

CURRENT AFFAIRS



NOVEMBER 2017

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Current Affairs – November 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 **November 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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Table of Contents

Current Affairs – November 2017	i
Audience.....	i
Copyright and Disclaimer	i
Table of Contents.....	ii
APPOINTMENTS.....	1
AWARDS	8
BOOKS & AUTHORS.....	15
COMMITTEES.....	16
DEATHS.....	17
DEFENCE	20
ECONOMIC	27
ENVIRONMENT	35
FINANCE.....	37
IMPORTANT DAYS.....	44
INTERNATIONAL.....	48
MISCELLANEOUS.....	58
NATIONAL.....	61
PERSONS IN NEWS.....	94
PLACES IN NEWS.....	98

REGIONAL 101

REPORTS 110

RESIGNATIONS & RETIREMENTS 114

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY 117

SPORTS 121

Appointments

1. Neelamani N. Raju appointed as Karnataka's first woman police chief

Neelamani N Raju became the first woman Director General of Police of Karnataka to replace Rupak Kumar Dutta who retired from service.

She is an IPS officer of 1983 batch and was earlier the Director General of Police-Internal Security.

The state government has appointed DGP of the Criminal Investigation Department Mr. H.C. Kishore Chandra as the Chairman and Managing Director of the Karnataka State Police Housing Corporation.



2. Tata Steel named T. V. Narendran as their global CEO and MD

The Board of Directors of Tata Steel Ltd has elevated T. V. Narendran as Chief Executive Officer and Managing Director of Tata Steel Limited globally.

Prior to the elevation, Narendran was serving as managing director (India and South East Asia).

Mr. Narendran joined the company in 1988. The board also re-appointed Koushik Chatterjee as Executive Director and Chief Financial Officer for five years. He will report to Narendran.



3. Vikram Singh appointed as the Private Secretary to the President

According to an order issued by the Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT), the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet has approved the appointment of Railway officer Vikram Singh as the Private Secretary to President Ram Nath Kovind. Mr. Singh is a 1997 batch officer of the Indian Railway Traffic Service.

The ACC also appointed IAS officer P C Meena as the Private Secretary to Minister of State for Commerce and Industry C R Chaudhary. He is a 2004 batch IAS officer of the Haryana cadre.



4. South Korea appointed Suresh Chukkapalli as Consul General of Korea

The Republic of Korea has appointed Suresh Chukkapalli, Chairman of Phoenix Group of Hyderabad, as Honorary Consul General in Hyderabad. Mr. Suresh will have consular jurisdiction over the state of Telangana.



The Honorary Consulate General office in Hyderabad will open soon to extend support to developing trade relations with Korea. South Korea is the fourth largest economy in Asia and the 11th largest in the world.

5. Bharti AXA Life appointed Vikas Seth as their CEO

Bharti AXA Life Insurance has appointed Vikas Seth as Chief Executive Officer (CEO). Prior to joining Bharti AXA Life, Vikas was working with the Aditya Birla Group for 10 years.



Vikas will replace Sandeep Ghosh, who moved to Hong Kong for a role at AXA.

Vikas Seth will be responsible for managing the overall business, driving new partnership tie-ups as well as the growth roadmap of the organisation. Bharti AXA Life Insurance is a joint venture company between Bharti Enterprises and AXA of France.

6. ACC Appointments

The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet has approved the following appointments:

1. Shri S. K. Sinha, IPS (BH:1983), Special Director, IB as Secretary (Security), Cabinet Secretariat on 30.11.2017 in the vacancy to be caused due to superannuation of the present incumbent Shri A. R. K. Kini, IPS (BH:1981) on 30.11.2017.



2. Shri A. P. Maheshwari, IPS (UP:1984), Special DG, BSF as Director General, Bureau of Police Research and Development (BPR&D) for a period up to his superannuation on 28.02.2021 or till further orders, whichever is earlier.

7. Revenue Secretary Hasmukh Adhia designated as the Finance Secretary

Revenue Secretary Hasmukh Adhia was designated as the new Finance Secretary. The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet approved designating Adhia as the Finance Secretary.



The vacancy was caused following the superannuation of Ashok Lavasa. Adhia is a 1981 batch IAS officer of Gujarat cadre. Adhia has served as Principal Secretary to former Gujarat Chief Minister Narendra Modi, during 2003-06. As revenue secretary, he played important role in designing GST structure slabs. As per the convention, the senior most Secretary in the Finance Ministry is designated as the Finance Secretary.

8. Poonguzhali became first female Senior DDG Appointed in TERM, DoT

N Poonguzhali was appointed as the senior Deputy Director General of Tamil Nadu, Telecom Enforcement Resource Monitoring (TERM) in DoT. With this appointment, she became first female senior Deputy Director General of Telecom Enforcement Resource Monitoring, Department of Telecommunications of Tamil Nadu.



