good or a service by entering the name or Chapter heading of the commodity or service.

These initiatives are aimed to serve as a ready reckoner on GST rates. This will empower not only the taxpayers, but every citizen of the nation, to ascertain the correct GST rate on goods and services. CBEC has also provided a GST rate finder on its portal cbec-gst.gov.in.



17. Shri Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi inaugurated first Gharib Nawaz Skill Development Centre in Hyderabad

The Minister of State for Minority Affairs Gharib Nawaz Skill Development Centre at Hyderabad. Gharib Nawaz Skill Development Centres of Ministry of Minority Affairs will also offer certificate course in Goods and Services Tax accounting/programming and other related subjects.



Gharib Nawaz Skill Development Centres will be established in 100 Districts of the country. These centers will prove to be “centres of empowerment” of Minority youths.

The Minority Affairs Ministry has launched Gharib Nawaz Skill Development Training for Minorities for providing short term job oriented skill development course for youths belonging to minority communities.

18. President of India inaugurated ‘Ashiana Annexe’ in Dehradun

The President of India, Shri Pranab Mukherjee inaugurated the ‘Ashiana Annexe’ in Dehradun, Uttarakhand, which comprises of twelve low cost dwelling units constructed to accommodate officers and staff of Rashtrapati Bhavan during Presidential visits to the Retreat at ‘Ashiana’.



These dwelling units have been constructed using the Habitech-NivaraTantra - Onsite Sanitation Integrated Community Housing Technology Innovations developed at the Asian Institute of Technology (AIT).

Other salient features of these dwelling units are that they are disaster resilient, sustainable and cost effective.

19. FM launched a new tax payer service module ‘Aaykar Setu’

A new tax payer service module ‘Aaykar Setu’, was launched by the Union Finance Minister, Shri Arun Jaitley. This e-initiative would help in reducing physical interface between assesses and tax assessing authorities and thereby minimizing the chances of any tax harassment.



The new step is an effort by the Income Tax Department (ITD) to directly communicate with the taxpayers, on a range of multiple informative and useful tax services aimed at providing tax information at their fingertips. The Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) constantly endeavours to provide better taxpayer services and reduce taxpayer grievances.

20. Ministry of Health signed MoU with Government of West Bengal

Ministry of Health and Family Welfare signed a MoU with Government of West Bengal to formalize its support to set up a state-of-the-art Centre of Excellence in Transfusion Medicine at Kolkata.

Government of India has approved this important initiative with an outlay of approximately Rs.200 Crores towards equipment, manpower and running costs.



The move intends to strengthen the blood transfusion services in the State and the surrounding region. Metro Blood Bank Project is conceived to be a Central Sector Scheme to set up state-of-the-art Centres of Excellence in the four metro cities of Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai and Kolkata.

21. Shri J P Nadda launched new family planning initiatives on World Population Day

Shri J P Nadda launched new family planning initiatives on World Population Day called as 'Mission Parivar Vikas'. "Mission Parivar Vikas will focus on 146 high fertility districts in 7 states with high TFR. Under this, specific targeted initiatives shall be taken for population stabilisation through better services delivery".



Mission Parivar Vikas is a new initiative conceived by the Ministry with a strategic focus on improving access through provision of services, promotional schemes, commodity security, capacity building, enabling environment and intensive monitoring. Shri Nadda congratulated the team for undertaking micro-planning for these districts and developing need-based programmes to address TFR.

22. Railways launched RailCloud to enable faster connectivity at reduced cost

Railways launched RailCloud, a virtual server with an inbuilt security system that will enable faster connectivity at a reduced cost. Cloud computing is an emerging technology for faster and on demand commensurate deployment of server resources which results in reduced cost.

The technology enables maximising the usage of available server and storage resulting in accommodation of bigger data and more applications within same server space. He said, currently all IT applications have separate servers which increase the cost of operations and purchases.



23. India advanced its target of eliminating malaria by three years to 2027

India has advanced its target of eliminating malaria by three years to 2027. Earlier the target was 2030. In its efforts to eliminate the disease, Health Ministry launched the National Strategic Plan for Malaria Elimination in the country.

Efforts will be made to create awareness among the people, checking breeding of mosquitoes and improving health facilities. Long Lasting Insecticidal (LLI) nets are being used in controlling malaria from past three years.

The five-year plan will focus at district level to strengthen the strategy to eliminate the disease.



24. Cabinet approved MoU between India & Palestine on cooperation in field of Health & Medicine

Union Cabinet gave its ex-post facto approval for signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between India and Palestine on cooperation in the field of Health and Medicine. It will cover capacity building of health staff, prevention and control of communicable diseases, physiotherapy and rehabilitation and drugs, pharmaceuticals and medical equipment.

The Cabinet was apprised of the MoU between India and Palestine on Cooperation in the field of Information Technology and Electronics. The MoU intends to promote closer co-operation in the areas of e-Governance, m-Governance, e-Public Services Delivery, cyber security, software technology parks and start-ups ecosystem.



25. India to host next edition of Theatre Olympics

India will host next edition of Theatre Olympics, the biggest theatre celebration of the world. The eight edition of the greatest carnival will start from February 17-April 08, 2018. The Theatre Olympics will put India firmly among the top nations in the world theatre map.

The Theatre Olympics will take place simultaneously in various cities across the country. There will be five hundred plays and seven hundred ambient performances from across the world. Established in 1993, the



Theatre Olympics is the foremost international theatre festival, presenting the finest productions of well-known theatre practitioners from around the world.

26. Urban development & housing ministry merged as MoHUA

Government merged the urban development and housing and urban poverty alleviation ministries and together termed as Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA).

Mr Venkaiah Naidu will chair the ministries of urban development, and housing and urban poverty alleviation.

It has been for the third time that the ministries have been merged. In January, a group of secretaries proposed the merger of urban development with housing and bringing department of pharmaceuticals under the health ministry, for which former has been executed.



The group had also suggested the measures to corporatize the Central Public Works Department.

27. Government to conduct global food fair in November 2017

Minister of Food Processing Industries announced that India will conduct World Food India 2017 during 3 – 5 November 2017, in New Delhi, where all small, big and multinational companies from world over would represent and meet Indian potential companies to partner with.



All raw produce and processed food shall be showcased. It will be organized by Food Processing Ministry, where industry body CII will be an event partner.

It is aimed at creating India a 'Global Food Factory' and 'Global Food Retail Market'. The event will focus on showcasing achievements and opportunities of the Indian Food Processing Sector.

28. Cabinet approved establishment of the IRRI ISARC and NSRTC

The Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi approved the establishment of the International Rice Research Institute (IRRI), South Asia Regional Center (ISARC) at campus of National Seed Research and Training Center (NSRTC) in Varanasi.



Under the proposal, a Centre of Excellence in Rice Value Addition (CERVA) will be set up in

Varanasi. This will include a modern and sophisticated laboratory with capacity to determine quality and status of heavy metals in grain and straw. The Centre will also undertake capacity building exercises for stakeholders across the rice value chain.

29. Cabinet approved Joint Declaration of Intent (JDI) between India and Germany

The Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has given its ex-post facto approval for signing a Joint Declaration of Intent (JDI) between India and Germany on cooperation in the field of Health.



The JDI covers the following areas of cooperation:

- postgraduate education;
- training of medical personnel;
- pharmaceuticals and pharmacoeconomics; and
- health economics.

A Working Group will be set up to further elaborate the details of cooperation and to oversee the implementation of this JDI.

30. Cabinet approved Joint Interpretative Notes on the Agreement between India and Bangladesh

The Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has given its approval for the Joint Interpretative Notes (JIN) on the Agreement between India and Bangladesh for the Promotion and Protection of Investments.



The JIN would impart clarity to the interpretation of the existing Agreement between India and Bangladesh for the Promotion and Protection of Investments (BIPA).

The JIN includes interpretative notes to be jointly adopted for many clauses, including, the definition of investor, definition of investment, exclusion of taxation measures, Fair and Equitable Treatment (FET), National Treatment (NT) and Most Favoured Nation (MFN) treatment.

31. Cabinet approved SASEC Road Connectivity Investment Program

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has given its approval for upgradation and widening of 65 kms of Imphal-Moreh Section of NH-39 in Manipur at a cost of Rs. 1630.29 crores.

The project is being developed with ADB's loan assistance under the South Asian Sub-Regional Economic Cooperation (SASEC) Road Connectivity Investment Program which aims at upgradation of road infrastructure in Bangladesh, Bhutan, Nepal and India (BBIN) in order to improve the regional connectivity among BBIN nations.



32. Minister of Railways launched various Railway initiatives

Minister of Railways launched the following Initiatives:

- RAIL CLOUD PROJECT-To achieve the goal of single digital platform for IR a few foundational projects need to be implemented first, establishment of RailCloud is one such project.
- NIVARAN-Grievance Portal (First IT Application on Rail Cloud)- 'NIVARAN-Grievance Portal' is the first IT application to be launched on the RailCloud.
- Cashless treatment Scheme -To provide immediate care to its retired employees in 'Golden Hour' Railway Board has decided to roll out a "Cashless treatment Scheme in Emergency' (CTSE), in empanelled hospitals, for retired employees and their dependent family members.



33. Nationwide ban on nylon and synthetic manja

National Green Tribunal directed the state governments to prohibit the "manufacture, sale, storage, purchase and use" of synthetic manja or nylon threads and all other synthetic strings used for flying kites on the grounds that it poses threat to life and environment.

National Green Tribunal, under the chairmanship of Justice Swatanter Kumar, ordered the authorities to ban import of any synthetic manja.

It has also been reported by PETA that minor children engaged in manufacture of 'manja' suffered from respiratory problems as they inhaled harmful substances and thus manja should be banned.



34. Venkaiah Naidu launched revamped NHB RESIDEX

The revamped and expanded official online user friendly NHB RESIDEX that captures movements in the prices of residential real estate prices was released by Venkatesh Naidu.

NHB RESIDEX for January-March,2017 revealed that price indices for residential properties based on actual market prices for ongoing construction prices have increased over the previous quarter in 24 of the 47 cities.



RESIDEX, the country's first official housing price index (HPI) was launched in 2007. NHB RESIDEX helps buyers and sellers to check and compare prices before entering a transaction.

35. Government sets up new wing to provide intelligence inputs

The government has set up a new wing, Directorate General of Analytics and Risk Management, DGARM, to provide intelligence inputs and do big data analytics for taxmen for better policy formulation and taking action against tax evaders.



The DGARM will function as an apex body of CBEC for data analytics and risk management and will report to the CBEC Chairman.

The DGARM will utilize internal and external data sources for detailed data mining and analysis to generate outputs for focused and targeted action by field formations and investigation wings of the CBEC.

36. DIPP to set up India's first TISC in Punjab

The Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion (DIPP), Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Government of India, signed an Institutional agreement with the Punjab State Council of Science and Technology in New Delhi to establish India's first Technology and Innovation Support Center (TISC) at Patent Information Centre, Punjab, under the World Intellectual Property Organization's (WIPO) TISC program.



The objective of the TISC is to stimulate a dynamic, vibrant and balanced Intellectual Property Rights (IPRs) system in India to foster creativity and innovation, thereby promoting entrepreneurship and enhancing social, economic and cultural development by establishing a network of TISCs in India.

37. Centre to set up high-power committee to review Employees' Pension Scheme-1995

The Centre will set up a high-power committee to review the Employees' Pension Scheme-1995. The committee will look into all the aspects of the scheme and accordingly the government will revamp it.

The government has also decided to extend the coverage of medical benefit scheme to all the pensioners through Employees State Insurance Corporation.

The government is also implementing new Pradhan Mantri Rojgar Protsahan Yojana with the objective of promoting employment generation and one thousand crore rupees have been allocated for this scheme.



38. India's first high-speed rail training centre to come up in Gujarat

The first high-speed rail training centre of India will be set up at Gandhinagar in Gujarat. The training centre is being constructed over railway land measuring 4,400 metres. The estimated cost of the project is Rs 600 crore.

The training centre will have a sample track fitted with the overhead electrical systems to enable testing of bullet trains that will run on the Mumbai-Ahmedabad route. The Managing Director of National High Speed Rail Corporation (NHSRC) is Achal Khare.



39. Green Tribunal declared 100m from the edge of Ganga as “No Development Zone”

The National Green Tribunal has declared an area of 100 metres from the edge of the Ganga between Haridwar and Unnao as a “No Development Zone”. No-development zones are zones where no construction, including commercial or residential buildings, can come up.

The NGT has also prohibited dumping of waste within 500 metres of the river. People dumping waste in the Ganga will be liable to pay Rs 50,000 in environmental damages.



40. Income Tax Department pushed additional cases in 2nd phase of Operation Clean Money

The Income Tax Department has used information received under the Statement of Financial Transactions (SFT) to identify 5.56 lakh new persons in the second phase of "Operation Clean Money".

These are the persons whose tax profiles were found to be inconsistent with the cash deposits made by them during the demonetization period.

Another 1.04 lakh persons who did not disclose all bank accounts during e-verification in the first phase have also been identified.

In the first phase, 17.92 Lakh persons had been identified for e-verification of large cash deposits, of which 9.72 Lakh people had submitted online response.



41. Third Meeting of the Governing Council of National Investment and Infrastructure Fund held

The 3rd Meeting of the Governing Council of the "National Investment and Infrastructure Fund (NIIF)" was held under the Chairmanship of the Union Finance Minister, Shri Arun Jaitley where in the Finance Minister reviewed the performance of NIIF so far and action taken by it in order to attract investment from foreign Sovereign Wealth Funds among others in the infrastructure sector in the country.



The Governing Council expressed its desire for NIIF to function as a major platform in India, to leverage and attract overseas long-term investments in various infrastructure sectors in the Country.

42. New Integrated Mobile App "Rail Saarthi" launched

Minister of Railways Shri Suresh Prabhakar Prabhu launched Integrated Mobile Application for passengers. Integrated App Rail Saarthi will be convenient for the users, as all the social media channels are on one platform.

In order to provide better customer experience, there is a need for an integrated application which will give a single window interface for these services.

8 apps will become available in the new Integrated Mobile App 'RAIL SAARTHI'. 8 apps are IRCTC Rail Connect, IRCTC Air, IRCTC Tourism, IRCTC Food-On-Track, UTS, COMS, COACH MITRA and NTES.



43. Ministry of Water Resources inked MoU with Ministry of Skill Development

Union Ministry for Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation inked MoU with Union Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship for the success of Namami Gange programme in New Delhi.

The MoU intends to develop skilled manpower for laying sewerage pipeline, plumbing works, construction of toilets, civil masonry works, waste collection and its disposal activities.



As per the MoU the Ministry of Water Resource, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation shall develop the market for reuse/recycle of treated wastewater to be released from STP/ETPs for various non-potable purposes. The MoU will remain in effect for a period of three years.

44. Railways Min dedicated India's first solar powered DEMU train to nation

Railways Minister Suresh Prabhu dedicated India's first solar powered DEMU train to the nation at an event in New Delhi. The 1600 Horse Power train with solar powered coaches has special battery bank for use during night hours.

The train will run from Sarai Rohilla in Delhi to Farukh Nagar in Haryana. It is a path breaking leap towards making Indian Railways greener and more environment friendly.



The train will save about 21,000 Litres of Diesel and thereby bring cost saving of 12 Lakh rupees per year.

45. BRPL and TERI inked MoU for solar rooftops, e-vehicles

In order to provide smart grid technologies and better energy efficiency for solar rooftop, electric vehicles, energy storage systems, BSES Rajdhani Power Ltd (BRPL) and The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI) signed MoU for a period of 2 years.

This will not only explore newer collaboration opportunities in the domain of emerging technologies but also provide impetus in rooftop PV sector in NCT of Delhi by mitigating challenges faced by discoms.



BRPL has installed 8 MW solar rooftop in its licenses area and estimates addition of another 20 mw during 2017-18.

46. National Cooperative Development Corporation released Rs 28771.31 crore for 2014-17

National Cooperative Development Corporations provided assistance to the cooperatives for their overall development, which includes grants and loans from the Government. In Gujarat, financial assistance has been provided for the computerization of dairies, storage and cold storage cooperatives as well as sugar, textile and consumer cooperatives.



Under these schemes, Rs.663.23 crore has been approved during the year 2014-2015, 2015-16 and 2016-17; and Rs.133.45 crore, Rs.272.97 crore and Rs.424.04 crore were released respectively.

NDA Government increased the grant by 89.98% and released Rs.28117.31 crore during the three years (2014-17).

47. NDMC seeks control over Central Vista for smart management

NDMC Chairman requested the Ministry of HUA to transfer 'Central Vista' to the Council for smart redesign and management.



New Delhi Municipal Council (NDMC) has been asked by the Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs to ensure completion of smart city projects ahead of time so as to lead by example in smart city making across the country.

Timelines for the same have been fixed at a two-hour review of implementation of NDMC's Smart City Plan. Most of the projects getting into implementation mode will be finished by 2020.

48. Cabinet approved sale of Govt's stake in Hindustan Petroleum to ONGC

Union Cabinet approved sale of government's stake in Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd (HPCL) to Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC). It will fetch 30 thousand crore rupees.



The ONGC will buy government's 51.11% stake in HPCL but will not have to make an open offer as the government's holding is being transferred to another state-run firm and the ownership is not changing. The HPCL will become a subsidiary of ONGC and will

remain a listed company post acquisition. The board of the refining and marketing company will continue to remain in place.

49. Lok Sabha passed IIIT Public Private Partnership Bill 2017

The Lok Sabha has passed the IIIT Public Private Partnership Bill 2017. The Bill provides to establish 20 IIITs under Public Private Partnership mode across the country and authorise them to award degrees to the students.



The Bill intends to address the challenges faced by the Indian information technology industry and growth of the domestic information technology market.

At present, there are fifteen functional Indian Institutes of Information Technology in public-private partnership mode, which are proposed to be declared as Institutes of national importance under the Bill.

50. Cabinet approved signing of MoC in respect of tax matters between India and BRICS nations

Union Cabinet has given its approval for the signing of Memorandum of Cooperation (MoC) in respect of tax matters between India and BRICS countries, Brazil, Russia, China and South Africa.



The MoC aims at promoting cooperation amongst the BRICS Revenue administrations in international forum on common areas of interest in tax matters and in the area of capacity building and knowledge sharing. It also accords confidentiality and protection to information exchanged under the MoC.

51. Cabinet approved implementation strategy for both phase of Bharat Net project

Union Cabinet has approved the implementation strategy for phase one and two of Bharat Net project.



The project aims at providing broadband connectivity to over 2.5 lakh Gram Panchayats by the end of 2018. The ambitious digital connectivity project is unique in many of its dimensions and will provide reliable and quality broadband connectivity to rural areas. The

Cabinet approval entailed a total estimated expenditure of Rs 42,068 crore for the implementation of BharatNet, which will be funded from Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF).

52. Cabinet apprised of MoU between India and Netherlands on cooperation in space technology

The Union Cabinet has been apprised of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between India and Netherlands on cooperation in the exploration and uses of outer space for peaceful purposes. The MoU was signed on May 11 & 22, 2017 at Bangalore and The Hague respectively.



The MoU shall enable the following areas of cooperation such as, space science, technology and applications including remote sensing of the earth; satellite communication and satellite based navigation; Space science and planetary exploration; use of spacecraft and space systems and ground system; and application of space technology.

53. Cabinet approved IRDAI's admission as a signatory to International Association of Insurance Supervisors (IAIS)

The Union Cabinet has given its ex-post facto approval for IRDAI's admission as a signatory to International Association of Insurance Supervisors (IAIS), Multilateral Memorandum of Understanding (MMoU).



The International Association of Insurance Supervisors is a global framework for cooperation and information exchange between insurance supervisors.

International Association of Insurance Supervisors, Multilateral Memorandum of Understanding is a statement of its signatories' intent to cooperate in the Field of information exchange as well as procedure for handling information requests.

54. Inland Waterways Authority of India to Raise Rs 660 cr through Bonds

The Union Cabinet has approved the Revalidation of permission to raise Extra Budgetary Resource (EBRs) of Rs. 660 crore as Government of India Bonds by Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI) in 2017-18.

The proceeds from the bonds will be utilized by IWAI for development and maintenance of National Waterways (NWs) under National Waterways Act, 2016 (effective from 12.4.2016). Funds received through issue of bonds will be used exclusively for capital expenditure to improve infrastructure funding.



55. Cabinet approved Central Goods and Services Tax (Amendment) Bill, 2017

The Union Cabinet has given its ex-post facto approval for the promulgation of the Central Goods and Services Tax (Extension to Jammu & Kashmir) Ordinance, 2017 and replacement of the Ordinance by the Central Goods and Services Tax (Amendment) Bill, 2017.

The Ordinance has extended the provisions of the Central Goods and Services Tax Act, 2017 referred to as (CGST Act) to the State of Jammu & Kashmir. The Ordinance has been promulgated on 8th July, 2017 and the Central Goods and Services Tax (Amendment) Bill, 2017 will be tabled in the current session of the Parliament.



56. Cabinet approved Integrated Goods and Services Tax (Amendment) Bill, 2017

The Union Cabinet has given its ex-post facto approval for the promulgation of the Integrated Goods and Services Tax (Extension to Jammu & Kashmir) Ordinance, 2017 and replacement of the Ordinance by the Integrated Goods and Services Tax (Amendment) Bill, 2017.

The Ordinance has extended the provisions of the Integrated Goods and Services Tax Act, 2017 referred to as (IGST Act) to the State of Jammu & Kashmir. The Ordinance has been promulgated on 8th July, 2017 and the Integrated Goods and Services Tax (Amendment) Bill, 2017 will be tabled in the current session of the Parliament.



57. Cabinet approved revision of Indian Community Welfare Fund guidelines

The Union Cabinet has approved revision of the Indian Community Welfare Fund (ICWF) guidelines. ICWF, set up in 2009, is aimed at assisting Overseas Indian nationals in times of distress and emergency in the most deserving cases on a means tested basis.



The guidelines would cover three key areas namely Assisting Overseas Indian nationals in distress situations, Community Welfare activities and Improvement in Consular services. They are expected to provide Indian Missions and Posts abroad greater flexibility in swiftly addressing to requests for assistance by Overseas Indian nationals.

58. Cabinet approved alternative mechanism for creation and launch of a New Exchange Traded Fund

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs has authorized the Alternative Mechanism on the following:

- To take decision for divestment through Exchange Traded Fund (ETF) out of all the listed CPSEs including CPSEs listed subsequently subject to GoI retaining 51% in these CPSEs;
- To take decision on the divestment in respect of Public Sector Banks, other listed Public Sector Financial Institutions and Public Sector Insurance Companies (when listed) through ETF or other methods subject to GoI retaining 52%; and
- To take decision on matters related to divestment through ETF like constitution of ETF portfolio

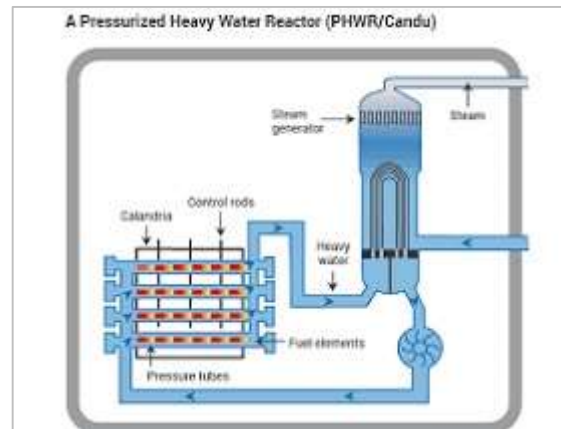


59. Construction of New Pressurized Heavy Water Reactors (PHWRs)

The Government has accorded administrative approval and financial sanction for construction of 10 indigenous 700 MW Pressurized Heavy Water Reactors (PHWRs) in fleet mode.

The reactors are planned at Kaiga, Karnataka (Kaiga-5&6), Gorakhpur, Haryana (GHAVP-3&4), Chutka, Madhya Pradesh (Chutka-1&2) and Mahi Banswara, Rajasthan (Units-1 to 4).

The total cost of setting up the ten reactors is estimated at Rs.1,05,000 crore. The details of power to be generated by these projects, State/UT -wise are as follows:



State	Project	Capacity (MW)
Karnataka	Kaiga 5&6	2 X 700
Haryana	GHAVP 3&4	2 X 700
Madhya Pradesh	Chutka 1&2	2 X 700
Rajasthan	Mahi Banswara 1 to 4	4 X 700

60. Development of Vizag-Chennai Industrial Corridor

Government of India gave its concurrence for engaging Asian Development Bank (ADB) for carrying out feasibility study and preparing the Conceptual Development Plan (CDP) for East Coast Economic Corridor (ECEC) linking Kolkata in East through Chennai to Tuticorin in South in a phased manner in May, 2014.

In the first phase, Vizag-Chennai Industrial Corridor (VCIC) segment of ECEC was taken up. Government of Andhra Pradesh (GoAP) is implementing the project. In September 2016, ADB approved US \$631 million (loans and grants) for VCIC. GoAP is to provide Counterpart funding of US \$215 million.