N Poonguzhali will have responsibility of handling Telecom Enforcement Resource Monitoring under the Department of Telecommunications where she will ensure compliance of rules and regulations stipulated by the Centre on telecom service providers. N Poonguzhali has wide experience in DoT and at Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd. Prior to this appointment; she served BSNL as Chief General Manager, Tamil Nadu Circle.

9. Kenneth Juster announced as the US Ambassador to India

Senate Foreign Relations Committee announced economic expert Kenneth Juster as next US Ambassador to India. He has played a major role in making the landmark Indo-U.S. civil nuclear deal. Prior to Kenneth Juster, Richard Verma was handling position of US Ambassador to India.



Kenneth Juster has wide experience of working as US Chair of the US-India High Technology Cooperation Group and as the Deputy Assistant to the President for International Economic Affairs. He has also played important role in Next Steps in Strategic Partnership initiative between the United States and India.

10. Bhaskar Ganguly appointed as the AIFF Ombudsman

The Supreme Court selected veteran former football captain Bhaskar Ganguly as ombudsman of All India Football Federation. Former chief election commissioner S Y Qureshi was also appointed as ombudsman of All India Football Federation.

S Y Qureshi has served as chief election commissioner.

Both ombudsman will have to formulate the draft constitution on basis of National Sports Code and the model guidelines to submit the report to Supreme Court.



11. VP Dimri selected as the president of the 36th International Geological Congress

Vijay Prasad Dimri was appointed as President of 36th International Geological Congress. IGC is a global platform for improvement of earth science, to be co-hosted by India in 2020. India had the privilege of organizing Asia's first IGC session in 1964. Now, after a gap of 56 years. India will again organize 36th International Geological Congress in 2020. The 36th IGC will be based on theme "Geosciences: The Basic Science for a Sustainable Future".



Scientist Vijay Prasad Dimri replaced Shailesh Nayak to become the President. Shailesh Nayak had served as the chairperson of the Earth Commission in India.

12. BSE appointed S Ravi as its new Chairman

Sethurathnam Ravi was appointed as the Chairman of the leading stock exchange – BSE, replacing Dharendra Swarup. Sethurathnam Ravi has experience of as director on boards of various companies such as IDBI Capital Markets Services, UTI Trustee Company, S Ravi Financial Management Services, SMERA Ratings, SBI-SG Global Securities, IDBI Bank, STCI Finance, Tourism Finance Corporation of India and BOI Merchant Bankers.



S. Ravi is also a member of the working group, constituted by Ministry of Heavy Industries & Public Enterprises, member of Sebi's takeover panel and mutual funds advisory committee.

13. RBI Governor Urjit Patel appointed to the advisory board of BIS

RBI Governor Urjit Patel was selected to the Financial Stability Institute Advisory Board or the Bank of International Settlement (BIS). The other members comprise William Dudley, President of the Federal Reserve Bank of New York, central bank governors of Brazil, South Africa and Japan. The board has responsibility to assist financial sector authorities across the world to make financial systems strong. The advisory board will be chaired by Jaime Caruana, General Manager of the BIS.



Bank for International Settlements (BIS) is an international financial organisation owned by 60 member central banks to bring monetary and financial stability.

14. Anand Rajeshwar Baiwar appointed as SEBI Executive Director

Anand Rajeshwar Baiwar took charge as Executive Director, SEBI. Anand Baiwar will have duties to look after the Investigation Department and Division of Foreign Portfolio Investors and Custodians. Prior to this assignment, he was working as Commissioner of Income-Tax at Kolkata.



Anand Rajeshwar Baiwar is an Indian Revenue Service (IRS) officer of the 1990 batch and has over 25 years of experience in the administration of Direct Tax Laws investigation and examination of accounts. He had education qualification of Chartered Financial Analyst (CFA) from ICAI, Hyderabad.

15. South African Indian-origin AIDS researcher appointed UNAIDS Special Ambassador

Acclaimed South African Indian-origin AIDS researcher Professor Quarraisha Abdool Karim has been appointed as a UNAIDS Special Ambassador for Adolescents and HIV.



The Joint United Nations Program on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) leads and inspires the world to achieve its shared vision of zero new HIV infections, zero discrimination and zero AIDS-related deaths. Professor Abdool Karim is one of the world's leading AIDS researchers. In 2013, Professor Abdool Karim was awarded South Africa's highest honour, the Order of Mapungubwe, for her contribution to the response to HIV.

16. Former DEA Secretary Shaktikanta Das appointed as India's G-20 Sherpa

Shri Shaktikanta Das, Former Secretary, Department of Economic Affairs, has been appointed as India's G-20 Sherpa until December 31, 2018 for the Development Track of the G20.



There are two tracks in G 20- Finance Track and Development Track. Finance Track is managed by the Secretary (Economic Affairs) as India's Deputy to G-20 and the Development Track is coordinated by the Sherpa. The Department of Economic Affairs will provide necessary support to the Sherpa.

17. Justice Satrughana Pujahari sworn in as the Madras HC judge

Justice Satrughana Pujahari has been sworn in as a judge of the Madras high court. He was administered the oath of office by Chief Justice Indira Banerjee.