61. Mahila Coir Yojana (MCY)

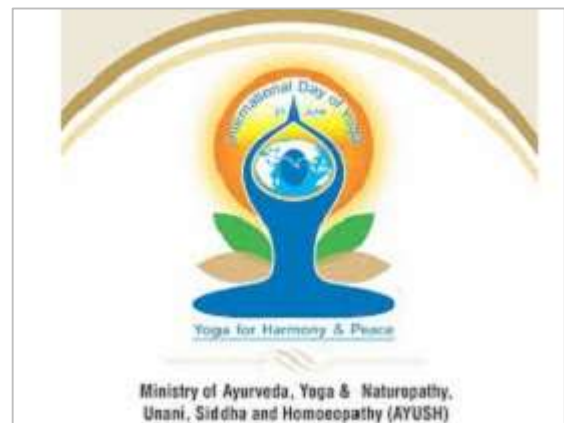
Ministry of MSME through Coir Board is implementing the Mahila Coir Yojana (MCY) scheme which is exclusively for rural women. Under MCY, training is given in spinning of coir yarn/various coir processing activities to rural women in regions producing coir fibre in the country, through all training centres of the Coir Board.



The scheme envisages distribution of motorized ratts/motorized traditional ratts and other coir processing equipments at 75% subsidy subject to a maximum of Rs. 7500 to set up their coir unit which can be operated by women after completion of the 2 months training programme. During the training period, the women artisans are given stipend.

62. National Board for Promotion and Development of Yoga and Naturopathy constituted

The Ministry of AYUSH has constituted a National Board for Promotion and Development of Yoga & Naturopathy (NBPdyn) for regulation of education & practice of Yoga & Naturopathy.



Also, Ministry of AYUSH has in association with Quality Council of India (QCI) has developed a scheme for voluntary certification of Yoga professionals. Also, under the centrally sponsored scheme of National AYUSH Mission, as many as 25 'fifty-bedded' integrated AYUSH hospitals with an outlay of Rs 145 crore were approved in 2016-17.

63. National Bamboo Mission renamed as National Agro-Forestry & Bamboo Mission (NABM)

National Bamboo Mission has been renamed as National Agro-Forestry & Bamboo Mission (NABM). It is being implemented as per the set objectives and targets of the Mission.



As per available reports 3,61,791 ha. area have been covered in forest & non-forest land, 91,715 ha. area taken up for improvement of existing stock for higher productivity (forest & non-forest areas) under the Mission against targets of 3,62,848 ha., 69,410 ha. respectively.

Under the Mission, 108 nos. of markets (Bamboo wholesale & retail markets near villages, etc.) have been established for providing marketing avenues to bamboo farmers for their raw bamboo as well as finished products.

64. 455 markets from 13 States have been integrated to e-NAM

585 markets across the country are targeted for integration to e-NAM by March, 2018, out of which 455 markets from 13 States have been integrated so far.

For this purpose, financial assistance of Rs. 30 lakh per market is given. This has been increased to Rs.75 lakhs per mandi in Union Budget for 2017-18. The details are given below:



List of markets integrated with e-NAM:

Sl. No	State	Total number of markets integrated
1	Andhra Pradesh	22
2	Chhattisgarh	14
3	Gujarat	40
4	Haryana	54
5	Himachal Pradesh	19
6	Jharkhand	19
7	Madhya Pradesh	58
8	Maharashtra	45
9	Odisha	10
10	Rajasthan	25
11	Telangana	44
12	Uttar Pradesh	100
13	Uttarakhand	05
	Total	455

65. Rs. 834.71 crores have been allocated for NFSM-Pulses

For the year 2017-18, an amount of Rs.1720.00 crores (Government of India Share) has been earmarked for National Food Security Mission (NFSM), out of which an amount of Rs 834.71 crores has been allocated, so far, for NFSM-Pulses to States for increasing the production of pulses in the country. An amount of Rs.169.28 crores has been released so far to States for implementation of the pulses programme.



In order to create awareness among the farming community with regard to cultivation of pulses, Government of India has been taking steps like organization of cluster/cropping system based demonstrations on latest crop production technology, cropping system based training, etc. through State Governments and Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR).

66. mAadhaar app launched by UIDAI

The Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) has launched the mAadhaar app for syncing Aadhaar data on the mobile phone. The app is currently available on Android platform only.

mAadhaar app will help carry Aadhaar information on smartphone, like name, address, DOB, photograph which are linked with your unique Aadhaar Card. The app will let users share their Aadhaar profile and data with third-party applications via NFC, QR codes, barcodes or even email their details.



67. India-Japan agreement on peaceful uses of N-energy comes into force

India-Japan agreement for Cooperation in the Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy has come into force. Foreign Secretary S Jaishankar and Ambassador of Japan to India Mr. Kenji Hiramatsu exchanged diplomatic notes in this regard.

The agreement was signed on 11th November 2016 in Tokyo during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Japan. The agreement seeks to promote full cooperation between the two countries in the development and uses of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes on a stable, reliable and predictable basis.



68. Construction of Greenfield Airports

Government of India (GoI), Ministry of Civil Aviation (MoCA) has granted 'in principle' approval for setting up of 18 Greenfield Airports in the country.

The list of these airports along with the estimated cost is as under:

- Mopa in Goa (approx. Rs. 3100 cr)
- Navi Mumbai (approx. Rs. 16704 cr)
- Shirdi (approx. Rs. 320.54 cr) and Sindhudurg (approx. Rs. 520 cr) in Maharashtra
- Bijapur (approx. Rs. 150 cr), Gulbarga (approx. Rs. 13.78 cr in initial phase), Hasan (approx. Rs. 592 cr) and Shimoga (approx. Rs. 38.91 cr) in Karnataka
- Kannur in Kerala (approx. Rs. 1892 cr)
- Durgapur in West Bengal (approx. Rs. 670 cr)
- Dabra in Madhya Pradesh (approx. Rs. 200 cr)
- Pakyong in Sikkim (approx. Rs. 553.53 cr)
- Karaikal in Puducherry (approx. Rs.170 cr)
- Kushinagar in Uttar Pradesh (approx. Rs. 448 cr)
- Dholera in Gujarat (approx. Rs. 1712 cr)
- Dagadarthi Mendal, Nellore Dist. (approx. Rs. 293 cr)
- Bhogapuram in Vizianagaram District near Visakhapatnam (approx. Rs. 2260 cr)
- Oravakallu in Kurnool District (approx. Rs. 200 cr), Andhra Pradesh



69. FM launched Pradhan Mantri Vaya Vandana Yojana (PMVVY)

Finance Minister Arun Jaitley has formally launched the Pradhan Mantri Vaya Vandana Yojana (PMVVY). PMVVY is a Pension Scheme announced by the Government of India exclusively for the senior citizens available from 4th May, 2017 to 3rd May, 2018.

The Scheme can be purchased offline as well as online through Life Insurance Corporation (LIC) of India which has been given the sole privilege to operate this Scheme.

Scheme provides an assured return of 8% p.a. payable monthly (equivalent to 8.30% p.a. effective) for 10 years. Pension is payable at



the end of each period, during the policy term of 10 years, as per the frequency of monthly/ quarterly/ half-yearly/ yearly as chosen by the pensioner at the time of purchase.

70. Rs 19,000 crores invested on National Highways in the North East

An investment of Rs 14,916 crore under the Special Accelerated Road Development Programme for North East (SARDP-NE) and Rs 4,095 crore under National Highway (Original) were made during the last two years for strengthening the road infrastructure in the north eastern region of the country.



The roads under SARDP-NE were approved by the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs while the development of highways under NH (O) are taken up on the basis of inter-se priority, traffic volume and availability of funds.

71. Ministry of Rural Development to launch Aajeevika Grameen Express Yojana

The Ministry of Rural Development will launch a new sub-scheme under Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana – National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM) which will be named as “Aajeevika Grameen Express Yojana (AGEY)”.



The main objectives of AGEY are to provide an alternative source of livelihoods to members of Self Help Groups (SHGs) under DAY-NRLM by facilitating them to operate public transport services in backward rural areas.

The sub-scheme will be implemented in 250 blocks in the country on a pilot basis for a period of 3 years from 2017-18 to 2019-20.

72. Union Steel Minister launched dedicated E-Portal for online sales of steel products in NER

Union Steel Minister Shri Birender Singh launched a dedicated e-portal for online sales of steel products by RINL through MSTC Metal Mandi, in North Eastern Region.



The portal provides information regarding the different products available, their specifications, pricing, etc. Delivery at the doorstep is one of the attractive features of this initiative. The entire process is transparent and the interaction is enabled by a user-friendly interface.

Sale through the web is enquiry based system, where the registered buyer shall be sending the enquiry for its requirement of steel (mainly TMT Rebars & Structural products) through the portal. On receipt of the enquiry RINL shall take further action to execute the sale.

73. Centre accepted proposal to set up Aerospace University

The Union Government has accepted a proposal to set up an Aerospace University in the country. A high-powered Expert Group headed by former Cabinet Secretary B.K. Chaturvedi has made the recommendation. The detailed project report on setting up the proposed Aerospace University has been approved.



Aerospace engineering is the primary field of engineering concerned with the development of aircraft and spacecraft. Aerospace engineering, particularly the astronautics branch, is often referred to as "rocket science".

74. India to host 5th Global Conference on Cyber Space in Nov 2017

India will be hosting the 5th Global Conference on Cyber Space (GCCS) in November 2017. It is one of the world's Largest conference on Cyber Space and related issues.



The theme of the conference will be Cyber for all: An Inclusive, Sustainable, Developmental, Safe and Secure Cyberspace. The GCCS is a prestigious international conference that aims at encouraging dialogue among stakeholders of cyberspace, which has been taking place since 2011. India is the 2nd Asian country, after South Korea, to organize such a conference.

75. Union Finance Minister Arun Jaitley released National Trade Facilitation Action Plan

Union Finance Minister Arun Jaitley released the National Trade Facilitation Action Plan. It aims to align border procedures with international best practices and improve Ease of Doing Business.



It would not only ensure compliance with the Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA) but would also give impetus to trade facilitation.

The national plan would be monitored by the steering committee (the operational arm of the National Committee on Trade Facilitation) chaired by the revenue secretary and the commerce secretary.

76. Lok Sabha passes The Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (Amendment) Bill, 2017

The Lok Sabha has passed The Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (Amendment) Bill, 2017. The Bill amends the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act (RTE), 2009 to extend the deadline for teachers to acquire the prescribed minimum qualifications for appointment.



Through the amending measure inadequately qualified teachers as on March 31, 2015, working after enactment of the RTE Act, 2009 are being given last chance to acquire minimum qualifications within a period of four years i.e. by March 31, 2019 to hold their jobs as teachers.

77. India, Bangladesh sign pact to connect both countries by waterways

India and Bangladesh have signed a pact to connect both the countries by waterways. The waterways will facilitate movement of passengers and goods between India's northeast and West Bengal with Bangladesh.



Infrastructure for the services would be set up along the major rivers in Bangladesh, West Bengal and Brahmaputra in Assam.

The services are expected to start by the end of 2017.

78. India extended assistance for construction of school buildings in Nepal

India has extended an assistance of over 66 million Nepalese rupees for construction of school buildings in Nepal. The assistance under the Small Development Programme Scheme is for infrastructure development for education.



According to a press release by the embassy, Indian ambassador in Nepal Manjeev Singh Puri inaugurated one of the school buildings and laid the foundation for construction of another one under the scheme.

79. Rajya Sabha passed the FDDI Bill, 2017

The Footwear Design and Development Institute (FDDI) Bill, 2017 received Parliamentary approval after the Rajya Sabha adopted it by voice vote.

The Lok Sabha passed it earlier. The Bill is aimed at establishing and declaring the FDDI as an institution of national importance for the promotion and development of quality and excellence in education, research and training in all disciplines relating to footwear and leather products, design and development.



80. Rajya Sabha passed the Admiralty Bill, 2017

Rajya Sabha has passed the Admiralty (Jurisdiction and Settlement of Maritime Claims) Bill, 2017.

The Lok Sabha passed it earlier in March. The Bill aims to establish a legal framework to consolidate the existing laws relating to admiralty jurisdiction of courts, admiralty proceedings on maritime claims, arrest of vessels and related issues while providing protection to owners, charterers, operators, crew members and seafarers at the same time.



The Bill confers admiralty jurisdiction on High Courts located in coastal states of India and this jurisdiction extends up to territorial waters.

81. Smt Maneka Sanjay Gandhi launched Sexual Harassment electronic-Box (SHe-Box)

The Minister of Women & Child Development, Smt Maneka Sanjay Gandhi launched an online complaint management system titled Sexual Harassment electronic-Box (SHe-Box) for registering complaints related to sexual harassment at workplace.

The SHe-Box portal can be accessed at: <http://www.wcd-sh.nic.in/>

The complaint management system has been developed to ensure the effective implementation of Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act (the SH Act), 2013.



82. Government sanctioned Rs 180 cr to boost tourism infrastructure in Telangana

The central government has sanctioned 180 crore rupees to boost tourism infrastructure in the newly created state of Telangana.

The union government has sanctioned 63 projects including Eco Circuit, Ramayana circuit, Coastal circuit and wildlife circuit for 5000 crore rupees under the Swadesh Darshan scheme.

The government has launched two schemes in 2014-15 Swadesh Darshan and Integrated development of theme based tourists' circuits and PRASAD (Pilgrimage Rejuvenation and Spiritual Augmentation Drive).



Under PRASAD scheme, 25 religious sites have been identified for development in the country namely including Amaravati, Ayodhya, Deoghar, Puri and Somnath among others.

83. Finance Minister Arun Jaitley introduced Banking Regulation Amendment Bill, 2017

Finance Minister Arun Jaitley introduced the Banking Regulation Amendment Bill, 2017 in the Lok Sabha seeking replacement of Ordinance promulgated in this regard in May 2017.

The object of the Amendment is speedy resolution of Non-Performing Assets in the banking system. The Banking Regulation Act, 1949 is being amended for authorising the Reserve Bank of India to issue directions to banking companies for timely resolution of stressed assets.



84. Airport Authority of India signed MoU with Govt. of Uttarakhand for aviation sector

Airports Authority of India (AAI) signed an MoU with Government of Uttarakhand and joined hands with Uttarakhand Civil Aviation Development Authority (UCADA) to develop the civil aviation sector in the state.

The scope of the MoU is to identify relevant factors influencing the development of civil aviation infrastructure in Uttarakhand, assessing commercial potential of various airports of the state, identifying technical



considerations, evaluating site related technical and engineering parameters for development of projects and making estimate of the capital outlay.

85. Mobile App for Road Maintenance “Aarambh launched

The Hon’ble Union Minister Shri Tomar and ILO Deputy Director General(Policy) International Labour Organization Ms. Deborah Greenfield, launched Mobile App for Road Maintenance “Aarambh”.

This Mobile Phone App aims at use of GIS based mapping for making road inventories, condition surveys, and producing cost estimates and other relevant data for preparation and monitoring of annual road maintenance plans.

Its usage would greatly enhance the service delivery of the state level institutions in planning and implementing performance based rural roads maintenance contracts.



This Mobile App would help improve the service delivery for road maintenance in all the States.

86. Indo-Canadian Science Programme implemented on clean water technology

The Department of Biotechnology and Department of Science and Technology, Ministry of Science and Technology collaborated with Canada through the India-Canada Centre for Innovation multi-disciplinary Partnerships to Accelerate Community Transformation and Sustainability (IC-IMPACTS), on programme focusing on Clean Water technology.

Under the programme five projects are being implemented with Indian commitment of Rs 572.00 lakhs and Canadian commitment of Rs 750.00 lakhs.

This is being implemented for ensuring the supply of clean drinking water and efficient water management such as using bio-sensors for detection of toxins, heavy metal detection and removal and bio-recovery.



87. Revenue Earned from Aviation Sector

The non-tax revenue receipts by way of Dividends, Guarantee Fee and Other Receipts booked to the Consolidated Fund of India (CFI) by the Ministry of Civil Aviation have grown at a compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of 87.8%.

The non-tax revenue receipts were Rs. 180.73 crore in 2014-15, Rs. 858.99 crore in 2015-16, and Rs. 1,203.54 crore in 2016-17. CAGR for the aviation sector in terms of total passenger traffic in India was 15.1% and that of air freight handled at Indian airports was 8.8%.



88. Union Government plans to open 100 new post offices by 2018

The Government has planned to open 81 Sub-Post Offices and 100 Branch Post Offices during the current financial year 2017-18 under the Scheme – "Rural Business & Access to Postal Network".

The Department of Posts has also planned to open 66 Branch Post Offices by creation of new posts in 32 worst affected Left Wing Extremism (LWE) districts in the country under the aforesaid scheme in the current financial year. Also, out of 25,350 post offices in the States of the Country, 25,348 are computerised.



89. PM Modi inaugurated APJ Abdul Kalam's memorial at Rameswaram

Prime Minister Narendra Modi dedicated Dr Kalam Memorial at Rameswaram in presence of Tamil Nadu Governor Vidyasagar Rao, chief minister Edapadi K Palaniswamy, Central and State Ministers and other dignitaries.



Mr Modi inaugurated a slew welfare measures and development schemes and distributed sanction letters to fishermen for getting Long Liner Trawlers which would help Indian fishermen to go deep into the sea and enhance their economic activities besides avoiding crossing international maritime borders. He flagged off a weekly train between the pilgrim centres of Rameswaram and Ayodhya.

90. NITSER Amendment Bill passed in Rajya Sabha

NITSER (National Institutes of Technology, Science Education and Research) Amendment Bill was passed in Rajya Sabha. The Bill proposes to introduce two new Institutions namely Indian Institute of Science Education and Research (IISER) Tirupati and IISER Berhampur in the Second Schedule of the NITSER Act, 2007.



Five IISERs at Kolkata (2006), Pune (2006), Mohali (2007), Bhopal (2008) and Thiruvananthapuram (2008) mandated with promoting quality education and research in the sciences were established. With the establishment of the two new IISERs there are now seven IISERs.

91. Rajya Sabha passed the Indian Institute of Information Technology Public Private Partnership Bill 2017

Rajya Sabha passed the Indian Institute of Information Technology Public Private Partnership (IIIT-PPP) Bill 2017. The bill is required to grant degrees to the students IIITs set up in PPP mode.

It will also grant statutory status to the fifteen IIITs established in PPP mode and declare them Institutes of National Importance.

The bill provide autonomy to the Institutes but at the same time maintain a fine balance between autonomy and accountability of the IIITs in PPP mode.

The bill describes about the details regarding Board of Governors, funding in IIITs, financial provisions and Audit process.



92. World Bank to provide financial assistance of USD 100 Million for Solar Projects

World Bank financing of USD 100 Million for development of internal infrastructure of solar parks has been planned by Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency Ltd. (IREDA) under the aegis of Ministry of New & Renewable Energy.

In addition, the World Bank will provide low cost financing to roof-top solar developers under a \$625 million Programme for Results to be routed through the State Bank of India.

These programmes will increase the availability of debt financing, de-risk commercial financial flows, and build capacity across the solar PV industry.



93. Funds for National Highway Accident Relief Service scheme to be implemented

The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways is implementing a National Highway Accident Relief Service Scheme (NHARSS) under which ambulances and cranes are provided to state Governments to take the accident victims to the nearest hospital and to evacuate the damaged vehicles from the road accident site on the NHs.



NHAI also provides ambulances at every toll plaza on the completed corridor of NHs.

The State-wise details of the funds transferred by the Ministry for procurement of cranes/ ambulances during 2015-16 and 2016-17 were as follows:

Sl. No.	States	2015-16	2016-17
1.	Jammu & Kashmir	13,46,40,000/-	--
2.	Sikkim	3,06,90,000/-	--
3.	Mizoram	49,50,000/-	4,11,260/-

94. Projects amounting to Rs.2209 Crores on Women’s safety under Nirbhaya Fund

Government of India has set up a dedicated fund called Nirbhaya Fund for implementation of initiatives aimed at enhancing the safety and security of women in the country.



In addition, the Ministry of Finance has set up an Empowered Committee under the Chairmanship of Secretary, Ministry of Women and Child Development for appraising and approving various schemes/project proposals proposed to be funded from the Nirbhaya Fund.

Under the Nirbhaya fund, 22 proposals on women’s safety and security from Central Ministries and State Governments amounting to Rs.2209.19 Crores have been appraised and recommended by the Empowered Committee as on 21.07.2017.

95. Food processing sector attracted FDI worth \$183 million in last two months

Food Processing Minister Harsimrat Kaur Badal said that the food processing sector has attracted FDI to the tune of 183 million dollars during last two months which will directly or indirectly help about 25 lakh farmers and generate employment for 5 lakh people.



There has been an increase of 40% in the FDI in the food processing sector after allowing 100% FDI in multi-brand retail. Also, funds to a tune of 6,000 crore rupees are being put in by the food processing ministry under the Sampada Yojana which will leverage an investment of about 31,000 crore rupees.

96. National Centre for Seismology launched app “India Quake”

National Centre for Seismology (NCS) has launched an app “India Quake”.

The Mobile App has been developed by the NCS for automatic dissemination of earthquake parameter (location, time and magnitude) after the occurrence of earthquakes. The App will make information dissemination faster with no restrictions on the number of recipients.



Any citizen can download this App and get the real time earthquake location information on his/her mobile. National Centre for Seismology (NCS) operates national seismological network with 84 stations.

97. Lok Sabha passed Companies Act (Amendment) Bill, 2016

The Lok Sabha passed the Companies (Amendment) Bill 2016, making changes, thereby, to the Companies Act, 2013, in relation to structuring, disclosure and compliance requirements for firms.

The Bill was passed through a voice vote with 43 amendments moved by Minister of State for Finance Arjun Ram Meghwal.

The bill will now go to the Rajya Sabha. The bill has been brought to improve ease of doing business.



98. CAG reported Akash missile with 30% failure rate

The Controller and Auditor General (CAG) reported that a 30% failure rate was found in the surface-to-air missiles Akash during testing and held that such deficiencies posed an operational risk during hostilities.

As per the reports, missile systems were to be installed at six designated sites between 2013 and 2015. But till date, none of the missile systems procured at a cost of 3,619 crore rupees has been installed due to delay in execution of civil works at the sites concerned.



99. Dr. Harshvardhan launched “Sagar Vani” - An Integrated Information Dissemination System

Union Minister Dr. Harshvardhan launched an app “Sagar Vani” on the occasion of Foundation Day of Ministry of Earth Sciences. The app has been developed by ESSO-INCOIS through the Industry M/s. Gaian Solutions Pvt. Ltd.

The ‘Sagar Vani’ is a software platform where various dissemination modes will be integrated on a single central server.

The ‘Sagar Vani’ includes Multi Lingual SMS, Voice Call / Audio Advisory, Mobile Apps (User / Admin modules), Social Media (Facebook, Twitter, etc.), Email, GTS, Fax, Digital Display Boards, Radio / Television broadcast units, IVRS, Cloud Channels, etc.



Persons in News

1. Israeli flower named after Indian Prime Minister Modi

During the visit of Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi to Israel's the Danziger Flower Farm, it was announced by Israeli counterpart Benjamin Netanyahu that a new Israel flower 'Israeli Chrysanthemum' will now be called "MODI", in a special gesture to mark the first visit of an Indian premier to the Jewish nation. Israeli Chrysanthemum flower is a new fast-growing flower. It is an honor to the 'Growing Partnership' between the two nations.



The Danziger flower farm is one of the leading floriculture companies of Israel, located in Moshav Mishmar Hashiva.

2. Saima Wazed selected as the WHO Goodwill Ambassador for Autism

WHO-SEARO announced renowned champion Saima Wazed Hossain as WHO Goodwill Ambassador for autism in the world body's Southeast Asia region for a period of two years. She will have duties to promote Thimphu Declaration, which emphasizes on integrating the needs of autism-affected people into national health and socioeconomic development plans.



She was first choice for the post due to her significant contributions towards creating awareness and generating action to address and elevate sufferings of people affected by autism.

3. Indian-origin doctor to become UK's youngest physician to start work at hospital

An Indian-origin doctor, Arpan Doshi, is set to become the UK's youngest physician to start work at a hospital in northeast England.

Arpan Doshi graduated with his Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery degree from the University of Sheffield is due to start work as a junior doctor in York, aged 21 years and 335 days.



He will beat the previous record for the youngest doctor to start work in the country by 17 days.

4. UK's first woman Sikh MP elected to key Parliament panel

Britain's first woman Sikh MP, Preet Kaur Gill, has been elected to a cross-party panel in the UK Parliament that examines the workings of the Home Office. She was elected to the Home Affairs Select Committee in the UK Parliament. She will be one of 11 MPs on the cross-party home affairs committee, which investigates the spending, policy and administration of the ministerial department.



Ms. Gill has also been chosen to lead the All Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) for British Sikhs.

5. NDA candidate Ram Nath Kovind elected as the 14th President of India

Ram Nath Kovind has been elected the new President of India as he secured victory over opposition candidate Meira Kumar to become the 14th President of the country.



Mr. Kovind got 2930 votes valued 7, 02, 044 and Meira Kumar got 1844 votes valued 3,67,314. Mr. Ram Nath Kovind has become the first BJP member and the second Dalit to be elected to Rashtrapati Bhavan after K R Narayanan. Seventy-seven votes were found to be invalid. Mr. Kovind secured highest 400 votes in Uttar Pradesh and lowest one in Kerala.