Justice Pujahari was transferred from the Orissa high court.

He joined as principal secretary to Government of Odisha, law department. With his appointment, the total number of judges has gone up to 54 as against the sanctioned strength of 75.

18. Government appointed B.N. Sharma as the Chairman of the National Anti-profiteering Authority under GST

The Cabinet appointed senior IAS officer Shri B.N. Sharma, as the first Chairman of this apex Authority in the rank of Secretary to Government of India.



Shri B.N. Sharma, an IAS officer of 1985 batch, has worked as Additional Secretary in the Ministry of Power and prior to that, in the Commercial Taxes Department in the State of Rajasthan. As its first Chairman, Shri B.N. Sharma is expected to give a direction to the Authority in boosting the confidence of consumers that GST is a "Good and Simple Tax" in the overall national interest.

19. Defence Minister Nirmala Sitharaman selected as the IDSA President

Defence Minister Nirmala Sitharaman was selected as President of the Institute for Defence Studies and Analysis, replacing former defence minister, Manohar Parrikar. Institute for Defence Studies and Analysis is funded by defence ministry and it is compulsory to have the Defence Minister as its President.



The other council ministers comprise Prof Charan Dass Wadhwa, Air Marshal M. Matheswaran, G.K. Pillai, Lt. Gen. Prakash Menon, Ambassador Swashpawan Singh, Gulshan Luthra and Vice Admiral Anup Singh. IDSA conducts research in military, foreign and strategic affairs like conducting nuclear tests and executes specific assignments from the Ministry of External Affairs.

Awards

1. K Satchidanandan nominated for Ezhuthachan Puraskaram

Eminent Malayalam Poet and literary critic, K Satchidanandan has been nominated for Ezhuthachan Puraskaram 2017 for his contributions to Malayalam literature and poetry.



The award is Kerala government's highest literary honour and carries a cash prize of Rs 5 lakh and a citation. It was instituted in the name of Ezhuthachan, the father of Malayalam language. Satchidanandan has published several books of poetry, criticism, plays, travelogues and translations of poetry and plays.

2. Awards for Best Urban Transport Practices announced

The Awards for the 'Best Urban Transport Practices' were announced by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs on the concluding day of the three day Urban Mobility Conference -cum-Exhibition at Hyderabad.



H-TRIMS of Hyderabad, the Traffic Integrated Management initiative was chosen for the 'Commendable Initiative Award' under 'Best Intelligent Transport Project' category. Chittoor was chosen for the 'Commendable Initiative Award' for the city police's initiative for improving road safety. Madhya Pradesh and Lucknow Metro project won Commendable Urban Mass Transit Initiative. Bhopal was honoured for Commendable Initiative for introducing Public Bicycle Sharing.

3. Tamil Nadu's Sri Ranganathaswamy Temple bagged UNESCO award

Srirangam's Sri Ranganathaswamy Temple was honoured with UNESCO Asia Pacific Award of Merit 2017 for its rich cultural heritage. The temple was preferred over numerous conservation projects from 10 countries in the Asia Pacific region.



As per conservation project, temple renovation took place under supervision of archaeology experts for over a year. Renovation involved removal of 60,000 tonnes of construction waste, restoring 1000 pillars and renovation of 236-foot-high Rajagopuram, 21 towers etc. Project unveiled the original fabric of the holy place, water bodies and landscape within the temple's four inner areas.

4. Jnanpith award 2017 honoured to writer Krishna Sobti

The 2017 Jnanpith award was given to famous author Krishna Sobti for her outstanding literature talent. She received prize money of eleven lakh rupees, a certificate and a memento. She has penned about partition, women empowerment, Indian society, changing human values etc.



Some of her well-known novels are Daar Se Bichhudi, Mitro Marjani, Zindaginama, Badalom ke Ghare, Ai Ladki, and Gujarat Pakistan Se Gujarat Hindustan, etc. Krishna won Sahitya Akademi award for her writing Zindaginama. She has been award winner of Shiroman awards, Maithli Sharan Gupt Samman, Sahitya Akademi Fellowship and Padma Bhushan.

5. Actor Mohan Joshi awarded with Vishnudas Bhave award

Indian film, television and theater actor Mohan Joshi was honoured with Vishnudas Bhave award, at a ceremony held on the eve of Marathi Rangbhumi Din. He received a trophy, a citation and a cash of Rs 25,000.



Mohan Joshi has worked in numerous Hindi, Marathi, Bengali, Kannad and Bhojpuri movies. He has been recipient of 1999 National Film Awards.

Vishnudas Bhave award is given in the memory of theatre founder Vishnudas Bhave. Vishnudas Bhave made Marathi plays with music based on Karnataki base.

6. National Entrepreneurship Awards 2017

Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship hosted the National Entrepreneurship Awards 2017. The National Entrepreneurship Awards (NEA) was instituted by MSDE in 2016 to encourage a culture of entrepreneurship across the country.