Places in News

1. Health Ministry held their 4th National Summit in Public Health Care Systems

Smt. Sumitra Mahajan, Speaker of the 16th Lok Sabha inaugurated the 4th National Summit on Good, Replicable Practices and Innovations in Public Health Care Systems at Indore, Madhya Pradesh.

Smt Sumitra Mahajan highlighted the importance of hospital management. National Health Policy, 2017 is a landmark step as it commits to comprehensive primary healthcare, effective regulatory framework and best infrastructure.



The Health Ministry also gave away awards to the states based on Health Indicators and Service Delivery. The award for best performing States in the category of indoor services was given to Andhra Pradesh, Rajasthan and Gujarat.

2. NDMA conducted 2-day National Conference on Crowd Management at Thiruvananthapuram

The National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), jointly with the Kerala State Disaster Management Authority (KSDMA), conducted a two-day national-level Conference on Crowd Management at Thiruvananthapuram in Kerala. The conference aims to strengthen the ongoing capacity building measures and thus enhance the preparedness of all stakeholders to organise safe mass gathering events.



Two technical sessions – Understanding Risk (Causes and Triggers), and Lessons Learnt/Experience Sharing and Best Practices – were held. The conference was attended by the Members and senior officials of NDMA and Kerala Government.

3. A 2-day Conference on Crowd Management concluded in Kerala

The two-day national conference on crowd management successfully concluded at Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala, setting the stage for adoption of best practices and use of technology to reduce risks at mass gathering events across the country.



The conference was organized by the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) jointly with the Kerala State Disaster Management Authority (KSDMA).

At the technical session on Safety Standards, the need to comply with the relevant guidelines and laws while organising and managing mass gatherings was highlighted.

4. Japan's men-only island declared as UNESCO heritage site

A men-only island in Japan has been declared a UNESCO World Heritage site. Women are banned in the island and male visitors must bathe naked in the sea before visiting its shrine.



The tiny landmass of Okinoshima is permanently manned by a Shinto priest. The priest prays to the island's goddess as a part of a century old tradition.

The shrine allows only a limited number of visitors to land on the island in the Sea of Japan - this year it was 200 - for an annual festival, which lasts for just two hours.

5. Dubai selected as the data hub for MENASA region

Dubai was selected as data hub for the Middle East North Africa and South Asia (MENASA) region, for data management, data integration, analytics and reports to engage stakeholders and help accelerate progress and serve as a platform for city-to-city learning and managing 'solutions transfer'.



According to UN, this selection is a part of portfolio of local and regional data portals. With this, Dubai city has launched a series of comprehensive and integrated initiatives to mine and manage the city's data.

Regional

1. President legalized 'Kambala' buffalo races in Karnataka

President Pranab Mukherjee approved the promulgation of the prevention of cruelty to animals (Karnataka Amendment) Ordinance, 2017, legalizing the traditional 'Kambala' sport in Karnataka.



Kambala is a folk sport, held traditionally under the auspicious local property owners and households, in coastal Karnataka. The sport generally starts in November and lasts until March.

It involves a pair of buffaloes tied to the plough and anchored by one person. They are made to run in parallel muddy tracks in a competition in which the fastest team wins.

2. Madhya Pradesh created a world record with plantation of 6 crore saplings in day

The Madhya Pradesh government planted six crore saplings on the banks of Narmada in 12 hours as part of its river conservation efforts.



The state could make its way into the Guinness World Records. The plantation drive was conducted along the banks of the river covering 24 districts of the state.

The Uttar Pradesh government had created a world record by planting five crore saplings in 24 hours but in two days (12 hours per day) in July 2016.

3. First Maize Based Mega Food Park to be set up in Kapurthala, Punjab

Shri Harsimrat Kaur Badal, Union Minister of Food Processing Industry laid the foundation stone for First Maize based Mega Food Park in Kapurthala, Punjab.



Maize Based Mega Food Park is the first major and serious step in the history of India for containing the desertification problem of Punjab. It will make the farmers turn to maize cultivation, which need less water for more production.

The Mega Food Park is being developed by Sukhjit Mega Food Park & Infra Limited at village Rehana Jattan, Phagwara, District Kapurthala, Punjab.

4. A 2-day Regional Conference on “Good Governance and Replication of Best Practices” inaugurated

A two-day Regional Conference on “Good Governance and Replication of Best Practices” involving 12 States and 4 UTs of Northern, Western and Central Region of India was inaugurated.

The Conference was organized by the Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances (DARPG), Government of India, in collaboration with the Government of Uttarakhand & Administrative Training Institute (ATI), Nainital.

Speaking on the occasion, Shri C. Viswanath, Secretary for DARPG, Government of India mentioned that this is the 26th such Regional Conference being organised by the Department on diverse themes pertaining to Best Practices.



5. The State of Jammu and Kashmir joined GST

The President of India has promulgated today two ordinances, namely, the Central Goods and Services Tax (Extension to Jammu and Kashmir) Ordinance, 2017 and the Integrated Goods and Services Tax (Extension to Jammu and Kashmir) Ordinance, 2017.

This extends the domain of Central GST Act and the Integrated GST Act to the State of Jammu and Kashmir, with effect from 8th July, 2017. With this, the State of Jammu and Kashmir has become part of the GST regime, making GST truly a “one nation, one tax” regime.



Due to the special provisions applicable to the State of Jammu and Kashmir extra steps had to be taken before the State could join the GST fold.

6. All gram panchayats in Haryana to levy tax on entertainment, amusement activities

Haryana Government has directed all gram panchayats to levy tax on entertainment and amusement activities including cinema hall, show, video game parlor, mela, fair, exhibition or any kind of amusement park in the limits of gram panchayats concerned.

The panchayats would levy the tax at the rate as specified by the government from time to time within a period of 15 days from the date of publication of this order in the official gazette.



7. 'Elevate 100' scheme launched by Karnataka for start-ups

The Government of Karnataka has launched the 'Elevate 100' scheme to identify and nurture 100 most innovative start-ups in the state and elevate them further to the next level of success. Karnataka government will provide financial assistance as well as non-financial assistance such as technical and business support.



**STARTUP
KARNATAKA**

Karnataka Biotechnology and Information Technology Services will act like a mentor to start-ups across the state by providing them with networking opportunities, idea validation, incubation facilities, and in-depth sessions. This will involve around 400 crores investment.

8. AIIB approved USD 329 million loan for Gujarat's road development

China's Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank gave nod to USD 329 million loan to build access roads to 4,000 villages in in all 33 districts of Gujarat and improve road connectivity into these villages. This will not only help improve economic development of Gujarat, but also integrate isolated and poor rural populations with the rest of the state.



The Bank is also in process of piloting a software tool to monitor the projects progress. This loan approval is a part of one of the multi-phase Gujarat's Chief Ministers Rural Roads Programme that complements the Centres Prime Ministers Rural Roads Programme.

9. Odisha Government to set up High-Performance Academy

Odisha government has decided to set up a High-Performance Academy in Bhubaneswar, for which it has inked an Expression of Intent (EOI) with the International Association of Athletics Federations (IAAF) and Athletics Federation of India. It has been for the first time that International Association of Athletics Federations (IAAF) united with any state government in the country for developing the academy.



Academy will provide training to athletes, professional environment and approach for athletes with the help of international standard infrastructures for field and track events and better technology.

10. e-RTI launched by Delhi Government

Delhi government launched facility of filing RTI application in online mode. With this, Delhi became second state, after Maharashtra, to do so. This will not only let the government put all relevant information online to ensure transparency but also enable citizens to file online Right to Information (RTI). The portal is designed and developed by the National Informatics Centre (NIC).



Information pertaining to 172 departments will be made available online on portal. RTI fees can be made online and an applicant can track status anytime online.

11. Maharashtra launched free injectable contraceptive for women

On the World Population day, state government of Maharashtra launched a reversible method of contraception through intramuscular injections for women, named as 'Antara'. Antara is an injection of Medroxyprogesterone acetate (MPA), a birth-control hormone. According to the state health officials, this injection is a safe means for birth control.



It is effective for three months. Injection 'Antara' can be injected intramuscularly to women in the age bracket of 18-45 years. This program was launched in 23 district hospitals, 20 medical colleges and 12 women's hospitals.

12. Rajasthan became the first state to fix minimum education qualification for a co-operative body poll

Rajasthan state government decided to fix norms of minimum educational qualifications for contesting elections to village co-operative societies and various other cooperative bodies, for which it had to amend State Cooperative Societies Rules, 2003. This decision would benefit about 10,000 cooperative and agricultural credit societies.



The educational qualifications will vary from Class V to Class VIII for election members of governing boards of dairy societies, farming societies, housing construction societies, urban banks, primary land development banks, credit societies, salary earners' societies and cooperative unions.

13. Odisha government to set up Haj House in Bhubaneswar

The Odisha government has decided to set up a Haj House in Bhubaneswar for the welfare of Haj pilgrims. The Odisha government has also sanctioned five crore rupees for the development of educational institutions in the state for welfare of minority community children.



Besides, the government will construct 100 multi-purpose centres for Muslim people in next three years. The state government also has plans to establish direct plane communication between Bhubaneswar and Mecca for the welfare of pilgrims.

14. Meghalaya CM Mukul Sangma launched LIFE program

Meghalaya Chief Minister, Dr. Mukul Sangma, launched the "Livelihood Intervention and Facilitation of Entrepreneurship" (LIFE) program at Songsak. The programme offers drive on improving the livelihood of rural poor in a viable manner through the process of SHGs, Village organisation and Producers Groups.



LIFE is a programme of the State Rural Livelihood Society (MSRLS). MSRLS is an agency of the Community and Rural Development Department of Government of Meghalaya, which is implementing the Centre's flagship programme - National Rural Livelihood Mission (NRLM).

15. Centre released advance grant-in-aid of Rs. 51.30 crores to Arunachal Pradesh

The Centre released in advance two instalments of grant-in-aid to the State Government of Arunachal Pradesh towards Central share of State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF).



Due to heavy rains and floods in North East, Department of Expenditure, Ministry of Finance, Government of India has released Rupees 51 crore and 30 lakh as grant-in-aid to the State Government of Arunachal Pradesh on the basis of recommendation of the 14th Finance Commission for relief necessitated by natural calamities to the State. This amount is being released in advance for rescue and relief operations required because of flash floods.

16. Haryana government to set up eight new Women Police Stations at sub-division level

Haryana Government decided to set up eight new Women Police Stations at sub-division level in the state. These will be established at Assandh, Dadri, Hansi, Gohana, Manesar, Dabwali, Ballabgarh and Naraingarh. Chief Minister, Mr Manohar Lal, approved a proposal to this effect. Each Women Police Station would have a hundred percent woman police staff.

The decision was taken as victims belonging to these areas were facing great difficulty in lodging their complaints, as they had to travel long distance to reach Women Police Stations at the district headquarters.



17. Punjab eased rules for shooting crop-damaging animals

Punjab Government decided that short-term permits for shooting Wild Boar and Roz (Neel Gaye) to check damage to crops during crop season would no longer require a Panchayat resolution.

The state government also decided to simplify the procedure for sanctioning the 45-day permits for shooting these animals. It also decided to put the permit process online and on the WhatsApp digital platform to ensure ease of procedure for grant of the permits. These permits for limited hunting are confined to privately owned land and are meant only for animals damaging crops.



18. Maharashtra to implement law against social boycott

Since President Pranab Mukherjee cleared the legislation, Maharashtra became the first state to make social boycott a crime. The law that was unanimously passed in 2016 by Maharashtra legislature aims to prevent atrocities carried out by extra-judicial courts and caste panchayats. Victims will be compensated with this law and violators will be punished for three years in jail and a fine of Rs1lakh.

The movement driven by late Narendra Dabholkar, invited public attention after he was shot dead and the Maharashtra legislature passed the law unanimously in 2016. It was due with the central government for the President's approval. The President passed the legislature on June 20, 2017.



19. T R Zeliang sworn in as CM of Nagaland

TR Zeliang has been sworn in as the new Chief Minister of Nagaland. Mr. Zeliang won the trust vote by 47 votes to 11 in the 60-member House that has an effective strength of 59. Zeliang becomes the 19th chief minister of the north eastern state.

Governor PB Acharya administered oath to Zeliang after Shurhozelie Liezietsu failed to turn up in the special emergent session of the State Assembly to take a floor test.



20. Bengal to be Focus State at WFI 2017

Bengal is going to be the 'Focus State' at World Food India (WFI) 2017, to be organised by the Food Processing Industries from November 3 to 5.

Bengal's participation at WFI 2017, which will be the largest trade fair of its kind to be held so far in India, will be a golden opportunity for Bengal to showcase its potential in the food sector.



WFI 2017 will provide an opportunity for the most important stakeholder in the sector, farmer, to interact and network with Indian and global leaders across the food value chain.

21. J&K government launched weekly festival at Dal Lake

The Jammu and Kashmir government has organised the first ever 'Culture of Cruise', a weekly cultural programme at the Dal Lake.

The program was organised by J&K Academy of Art, Culture and Languages (JKAACL) in association with the tourism department of Kashmir.

The innovative programme series brings writers, performance artists, musicians, poets and academics together and offers a program of performances, workshops, talks, forums and debates.



22. Telangana launched “Janahitha” to receive complaints from public

The Telangana state government has launched an innovative programme christened “Janahitha” to receive complaints from public through a special portal. The programme started in Suryapet district on a pilot basis. Besides submitting their grievances, the public can also apply for various welfare schemes through this facility.



Janahitha will be implemented across the state in a phased manner. In addition, public can also track the status of their complaints. Officials at the district headquarters and Secretariat in Hyderabad will monitor the redressal of complaints and send SMS to the citizens on their status.

23. Odisha CM Naveen Patnaik dedicated to the nation the state’s longest bridge

Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik dedicated the state's longest bridge. This bridge is named after Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose and it is over the river Kathajodi. It will connect the state capital of Bhubaneswar with Cuttack.



The bridge reduces the distance between the two cities by 12km by road. The bridge is 2,815 metres long and 14 metres wide. It is the first three-lane bridge in the state having a two-way road and walkways for pedestrians on the both sides. A sum of Rs 114crore has been spent for construction of the bridge.

24. President of India Inaugurated ‘Bicentenary Celebration of Paika Rebellion of Odisha’

The President of India Shri Pranab Mukharjee inaugurated the “Bicentenary celebration of the heroic Paika Rebellion of Odisha, a valiant uprising of Paikas against the British rule” organised by the Ministry of Culture.



Many scholars, researchers and historians have opined that the Paika Rebellion of 1817 was India’s first organized armed rebellion against British Raj. The Paika Bidroha (Paika Rebellion) of 1817 in Odisha briefly shook the foundations of British rule in the eastern part of India.

25. Punjab Government released Rs 90 lakh for construction of Ultra-Modern Cattle Pond

The Punjab Government has released Rs 90 lakh for the construction of ultra-modern cattle pond at village Kanian Kalan in Jalandhar district including a veterinary dispensary at the site. Out of Rs 90 lakh, Rs 50 lakh would be used for feed and fodder of livestock, whereas a new shed would also be constructed with Rs 16.50 lakh.



The cattle pond will have the capacity of more than 2000 cattle. A detailed project report has already been prepared by the animal husbandry department and the whole project would be completed in next 2 months.

26. DDA signs MOU with NIUA for preparing Delhi master Plan 2041

The Delhi Development Authority (DDA) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the National Institute of Urban Affairs (NIUA) for preparation of Master Plan for Delhi 2041. The NIUA's approach for the project consists of four phases.



The Master Plan for Delhi 2041 will be an enabling strategic plan, which would be the guiding framework of the planning and growth of Delhi until 2041. It would involve building a base line quantitative understanding of Delhi at local and regional levels.

27. Kerala to host literary festival with tolerance as theme

Kerala hosted the fifth edition of South India Writers Ensemble (SIWE) at Chengannur in coastal Alappuza district. The theme of the literary festival would be tolerance.



The three-day annual literary gathering is aimed at bringing about an enriching interaction between writers from different languages and regions.

Creative writers, journalists, theatre and film personalities will deliberate on tolerance at the festival. It was organised by People for Performing Arts and More.

28. Meghalaya CM launched 'Mission Football' in Shillong

Meghalaya Chief Minister Dr Mukul Sangma launched 'Mission Football' at a grand ceremony at JN Sports Complex, Shillong. The Mission Football aims at transforming Meghalaya, a state known for its love for the game, as the "football power house" of the nation.

Mission Football is an initiative to help develop skills of football enthusiasts and develop young footballers for the country. It is a dedicated programme for talent identification and nurturing of talents to develop national and international players.



29. Funds released to West Bengal under NAM during last 3 years

Under Centrally Sponsored Scheme of National AYUSH Mission (NAM), total amount of grant-in-aid of Rs 471.230 lakhs, Rs 1,924.85 lakhs and Rs 1,298.056 lakhs was released during the year 2014-15, 2015-16 and 2016-17 respectively to West Bengal.

The said amount has been allocated for the activities under AYUSH Services, AYUSH Educational Institution, Quality Control of Ayurveda, Siddha, Unani & Homoeopathy (ASU&H) Drugs, Medicinal Plants, Flexi pool and Administrative cost.

Under the National AYUSH Mission (NAM), eight camps were organized in the district of Bankura under Public Health Outreach Activities.



30. Nitish Kumar became the Chief Minister of Bihar for the 6th time

Nitish Kumar took oath as Chief Minister of Bihar for the sixth time and as the head of the government that would include BJP and its allies. Earlier to this, the party of Nitish Kumar, JD-(U) was supported by Mahagathbandhan allies with Lalu Yadav led RJD.

Senior BJP leader Sushil Kumar Modi took responsibility of deputy chief minister. Governor of Bihar demanded Nitish Kumar to prove the majority of his new formed political party, supported by BJP.



Nitish Kumar has served as Chief Minister of Bihar from 2005 to 2014 and from 2015 to 2017.

31. Vande Mataram made mandatory in Schools, Govt. and Private Offices by Madras Court

As per recent orders of Madras High Court, singing of Vande Mataram, the national song, has been made compulsory for "at least once a month" in schools, government offices, private entities and industries in Tamil Nadu.

Madras High court judge ruled out that if any person/organisation has difficulty in singing or playing the song, they should not be compelled or forced to sing it, provided there are valid reasons for not doing so.

Vande Mataram is a poem, composed by Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay in 1870s, which was later adopted as national song of India.



32. Punjab signed MoU with Foundation for Innovative New Diagnostics

Punjab has signed MoU with the Foundation for Innovative New Diagnostics (FIND), who will support Punjab Health Department by providing Rapid test kits for screening of high-risk patients like HIV patients, Intravenous Drug Users (IVDU) patient.

FIND will also provide 4 Gene Xpert machines which will be installed at Sangrur, Bathinda, Tarn Taran and Hoshiarpur for free testing of viral load among these high risk group patients. The Health Department Punjab will be introducing RUPs (Reuse Prevention Syringes) so that blood borne infections cannot be spread from one patient to another.



33. Mumbai Metro launched India's first mobile ticketing system

Mumbai Metro One has launched India's first Mobile Ticketing System 'OnGo'. It will help travellers pass the AFC gates using their mobile phones. The app will be implemented by mid-August.

Passengers will be able to buy their token or pass and generate a QR Code to gain access through the automated fare collection (AFC) gates. Mumbai Metro is a consortium formed by Reliance Infrastructure Ltd, MMRDA and Veolia Transport SA, France.



1. TERI ranked among top slot in world's climate think tanks

The International Center for Climate Governance (ICCG) has ranked The Energy Resources Institute (TERI) at the second spot among the top think tanks in the world.

The ICCG is an internationally renowned body whose activities focus on the design of climate policy and related governance issues. TERI conducts research for sustainable development of India.



The New Delhi-based think tank was ranked under the category '2016 Top Climate Think Tanks in the Rest of the World--Absolute Global Rankings' during ICCG's 23rd annual conference of the European Association of environmental and Resource Economists (EAERE) in Athens in Greece.

2. India ranked at 23rd place in cybersecurity index

UN telecommunications agency International Telecommunication Union (ITU) placed India at 23rd place among 165 nations in cybersecurity index.

A global index measures the commitment of nations across the world to cybersecurity. It is one such index released for the second time by the UN telecommunications agency International Telecommunication Union.



Index was topped by Singapore with a 0.925 score, followed by The United States at 2nd place and Malaysia at 3rd place. The report clarifies that about 38% of countries have a published cybersecurity strategy.

3. OECD-FAO reported India as largest milk producer by 2026

OECD-FAO Agricultural Outlook 2017-2026 revealed that India will be the largest milk producer by 2026 and will account for the biggest increase in wheat production globally.

As India will witness the India's population growth from 1.3 billion to 1.5 billion by 2026 and overtake China to be the most populous country in the world by 2026, India will account for biggest increase in wheat production.



As per the reports, global food commodity prices are projected to remain low over the next decade.

4. Raipur Airport ranked first in Customer Satisfaction Index Survey

Raipur's Swami Vivekananda Airport was ranked first in Customer Satisfaction among 49 airports in the country. Raipur Airport achieved 4.84 score on a five-point scale index in the latest CSI survey conducted by an independent agency for the period of January-June 2017, followed by Udaipur, Amritsar and Dehradun airports which have scored 4.75, 4.74 and 4.73 respectively.



Customer Satisfaction Survey conducted by an independent agency commissioned by AAI. The survey covers a wide range of parameters like transportation, parking, passenger facilities and cleanliness, etc.

5. 2017 SDG index placed India at 116th place out of 157 nations

Sustainable Development Solutions Network unveiled the 2017 Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) Index and Dashboard report, where it placed India at 116th place out of 157 nations, based on the performance of countries towards achieving the ambitious Sustainable development goals.



Index was topped by Sweden, followed by Denmark at 2nd place, Finland at 3rd place, Norway at 4th place and Czech Republic at 5th place.

Index explained that the countries, which are closest to fulfilling the objectives of the goals, are not among the biggest economies, but comparably small, developed countries.

6. Highest Internet density in Delhi; lowest in Bihar

According to data released by the Union Communication Ministry, Delhi has the highest Internet density in the country, while Bihar has the lowest.

Delhi has 122.06 number of Internet per hundred persons while in Bihar it is 17.30. Punjab follows Delhi, with 55.25 subscribers out of 100 persons. In terms of subscribers, UP has the highest number of 48.51 million.



States like Himachal Pradesh, Maharashtra, Kerala, West Bengal and Uttar Pradesh are the other five states, which follows Delhi and Punjab in Internet density.

7. India ranks 132 out of 152 countries in Commitment to Reducing Inequality Index

According to the "Commitment to Reducing Inequality Index" released by international NGO Oxfam in association with Developmental Finance International, India ranks 132 out of 152 countries.

The index measures the efforts of sovereign governments, which pledged to reduce inequality in 2015 as part of the Sustainable Development Goals. Sweden ranks first in the list followed by Belgium, Denmark, Norway and Germany in the top five respectively. China has been ranked 87. Nigeria was ranked last in the index.



Resignations & Retirements

1. Head of French armed forces resigned after clash with President Macron

The head of the French armed forces, Gen Pierre de Villiers, has quit after a clash with President Emmanuel Macron over budget cuts. France's Government has revealed major cuts to bring its budget deficit below the level of a European Union cap.

The President has appointed General Francois Lecointre, 55, to fill the role. He served in Rwanda in 1994 and as part of the United Nations force in Bosnia in 1995. In 2013, he commanded a European military training mission in Mali.



2. Union Minister M Venkaiah Naidu resigned

Union minister M Venkaiah Naidu resigned after he was chosen as the NDA's candidate for the vice presidential election. Further, Shri Narendra Singh Tomar, Cabinet Minister, shall be assigned the charge of the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, in addition to his existing portfolios; and Smt. Smriti Zubin Irani, Cabinet Minister, shall be assigned the charge of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, in addition to her existing portfolio.



The BJP Parliamentary board had picked Naidu for contesting the poll for vice president.

3. BSP Chief Mayawati resigned from Rajya Sabha

Former Uttar Pradesh chief minister and BSP Chief Mayawati has resigned from the Rajya Sabha. The decision came after the Chair of the Upper House asked her to restrict her impromptu speech on anti-Dalit violence in Saharanpur in Uttar Pradesh.

Rajya Sabha Chairman Mohd Hamid Ansari accepted the resignation of BSP Chief Mayawati from the House. Earlier in May, there were violent clashes between Dalits and Thakur community in UP's Saharanpur that turned riotous.



4. AFI provisionally suspended Manpreet for second dope offence

Top Indian shot putter Manpreet Kaur was suspended provisionally for her second dope offence after she tested positive for a banned steroid.



Manpreet has tested positive for a banned steroid and stimulant dimethylbutylamine in a test conducted on her urine sample taken on April 24 during the first leg of the Asian Grand Prix Meet at Jinhua in China. Manpreet will now be dropped from World Championships team as the AFI has suspended her provisionally for her dope offence.

5. Former Congress CM of Gujarat Shankarsinh Vaghela resigned from party

Former Chief Minister of Gujarat Shankarsinh Vaghela has resigned from the Congress party. He is a Leader of Opposition in 13th Gujarat Legislative Assembly. He served as the Chief Minister of Gujarat from 1996 to 1997.