Winners were given a cash award of Rs. 5 lakh (enterprises and individuals) and Rs. 10 lakhs (organizations/institutes) along with a certificate and trophy recognizing their efforts of being the change agents in India's development.

7. Short Film Competition on Divyangjan Shashaktikaran-2017 winners announced

Shri Thaawarchand Gehlot, Minister for Social Justice and Empowerment presented the Awards to the winners of 'Short Film Competition on Divyangjan Shashaktikaran-2017'. The award for Best Short Film was given to Suyash Shinde for Azan, Abhay Punjabi for Achala, Amit Sonkar for Tum Main aur Hum Sab and B.D. Banshkar for I know Sign Language.



Narendra Joshi's Sugamaya Bharat and Jyotsna Puthran's Zebra Crossing bagged the first position in the categories of Documentary and T.V. Spot, respectively. Eminent personalities from the film and media were part of the jury scrutinizing the entries to draw out the best.

8. South Asian Film Festival of Montreal honoured Indian Short Film 'The School Bag'

South Asian Film Festival of Montreal (SAFFM) honoured Indian Short Film 'The School Bag', directed by Dheeraj Jindal. 'The School Bag' is a story about relationship between a mother and a 7-year-old son based in Pakistan's Peshawar, where a son wishes for new school bag on his birthday. The movie recreated the tragedy of December 2014 when terrorists mowed down hundreds of schoolchildren.



South Asian Film Festival of Montreal is presented by Kabir Centre for Arts & Culture, a not-for-profit organization promoting various art forms. The theme for SAFFM was based on freedom of speech and expression.

9. UNHCR named to receive Mother Teresa Award 2017

The 2017 Mother Teresa Memorial Award for Social Justice will be honoured to 'The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees' (UNHCR), for its outstanding contribution in humanitarian aid to numerous people. UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency, is a global organisation dedicated to help humans, protect lives and build a better future for refugees' habitat, especially for homeless people.



The 2017 Mother Teresa Memorial Award is based on 'Compassion beyond Borders'. The award ceremony and a Harmony International conference will be organized in December 2017. Dalai Lama, Malala Yousafzai, Anna Hazare has been recipients of this award.

10. Actress Natalie Portman honoured with ‘Jewish Nobel Prize’

Veteran actor Natalie Portman was honoured with Israel’s 2018 Genesis Prize. It is also known as “the Jewish Nobel Prize”. It honours an inspirational personality every year with \$1 million award. Natalie was honoured for her immense contribution towards social causes and her deep connection to Jewish and Israeli roots.



Actor Natalie Portman was born in Israel and later moved to the United States to pursue her acting career. She is known for some of her best roles played in movies such as “Black Swan” and “Tale of Love and Darkness”.

11. President of India presented National Child Awards

The President of India, Shri Ram Nath Kovind, presented the National Child Awards on Children’s Day. President honoured 16 children, out of which one child was given a gold medal and 15 children were given silver medals. The National Award for Child Welfare was conferred on three individuals and five institutions. The Rajiv Gandhi Manav Seva Award was conferred on three individuals.



Children in the age group of 5-18 years received award. The child with the most outstanding achievement was honoured with a cash prize of Rs. 20,000 and rest 15 children were honoured with Rs. 10,000.

12. Vice President conferred National Awards for Excellence in Journalism

Vice President of India conferred National Awards for Excellence in Journalism. Eminent Journalists Shri Sam Rajappa and Shri Sarat Mishra were jointly awarded ‘Raja Ram Mohan Roy Award’ for their outstanding contributions towards journalism. While Ms. Shalini Nair, The Indian Express, received the “Rural Journalism & Developmental Reporting” award, Shri K. Sujith and Ms. Chitrangada Choudhury, bagged awards for ‘Investigative Journalism’.



Photo Journalism awards were given to Shri C.K. Thanseer, Chandrika Daily, Shri Vijay Verma, Press Trust of India and Shri J. Suresh of Malayala Manorama. Shri Gireesh Kumar, Times of India, received the award for Best Newspapers Art.

13. Girish Karnad conferred with Tata Literature Live lifetime achievement award

Actor-playwright Girish Karnad conferred with Lifetime Achievement Award for his outstanding contribution in the field of theatre at the Tata Literature Live in Mumbai. Karnad, who has been writing plays, has had his works translated into various Indian languages and helmed by directors like Ebrahim Alkazi, B V Karanth and Alyque Padamsee among others.



Tata Trusts' Big Little Book Awards', for author in Bengali Children's Literature, went to Nabaneeta Dev Sen. Book of the year 2017, non-fiction, went to 'Age of Anger: A History of the present' by Pankaj Mishra.

14. Famous author Sergio Ramirez honoured with Spain's Cervantes Prize

Spain's prestigious honour 2017 Cervantes Prize was given to Nicaraguan's former politician and famous author Sergio Ramirez Mercado. Cervantes Prize is Spanish-speaking world's highest literary honor. Sergio Ramirez Mercado has penned many novels such as "Margarita, esta linda la mar", Juan de Juanes, El Reino Animal etc. Sergio Ramirez Mercado was given 125,000-euro prize money.



Cervantes Prize is given in the memory of Miguel de Cervantes, author of novel "Don Quixote." The Miguel de Cervantes Prize is given every year to honour the lifetime achievement of an outstanding writer in the Spanish language.

15. India's ex-prime minister Manmohan Singh to get Indira Gandhi Peace Prize

Indira Gandhi Prize for Peace, Disarmament and Development 2017 will be given to India's former prime minister Manmohan Singh for his great leadership as prime minister between 2004 and 2014, which improved India's image at global level. Manmohan Singh was the only third Indian prime minister who completed two full terms as the PM.



Indira Gandhi Prize for Peace, Disarmament and Development is the award instituted by Indira Gandhi Memorial trust in 1986. It honours awardees with Rs.25 lakh prize money and a citation.

16. Veteran journalist Manik Banerjee honoured with IMF award

Veteran journalist Manik Banerjee has been presented with the 'Nain Singh-Kishen Singh Life Time Achievement Award' by the Indian Mountaineering Foundation (IMF) in recognition of his achievements in mountaineering over a period of four decades and invaluable contribution in promotion of mountaineering. Banerjee was a sports journalist.



Lt Col RS Jamwal was presented with the IMF Gold Medal award. He has the distinction of reaching the top of Mt. Everest thrice (in 2013, 2016 and 2017) besides climbing many other peaks in Indian Himalaya.

17. IFFI nominated nine movies for ICFT UNESCO Gandhi Medal

The International Film Festival of India (IFFI) nominated nine movies for 2017 International Council for Film, Television and Audio-visual Communication (ICFT) UNESCO Gandhi Medal. Out of nine films, five are from India. All nine films are being screened at the ongoing IFFI in Panaji, Goa.



The ICFT UNESCO Gandhi Award will be given to a film that best reflects Mahatma Gandhi's ideals of peace, tolerance and non-violence.

The Indian films competing for the prestigious ICFT UNESCO Gandhi Medal are Kshitij - A Horizon, Manusangada, Poorna, Railway Children and Take-Off.

18. President of India confers the third ICCR Distinguished Indologist award on Professor Hiroshi Marui

The President of India, Shri Ram Nath Kovind, conferred the third ICCR Distinguished Indologist Award on Professor Hiroshi Marui of Japan.

Professor Marui has spent over 40 years working on Indian philosophy and Buddhist Studies. His many acclaimed publications and research papers are considered a final authority on several subjects the world over. As President of the Japanese Association of Indian and Buddhist Studies, he has made a significant contribution to Indology in Japan.



19. Health Ministry won Bronze Medal at the India International Trade Fair 2017

Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has been awarded the Bronze Medal for its creative and informative display at the 37th India International Trade Fair 2017 held at Pragati Maidan.



The Health Ministry pavilion highlighted programs and initiatives of the Health Ministry such as Mission Indradhnaush for expanding full immunization coverage, introduction of new vaccines, Pradhan Mantri Matritva Suraksha Yojana (PMSMA), Mother's Absolute Affection (MAA) for encouraging breastfeeding, Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojana (PMSSY) for strengthening the tertiary health sector.

20. '120 beats Per Minute' film bagged the Golden Peacock at IFFI 2017

Morocco born French Director Robin Campillo's drama film '120 BPM' or '120 Beats Per Minute' won the coveted Golden Peacock Award at the 48th International Film Festival of India (IFFI), which concluded in Goa.



The film is set in France in the 1990s and deals about homosexuality and the AIDS epidemic. The film, starring Nahuel Perez Biscayart, Arnaud Valois and Adele Haenel, had its world premiere at the 2017 Cannes Film Festival. The Golden Peacock Award carries a cash prize of Rs. 4 million (Rs 40 lakhs) to be shared equally between the Producer and the Director, Trophy and the citation.

21. IFFI 2017 awards announced

The International Film Festival of India 2017 was celebrated based on theme of 'Connecting the World through Stories'. Shri Amitabh Bachchan actor was honoured with the Indian Film Personality of the Year 2017. Canadian filmmaker, Atom Egoyan was conferred the Lifetime Achievement Award.



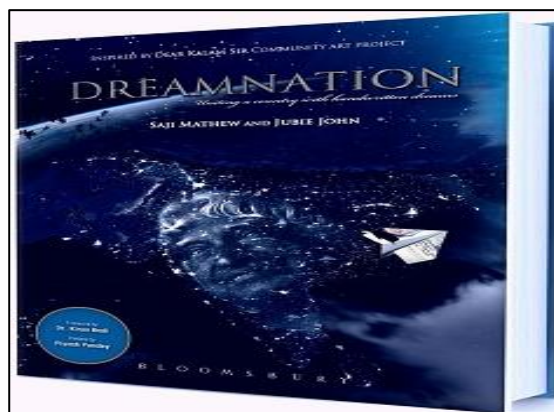
French movie '120 Beats per Minute', directed by Robin Campillo bagged the award for Best Film in IFFI 2017. The Best Director award was given to Vivian Qu for the film 'Angels Wear White', who bagged the Silver Peacock Trophy. Parvathy Thiruvothu Kottuvata was awarded the Best Actress Award and Nahuel Pérez Biscayart won the Best Actor Award.