Mr. Vaghela has also served as a Member of Parliament. He was also a member of the Rajya Sabha from 1984 to 1989. He served as the Union Cabinet Minister of Textiles from 2004 to 2009 in the First Manmohan Singh Cabinet. He is currently representing the Kapadvanj constituency in the Gujarat assembly.

6. Sean Spicer resigned as press Secretary of US White House

Sean Spicer has resigned as White House press secretary. Sean vehemently disagreed with the appointment of Anthony Scaramucci as the new communications director in the White House by President Donald Trump.



Sarah Huckabee Sanders will serve as the new press secretary. Spicer's departure came six months into the Trump administration. Spicer had taken over responsibilities as White House communications director after Mike Dubke resigned from the position in May.

7. Pak PM resigned after SC disqualified him on corruption charges

Pakistan Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif resigned from his post after the Supreme Court disqualified him in the Panama Papers case. Mr Sharif, his daughter and two sons have been engulfed by corruption charges as pointed in Panama Paper leaks last year. The scandal revealed that Nawaz Sharif's sons, Hassan Nawaz and Hussain Nawaz and his daughter Maryam Nawaz owned offshore companies, which managed their family's properties.



The judges ruled that the Prime Minister had been dishonest to Parliament and the courts, in not disclosing his employment in a Dubai-based company in his 2013 nomination papers, and thus, could not be deemed fit for his office.

8. Japanese defence minister resigned over South Sudan cover-up claims

Japan's Defence Minister Tomomi Inada tendered her resignation after a scandal broke out over a cover-up of reports on Japanese peacekeeping mission in South Sudan. Ms Inada is the fourth minister to quit in the current Cabinet, which was put together only in August last year.



An investigation into the hush-up of mission logs found that the Defense Ministry had acted in violation of legal provisions regarding transparency. Japan's Prime Minister Shinzo Abe accepted the resignation.

1. NASA's Juno spacecraft completed flyby over Jupiter's Great Red Spot

NASA's Juno mission completed a close flyby of Jupiter and its Great Red Spot, during its sixth science orbit. All of Juno's science instruments and the spacecraft's JunoCam were operating during the flyby, collecting data that are now being returned to Earth.

Juno's next close flyby of Jupiter will occur on Sept. 1. The Great Red Spot is a 10,000-mile-wide (16,000-kilometer-wide) storm and is monitored since 1830, and has existed for more than 350 years.



The Juno mission is part of the New Frontiers Program managed by NASA's Marshall Space Flight Center in Huntsville, Alabama.

2. Astronomers discovered smallest star known in the universe

Scientists from University of Cambridge in the UK have discovered the smallest known star in the universe, located about six hundred light years away, called EBLM J0555-57Ab.

The star is slightly larger than Saturn in its size – which may possibly have Earth-sized planets with liquid water in its orbit.

This star is part of a binary system – as it orbits another, much larger star. It is extremely faint, being between 2,000 to 3,000 times fainter than our own Sun.



3. Indian astronomers discovered supercluster of galaxies 'Saraswati'

A team of Pune-based Inter University Centre for Astronomy and Astrophysics, Indian astronomers, discovered an extremely large supercluster of galaxies and named it as Saraswati, located in the direction of the constellation Pisces.

It is as large as 20 million billion suns. Galaxies are believed to be 4,000 million light—years away from Earth and roughly more than 10 billion years old.

Superclusters are a chain of galaxies and galaxy clusters, bound by gravity where each cluster has 1000-2000 galaxies.



4. ISRO earned 6.1 million euros through launch of 29 foreign nano satellites

Antrix Corporation Limited (Antrix), the commercial arm of ISRO, has earned foreign exchange of about 6.1 million Euro through launching of 29 Nano satellites.

The 29 Nano satellites were from 14 foreign countries and were launched under commercial arrangement.

ISRO has successfully launched an Indian earth observation satellite Cartosat2 series weighing 712 kg as primary payload on board its Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle on June 23rd along with 30 Nano satellites in a single launch from Satish Dhawan Space Centre, Sriharikota. The Cartosat2 series satellite provides high-resolution images of earth's surface at sub-meter resolution.



5. ISRO Missions

In this calendar year i.e. 2017, Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has launched 104 satellites, in a single launch, onboard PSLV-C37 on February 15, 2017 and 31 satellites, in a single launch, on-board PSLV-C38 on June 23, 2017.

These satellites include – Two Indian Cartosat-2 series satellites, two Indian Nano-Satellites, one Nano satellite from Indian University and 130 foreign satellites from 19 countries viz. Austria, Belgium, Chile, Czech Republic, France, Finland, Germany, Italy, Israel, Japan, Kazakhstan, Latvia, Lithuania, Slovakia, Switzerland, The Netherlands, UAE, UK and USA.



6. Launch of GSAT-17

GSAT-17 communication satellite, with a lift-off mass of 3477 Kg, carrying communication, Data Relay Transponder (DRT), Search & Rescue Payload was successfully launched using Ariane-5 launch vehicle from Kourou launch base of Arianespace.

GSAT-17 carries a Data Relay Transponder for receiving meteorological, hydrological and oceanographic data from Automatic Weather Stations, Automatic Rain Gauges and Agro Met Stations and relaying back for down linking in extended C-Band. It also carries a Search & Rescue Payload, which picks up and relays the alert signals originating from the distress beacons of maritime, aviation and land based users to help in rescue services.



7. Indian Satellites in Outer Space

At present, there are 42 Indian satellites operational in orbit. Out of these 42 satellites, 15 satellites are used for communication, 4 for meteorological observations, 14 for earth observations, 7 for navigation and 2 for space science purposes.



During FY 2016-17, the total revenue accrued from communication satellites through leasing of INSAT/ GSAT transponders is Rs. 746.68 crores.

With respect to earth observation satellites, the annual income from sale of remote sensing satellite data is Rs. 25.17 crores. The expenses to realize and launching of these satellites are less than those incurred by other countries.

8. Tata Motors unveiled India's first Bio-CNG bus

Tata Motors rolled out the country's first bio-CNG (bio-methane) bus at the Bio-energy programme, called 'Urja Utsav'. Tata Motors has designed and developed bio-methane engines (5.7 SGI & 3.8 SGI) for LCV, ICV & MCV buses.



The company displayed three models, including the lead model Tata LPO 1613 with 5.7 SGI NA BS-IV IOBD-II compliant bus. The Tata LPO 1613, already in operation by PMPML (Pune Mahanagar Parivahan Mahamandal Limited) was showcased with bio-methane fuel at the event.

9. Human antibodies produced in lab for first time

Scientists have produced human antibodies in the laboratory for the first time. This could potentially help in the development of new vaccines to treat a wide range of infectious diseases.



A team led by Facundo Batista from the Francis Crick Institute in the UK, produced specific human antibodies in the laboratory by treating patient-derived B cells with tiny nanoparticles coated with both CpG oligonucleotides and an antigen. The research was published in The Journal of Experimental Medicine.

10. Scientists developed advanced software that can create 3D models from 2D photographs

Scientists developed a new artificial intelligence software that can create 3D models from 2D photographs, an advance that could allow future robots to navigate in the real world.

Researchers admitted that fully developed SurfNet could have significant applications in the fields of 3D searches on the internet.

If one shows hundreds of thousands of shapes of something on software such as a car, followed by a 2D image of a car, it can reconstruct that model in 3D.



11. NASA balloons to study total solar eclipse, life beyond earth

NASA, along with student teams across the US, is sending high-altitude balloons that will test the ability of life to survive beyond Earth as well as livestream footage of the upcoming total solar eclipse from the edge of space.

A research group at NASA's Ames Research Center, in California's Silicon Valley, is seizing the opportunity to conduct a low-cost experiment on 34 of the balloons. This experiment, called MicroStrat, will simulate life's ability to survive beyond Earth - and maybe even on Mars.

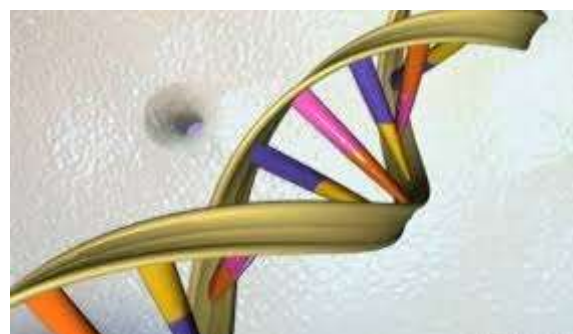


12. Scientists successfully edit DNA of human embryo

A team of scientists led by Shoukhrat Mitalipov of Oregon Health & Science University has successfully created the first genetically modified human embryo.

The research teams used CRISPR, a new gene-editing system derived from bacteria that enables scientists to edit the DNA of living organisms.

Mitalipov created the first cloned monkeys in 2007 and in 2013 created the first human embryonic stem cells through cloning.



1. Germany lifted maiden Confederation Cup Football title

Germany lifted its maiden Confederation Cup Football title. In the final played at St Petersburg, the four-time World Cup winners defeated Chile by a solitary goal. Lars Stindl put Germany ahead in the first half.

The 2017 FIFA Confederations Cup was the 10th FIFA Confederations Cup, a quadrennial international men's football tournament organised by FIFA.



It was held in Russia, from 17 June to 2 July 2017, as a prelude to the 2018 FIFA World Cup.

2. Pankaj Advani bagged Asian Snooker Championship

Indian snooker champion Pankaj Advani along with Laxman Rawat defeated Pakistan to clinch Asian Team Snooker Championship in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan. They performed well against Pakistan's Mohammad Bilal.

With this win, it was Advani's second Asian title in this season and 8th overall (6 Billiards, 1 6-red and 1 Team Snooker) while it was first for Rawat and Singh.



Pankaj Advani proved himself once again by remaining the only player who did not lose a single individual match in the team event.

3. India moved to the 96th position in FIFA World ranking

In the latest FIFA rankings, Indian football team moved up by four places, to 96th position. There is a continuous upgradation in the rankings found for India.

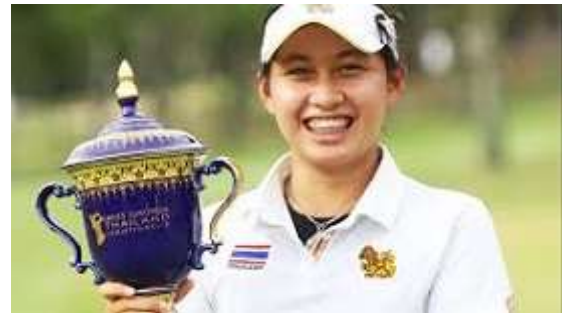
In March 2015, India was at 173rd rank, it has improved its ranking by 77 positions. The Indian team has been winner of 13 of its last 15 matches and is unbeaten in the last eight games.



Confederations Cup all time champions Germany have backed Brazil to be at the top slot in the world, followed by Argentina at third spot, Portugal and Switzerland.

4. Thailand's Atthaya Thitikul won Ladies European Tour

The 14-year-old Thailand's Atthaya Thitikul became the youngest ever winner on the Ladies European Tour by winning the Ladies European Thailand Championship, held at Phoenix Country Club in Pattaya.



Ana Menendez of Mexico stood at 2nd place whereas Australian Whitney Hillier bagged third position. Atthaya Thitikul had previously been winner of the Taiwan Amateur Open and stood second in in the Queen Sirikit Cup in China. Prior to Atthaya Thitikul, Lydia Ko had been youngest player winner of this Championship.

5. Harinder Sandhu bagged South Australian Open title

India's Harinder Pal Sandhu backed Rhys Dowling of Australia to win South Australian Open squash title. It was his eighth title at the PSA level and the third this season after winning two in Malaysia. He won semi-finals of the PSA World Tour event by 11-9 14-12 7-11 11-9 scores, beating Netherland's Pedro Schweertman.



Harinder Pal Sandhu had won the Gold Medal at the 2014 Asian Games held at Incheon and reached a career-high world ranking of World No. 56 in September 2015.

6. India topped medal tally for Asian Athletics Championships

In the history of Asian Athletics Championships, it has been for the first time that India topped the medal tally, by clinching 29 medals, which included 12 gold, 5 silver, and 12 bronze.



With this victory, India backed China to the second spot with 20 Medals and Kazakhstan at third spot with 8 Medals. In the past, India had its best in 1985 Jakarta edition where they had won 22 medals.

Some winners who contributed to the event were Purnima Hembram, Kunhu Muhammad, Muhammad Anas, Rajiv Arokia and Amoj Jacob.

7. P V Sindhu honoured with ‘Sportsperson of the Year’ award

Rio Olympics silver medallist P V Sindhu was honoured with 'Sportsperson of the Year' award at the 'Maruti Suzuki Sportsperson of the Year' Charity Gala Awards. Coach of the Year award was given to Sindhu's coach P Gopichand and Living Legend of the Year award was given to the Flying Sikh Milkha Singh. Abhinav Bindra was given the Lifetime Achievement Award.