Books & Authors

1. Book on Dr. Kalam released

An illustrative book, titled "Dreamnation: Uniting a Country with Handwritten Dreams", containing inspiring words of Dr A.P.J. Abdul Kalam was released online by Indian women's cricket team captain Mithali Raj on the 86th birth anniversary of the former President.

The book includes a collection of 200-plus handcrafted and handwritten postcards from across India. It is co-authored by Saji Mathew and Jubie John and published by Bloomsbury in collaboration with NGO LetterFarms.



2. Nabaneeta Dev Sen presented with the Big Little Book Award

Sahitya Akademi award winner Bengali writer Nabaneeta Dev Sen has been declared winner of the Big Little Book Award 2017 in the "Author in Bengali Language" category for her contribution to the children's literature.

The award is given by Parag initiative of Tata Trusts to recognize and honour authors and illustrators of children's literature. This year the focus was on the writers in Bengali language in its second edition. Proiti Roy, known for her works in various children's books across languages, received the award in the illustrator category.



Committees

1. A seven-member committee headed by Environment Secretary constituted to discuss situation arising out of Air Pollution

A seven-member committee headed by the Secretary, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change was constituted to monitor the short-term and long-term solutions to air pollution. Other members of the committee include Secretary, Science & Technology, Secretary, Department of Biotechnology, Additional Secretary, Niti Aayog, Chairman, Central Pollution Control Board, Chief Secretary, Delhi and Representative of Vidhi Centre for Legal Policy.



A decision was taken at the meeting to request respective State Governments to implement the Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP) including control of road and construction dust, garbage burning, control of power plants and industrial emissions etc.

2. Constitution of Task Force for drafting a New Direct Tax Legislation

In order to review the Act and to draft a new Direct Tax Law in consonance with economic needs of the country, the Government has constituted a Task Force. Dr. Arvind Subramanian, Chief Economic Adviser (CEA) will be a permanent Special Invitee in the Task Force.

The committee's terms of reference are to draft a new law keeping in mind the prevalent taxation system in other countries, international best practices and economic needs of the country.



Deaths

1. Former Prime Minister of Nepal Kirti Nidhi Bista passed away

Former Prime Minister of Nepal Kirti Nidhi Bista passed away at Kathmandu. He was 90 and suffering from cancer. Prime Minister of Nepal Sher Bahadur Deuba has condoled his death. He was an epitome of simplicity and integrity, and will always be remembered as a great soul. His heart goes out to his bereaved family.

Bista was born in Kathmandu on 15 January 1927. He first became Prime Minister of Nepal in 1969. Bista served three times as PM from 1969 to 1970, 1971 to 1973 and 1977 to 1979.

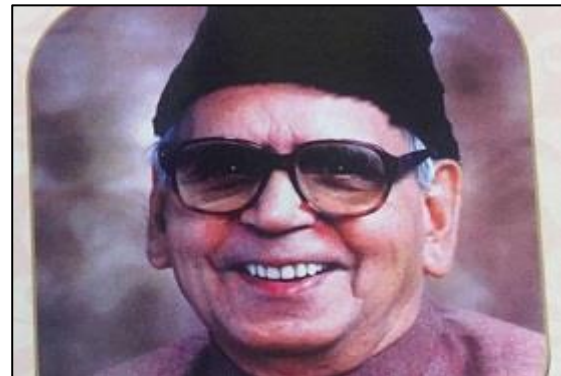


2. Veteran author Manu Sharma passed away

Famous author Manu Sharma died at the age of 89. He was also known as Hanuman Prasad Sharma. He was known not only for his writing but also for his social work.

He donated his lifetime savings of Rs. 20 lakhs for the recreation of a 'ghat' in Varanasi to carry out a cleanliness campaign.

Author Manu Sharma received Uttar Pradesh's prestigious Yash Bharti Award and Padma Shri. Some of his best-penned books were 'Krishna ki Atmakatha' series, 'Draupadi ki Atmakatha'.



3. Veteran Vocalist Jagdish Mohan passed away

Uttarakhand's renowned vocalist Jagdish Mohan died at the age of 87. He was known for his Indian classical music performance. He was honoured with Sangeet Sartaj by Pracheen Kala Kendra, Chandigarh. His specialty was his unique 'Kirana gayaki style', that is swara or individual notes.

Jagdish Mohan always performed in highly emotional pukars (invocation) in the higher octaves. He was regular performer at All India Radio. The Gharana style, performed by Jagdish Mohan was one of the significant styles in modern Indian classical music in the late 19th or early 20th centuries.