Other winners were-

- Athlete of the year- Gaurav Gill
- Team of the year- Junjor Men's Hockey Team
- Gamechanger of the Year award - Cricketer K L Rahul

8. Indian cricketer Mithali Raj became the leading run-scorer in Women's ODIs

Indian batswoman Mithali Raj created history by becoming the woman cricketer who has scored most runs in ODIs, during the ICC Women's World Cup 2017. She crossed the mark of 6,000 ODI runs, making her the first women cricketer to achieve the benchmark.



With this, Mithali crossed historic record of England's Charlotte Edwards with 5992 runs. Mithali Raj created a world record by scoring seven consecutive fifty-plus scores, making her the first woman player to achieve the target, during the tournament.

9. BCCI selected Ravi Shastri as New head coach

Board of Control for Cricket in India announced that cricketer Ravi Shastri has been appointed as Indian cricket team's new head coach. BCCI nominated former India cricketer Zaheer Khan as the bowling coach and Indian skipper Rahul Dravid as batting consultant for specific overseas tours, for a period of two years. Ravi Shastri has wide experience as the Team Director.



Appointments were made by Cricket Advisory Committee, which includes Sourav Ganguly, VVS Laxman and Sachin Tendulkar, among the 5 candidates- Richard Pybus, Tom Moody, Ravi Shastri, Virender Sehwag and Lalchand Rajput.

10. Teimour Radjabov won FIDE Grand Prix

Teimour Radjabov won the FIDE Grand Prix in Geneva, Switzerland. He won €20,000 (\$22,936) as prize money. It was also his first classical tournament victory in almost a decade.

Ian Nepomniachtchi stood second in the tournament. The Grand Prix was organized by Agon Limited; the commercial partner of the World Chess Federation, the games governing body. Twenty-four of the world's best players competed in the Grand Prix. Each Grand Prix has a prize fund of 130,000 euros.



11. President of India inaugurated the 7th Edition of KKM Memorial Gold Cup

The President of India, Shri Pranab Mukherjee inaugurated the 7th Edition of Kamada Kinkar Mukherjee Rural Football Tournament at Mackenzie Park Football Ground in Murshidabad district of West Bengal. The President witnessed an exhibition match between Mohun Bagan U-19 and Kingfisher East Bengal U-19. Mohun Bagan won the match by 1-0.

The President greeted the players of both the teams and presented awards. Among the dignitaries present on the occasion were MP (Lok Sabha) and President, Organizing Committee, KKM Gold Cup Rural Football; Chairman, All Sports Foundation and Members of Legislative Assembly of West Bengal.



12. Javelin player Sundar Singh Gurjar bagged gold medal at World Para Athletics

Veteran Javelin player Sundar Singh Gurjar bagged gold medal in the men's javelin throw event at World Para Athletics Championships held in London, United Kingdom.

Some of his best recognized efforts were recording 60.36m on very first day of event under F46 category, ahead of Dinesh Priyantha Herath (Sri Lanka) who emerged second with 57.93m, followed by defending champion Guo Chunliang (China) with 56.14m.



Sundar Singh Gurjar has been winner of three gold medals at the Fazza IPC Athletics Grand Prix.

13. Kargil International Marathon “Run for Sarhad” concluded

The first ever Kargil International Marathon “Run for Sarhad” concluded with more than 800 runners from all the over the world. People of all age groups participated in various formats of the race.

The marathon started from Tourist Facilitation Centre (TFC) Kargil and concluded at the same venue covering Drass War Memorial, Kaksar Harka Bahadur. The marathon was organised by Sarhad Pune, Run Buddies, SEWAK, All Kargil Tour and Travel Association, SEMOK etc, with support from LAHDC Kargil and Indian Army. Zaheer Abass, a Local lad ran and won 60 km in less than 6 hours.



14. Bharat Arun appointed Team India bowling coach

Board of Control for Cricket in India, BCCI has appointed Bharat Arun as the Indian Cricket team's bowling coach. BCCI has also retained Sanjay Bangar as assistant coach and R Sridhar as fielding coach until the 2019 ODI World Cup.

Arun was a medium pacer and an attacking lower order batsman. He was a part of the Tamil Nadu team that won the Ranji Trophy in 1987/88. He played two test matches and four ODIs for Indian national team.



15. Roger Federer won a record 8th Wimbledon Title

Roger Federer defeated Marin Cilic of Croatia 6-3, 6-1 and 6-4 in the final to become the first man to win eight Wimbledon titles. It was his 19th Grand Slam title, also a record.

Federer was playing his 11th Wimbledon final. This victory lifted Roger Federer up to No 3 in the rankings.

The 36-year old Federer is also Wimbledon's oldest - men's category winner of the modern era, succeeding Arthur Ashe, who was almost 32 when he won in 1976.



16. Harinder Pal Sandhu won Victorian Open squash tournament

Indian squash ace Harinder Pal Sandhu won the Victorian Open squash, a PSA Tour event, in Melbourne after he defeated top-seed Rex Hedrick of Australia in the final.

This was Sandhu's ninth PSA title overall. This was also the fourth title in a row on the professional circuit for Sandhu. This win also helped extend his winning streak to a stunning 17 matches now. He has won the Malaysian Tour and the Makati Open in May followed by the South Australian Open.



17. Lewis Hamilton won Formula One British Grand Prix 2017

Mercedes driver Lewis Hamilton won the Formula One British Grand Prix 2017. It was the fourth time in a row and fifth time overall Hamilton won the British Race.

With this win, Hamilton moved within a single point of world championship leader Sebastian Vettel. Vettel suffered a late puncture and finished seventh for Ferrari.

Mercedes's Valtteri Bottas stood second while Ferrari's Kimi Raikkonen stood third in the race.



18. FIFA has lifted their ban on the Sudan Football Association

The Bureau of the FIFA Council has lifted the suspension that was imposed on the Sudan Football Association (SFA) for its failure to comply with its obligations stipulated in articles 14 and 19 of the FIFA Statutes following a decree issued by Sudan's Undersecretary of the Ministry of Justice on 2 June 2017.

This decision has been taken following confirmation by the SFA that Mr Bakri Hassan Salih, Prime Minister of Sudan, has issued a resolution suspending the decree of the Undersecretary of the Ministry of Justice and the SFA Board of Directors with its President, Dr Mutasim Gaafar Sir Elkhatim, have been reinstated.



19. Kamal Haasan to be brand ambassador of Tamil Thalaivas

Veteran Tamil Film Actor Kamal Haasan has been appointed brand icon of Pro Kabaddi League franchise Tamil Thalaivas. The team is co-owned by India batting legend Sachin Tendulkar. The team makes its debut in season five of Pro Kabaddi League.



The Pro Kabaddi League is a franchise-based professional kabaddi league in India, consisting of 12 teams. The PKL was founded in 2014. In 2017, the league expanded from eight teams to twelve, the new teams being Haryana Steelers, Tamil Thalaivas, Gujarat Fortune Giants and the UP Yoddha.

20. Karamjyoti Dalal won bronze at World Para Athletics Championships

Discus-thrower Karamjyoti Dalal won a Bronze medal during the World Para Athletics Championships 2017 in the Women's F55 category.



India won three medals in the competition. Sundar Singh Gurjar won the first medal for the country at the World Para Athletics Championships by clinching gold in the men's javelin throw event. Later, Amit Saroha added to the tally when he clinched silver medal in the club throw event in the F-51 category.

21. England won the ICC Women's World Cup final 2017

England defeated India by nine runs to win their fourth Women's World Cup title. A spirited 86 from Punam Raut and 51 from Harmanpreet Kaur helped India get close to England's 228/7, but fell just nine runs short in the ICC Women's World Cup final.



Tamsin Beaumont of England was named player of the ICC Women's World Cup tournament. She finished as the most successful batter with 410 runs in nine matches at an average of 45.55.

22. HS Prannoy defeated P Kashyap to lift 2017 US Open Grand Prix badminton title

HS Prannoy won the US Open Grand Prix Gold tournament after he defeated Parupalli Kashyap in the final. It was the third Grand Prix Gold and maiden US Open title for Prannoy. He won US\$120000 as prize money.

Prannoy had defeated Vietnam's Tien Minh Nguyen, while Kashyap had won over Korean Kwang Hee Heo to reach the finals. In the women's singles category of the tournament, Aya Ohori of Japan won the final against Michelle Li of Canada.



23. Team of the ICC Women's World Cup 2017 announced

The International Cricket Council (ICC) announced the Team of the ICC Women's World Cup 2017 with India's Mithali Raj as its captain.

The side includes four players from England, including player of the tournament Tamsin Beaumont, player of the final Anya Shrubsole, wicketkeeper Sarah Taylor and left-arm spinner Alex Hartley, Harmanpreet Kaur and Deepti Sharma along with Raj from India, three from South Africa including opener Laura Wolvaardt and bowlers Marizanne Kapp and Dane van Niekerk, and Australia all-rounder Ellyse Perry.



24. Kongsam bagged gold in Asian Youth & Junior Weightlifting Championships

Indian weightlifter Kongsam Ormila Devi bagged a gold medal at the Asian Youth and Junior Weightlifting Championships in Kathmandu, Nepal.

According to a press release from the Indian Weightlifting Federation, the weightlifter from Manipur lifted 56kg in snatch and 70kg in clean & jerk for a total effort of 126kg in the 44kg weight category to finish on the top of the podium.



25. India to host men's World Boxing Championship in 2021

In a historic first for Indian boxing, the country will host the men's World Championship for the first time in 2021 besides next year's Women World Championship. The International Boxing Association (AIBA) made the announcement at the end of its two-day executive committee meeting in Moscow.



India has never conducted the men's World Championship but has played host to the 2006 women's mega-event. The major men's boxing events hosted by India have been the 1990 World Cup in Mumbai and the 2010 Commonwealth Championships in New Delhi.

26. India finished 7th in Commonwealth Youth Games with 11 medals

India finished at seventh position in the sixth Commonwealth Youth Games at Nassau in Bahamas after winning 11 medals, including four gold. India won four gold, one silver and six bronze medals in the six-day multi-sporting event.



In boxing, India bagged four medals with World Youth champion Sachin Siwach clinching the gold in light flyweight in 49kg category after defeating James Nathan Probert of Wales. Muhammed Etash Khan then added a bronze in boy's bantamweight, 56kg category. In tennis, Zeel Desai and Siddhant Bantia claimed three medals across all three categories in singles and mixed doubles.

27. Boxer Sachin Siwach won Gold at Commonwealth Youth Games

In Commonwealth Youth Games, world youth champion Sachin Siwach was the lone Indian boxer to clinch a gold medal in Bahamas. Siwach defeated Welsh boxer James Nathan Probert 4-1 in the final to claim the gold in the light flyweight (49kg) category.



Among the girls, Jony was the lone Indian to claim a medal after she settled for a silver in the lightweight (60kg) category. Earlier, Muhammed Etash Khan had to be content with a bronze medal in the bantamweight (56kg) division after losing in the semifinals. Around 103 boxers competed in the event.

28. Madhya Pradesh announced Rs. 50 lakh award for Indian women's cricket team

Madhya Pradesh government announced Rs 50 lakh award for the Indian women's cricket team, which finished as runners-up in the Women's Cricket World Cup. Indian Women Cricket team's splendid performance in the World Cup has helped improve the rankings of many of its batters and bowlers. As for the ICC Women's Team Rankings, there was no change in positions with Australia retaining top spot at 128 points.



The award will be given to the team at a grand ceremony. The Indian women's team lost by nine runs to England, finishing runners-up for the second time, after 2005 final.

29. Harmanpreet Kaur placed into top 10 of ICC Women's ODI Player Rankings

Indian Women Cricket team's splendid performance in World Cup has helped improve the rankings of many of its batters and bowlers. Harmanpreet Kaur broke into the top 10 of the ICC Women's ODI Player Rankings.



Among bowlers, world's leading ODI wicket-taker Jhulan Goswami has gained four slots to reach second position. As for the ICC Women's Team Rankings, which take into account both ODIs and T20Is, there was no change in positions with Australia retaining top spot at 128 points. England has gained one point to reach 125 in second position, while India remain on 113 points.

30. Garbiñe Muguruza won women's singles at Wimbledon 2017

Garbiñe Muguruza won her first Wimbledon title after beating Venus Williams in straight sets 7-5, 6-0 in the women's singles final of Wimbledon 2017. She won her second Grand Slam singles title, the first was in French Open 2016.



Muguruza became the second Spanish woman to win Wimbledon after Conchita Martínez in 1994. Muguruza also became the first player to defeat both Williams's sisters in Grand Slams singles finals.