4. Jnanpith awardee poet Kunwar Narayan passed away

Uttar Pradesh's veteran poet Kunwar Narayan passed away at the age of 90 due to brain hemorrhage. He was known for his creative poetry writing, stories and critiques. Some of his best-known poetries were "Chakravyuh", "Atmajayee", "Apne Samne", "Koi Dusra Nahi", and "In Dinon". "Tisra Saptak" is a poetry, edited by Kunwar Narayan. Kunwar's best collection of literary criticism was "Aaj aur Aaj se Pehle" and "Akaaron Ke Aas Paas".

Kunwar was honoured with Jnanpith Award in 2005 and Padma Bhushan in 2009.



5. Former Union minister Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi died

Former Union minister and Congress party politician Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi passed away at the age of 72. He had served as West Bengal Congress Committee President and as the All India Football Federation President.

He had served as All India Football Federation President for almost 20 years and was the first Indian to serve as a match commissioner in a FIFA World Cup game.

He had the experience of working as the Union minister of parliamentary affairs and as the Information and Broadcasting Minister from 2004 to 2008.



6. Former Czech tennis champion Jana Novotna passed away

Czech tennis champion Jana Novotna died at the age of 49 due to cancer. She was honoured with the tennis Hall of Fame in 2005. The 1988 Wimbledon Champion Jana Novotna had a 14-year professional career, which included prestigious honours such as 24 WTA singles titles and 76 doubles titles.

Novotna won 'Ladies' Invitation Doubles tournament at Wimbledon in 2006, 2007, 2008, 2010 and 2014. The three time Olympic gold medalist Jana was also member of Czechoslovakia's 1988 Fed Cup championship team. Jana had also worked as commentator for Wimbledon for the BBC.



7. Jazz singer and lyricist Jon Hendricks passed away

Pioneering jazz singer and lyricist Jon Hendricks died at age of 96. Hendricks found fame in the 1950s and '60s teaming with Dave Lambert and Annie Ross. The Jazz singer wrote the lyrics to existing Basie songs, and the three recorded their own voices in layers instead of using backup singers. The trio's first album, "Sing a Song of Basie," won acclaim for its use of vocalese, in which the voices mimic the instrumental parts.

Others experimented with vocalese before Hendricks, but he was widely regarded as the father of the spirited singing style for popularizing it.



1. Indian Air force contingent participated in 'Ex Blue Flag-17'

A 45-member contingent of the Indian Air Force participated in exercise 'Blue Flag-17' held in Israel. Blue Flag is a bi-annual multilateral exercise, which aims to strengthen military cooperation amongst participating nations.

This is the first time the Indian Air Force is operating with Israeli AF in a multilateral exercise setting. The IAF participated with the C-130J special operations aircraft along with Garud commandos. The other nations to participate were United States of America, Poland, Italy, Greece, France and Germany.



2. India and Japan held a three-day anti-submarine drill

The Indian Navy along with the Japanese Navy held a three-day anti-submarine warfare exercise in the Indian Ocean region to deepen their operational coordination in the strategically important sea-lanes around the two nations.

Indian Navy's two P-8 I, long-range maritime reconnaissance anti-submarine warfare aircraft and two P-3C Orion jets of the Japanese Navy took part in the exercise. Japan Navy has participated in the recent trilateral Malabar exercise along with India and the US.



3. Vice Admiral Karambir Singh takes over as the Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief, ENC

Vice Admiral Karambir Singh, AVSM took over as the Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Eastern Naval Command (ENC) from Vice Admiral HCS Bisht, PVSM AVSM ADC.

Vice Admiral HCS Bisht retired from the Naval Service. Vice Admiral Karambir is an alumnus of the National Defence Academy, Khadakwasla. He earned his wings as a helicopter pilot in 1982. He is a graduate of Defence Services Staff College, Wellington and from College of Naval Warfare, Mumbai. He has commanded an Indian Coast Guard Ship Chandbibi, Missile Corvette INS Vijaydurg as well as two Guided Missile Destroyers INS Rana and INS Delhi.



4. Indo – Kazakhstan Joint Exercise “PRABAL DOSTYK 2017”

A fourteen day joint training exercise “PRABAL DOSTYK – 2017” between the Indian Army and the Kazakhstan Army was held at Bakloh, Himachal Pradesh.

The joint exercise was aimed at enhancing the military ties between the two countries as also at achieving interoperability between the two armies.

The training contingents comprised of platoon strength from the 11th Gorkha Rifles of the Indian Army and a similar strength of the Kazakhstan Army.



5. PAN Indian Army Release of IQMP Software Application

Integrated Quarter Master Package (IQMP) software application was formally released to the Indian Army by the Vice Chief of Army Staff Lt Gen Sarath Chand. IQMP is web-based software developed by Army Software Development Centre in association with M/s TCS Ltd. The application automates various logistics related functions of an Army Unit. The application will replace numerous legacy applications such as ‘Vastra’ and ‘Quarter Master Package’.



The software has been developed with the aim of bringing speed, accuracy and transparency in handling logistics aspects in the unit.

6. Vice Admiral Ajit Kumar P, AVSM VSM assumed charge as the Vice Chief of Naval Staff (VCNS)

Vice Admiral Ajit Kumar P, AVSM, VSM has assumed charge as the Vice Chief of Naval Staff from Vice Admiral Karambir Singh AVSM who has taken over as Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief Eastern Naval Command.

Vice Admiral Ajit Kumar P, AVSM, VSM is an alumni of the National Defence Academy. He was commissioned in the Indian Navy in July 1981. He did his Naval Higher Command Course from the Naval War College, Newport, Rhode Island in the USA.



7. Successful Flight Test of Guided Bombs

Indigenously developed lightweight Glide Bomb, SAAW (Smart Anti Airfield Weapon) was successfully tested from Indian Air Force aircraft in the ranges at ITR, which is in Chandipur, Odisha. The guided bomb released from the aircraft and guided through precision navigation system, reached the targets at greater than 70 km range, with high accuracies.



Three tests with different release conditions and ranges were conducted and all were successful. The guided bomb is developed by Research Centre Imarat (RCI), DRDO along with other laboratories of DRDO and Indian Air Force.

8. India Navy to use US aircraft launch mechanism in the ship called CATOBAR

United States' catapult-based aircraft launch mechanism called CATOBAR is likely to be installed by Indian Navy. CATOBAR is used for aircraft carrier IAC-II. India is also in process to install U.S. electromagnetic aircraft launch system (EMALS). However, India will launch its first domestic carrier, Vikrant, weighing 40,000 tonnes in 2018, which works on STOBAR (Short Take-Off but Arrested Recovery) mechanism.



According to Indian Navy, IAC-II is capable of carrying 50 aircraft. Recently, both the countries discussed plans for future co-operation of aircraft carrier technology, on the side-lines of meeting of joint working group.

9. Indian Army launched Joint Training Node in Shillong

In order to host foreign armies in joint exercises, Indian Army launched Joint Training Node in Umroi, Public Relation Officer (Defence) Shillong Meghalaya. Project was aimed to complete in 1 year, to host "Exercise Milap" a multi nation joint training exercise with the Bangladesh Army.



Joint Training Node has capability of providing optimal training environment. It is ready to host Bangladesh Army, and exercises with Myanmar and Chinese armies, scheduled to be held in 2018. Joint Training Node can also offer conducive weather terrain.

10. DRDO conducted a successful flight trial of 'NIRBHAY' sub-sonic cruise missile

Defence Research and Development Organisation conducted successful test flight of 'NIRBHAY', which is the country's first indigenously designed and developed Long Range Sub-Sonic Cruise Missile, which can be deployed from multiple platforms. It was successfully test fired from the Integrated Test Range (ITR), which is in Chandipur, Odisha.



The missile has the capability to loiter and cruise at 0.7 Mach, at altitudes as low as 100 m. The flight test achieved all the mission objectives completely from lift-off until the final splash, boosting the confidence of all scientists associated with the trial.

11. Two-Day Controllers Conference – 2017 held

Defence Accounts Department under Ministry of Defence (Finance) organized a two-day 'Controllers Conference - 2017'. Chief of Army Staff lauded the initiatives of Defence Accounts Department like defence travel system, E-PPO's, National compilation system and its benefits to the Indian Army. The theme of the conference was 'Strengthening Systems and Controls: the Way Forward'. The conference had five business sessions.



The conference focused on issues of using analytics for better decision-making, challenges in implementation of the Integrated Financial Advisor system, change management in core functions of Defence Accounts Department and better stakeholder management in handling defence pension issues.

12. The US & South Korea started joint naval exercises involving three US aircraft carriers

The United States and South Korea started joint naval exercises involving three US aircraft carriers in what military officials described as a clear warning to North Korea.



The exercises involved 11 US Aegis ships and 7 South Korean naval vessels, including two Aegis ships. The Aegis technology refers to missile defence. Japan also participated in the drill. Japan announced that it would send its largest warship to join three U.S. aircraft carriers in exercises in waters near the Korean Peninsula, a display of military force meant to pressure North Korea as US.

13. Joint Training Doctrine Indian Armed Forces – 2017 released

Chairman Chiefs of Staff Committee & Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Sunil Lanba released 'Joint Training Doctrine Indian Armed Forces – 2017'. The document has been prepared in a 'collegiate manner' involving all the three Service Headquarters.



The aim of this Doctrine is to promote 'Synergy' and 'Integration' amongst the three Services and other stakeholders leading to an enhanced efficiency and optimum utilization of resources. The concept includes 'Joint Training' as advantage for promoting 'Diplomacy' and 'Civil – Military interface' issues have also been highlighted in the document.

14. The second annual conclave of Foreign Defence Attaches

The second annual conclave of Foreign Defence Attaches, jointly organized by Headquarters Integrated Defence Staff (HQ IDS) and defence portal BharatShakti.in, was held in Delhi. This was followed by three technical sessions titled 'Is India ready to absorb High-End Technology', 'Defence Exports: The Indian Experience' and 'Defence Technology and Models Abroad'.



Over 60 Foreign Defence Attaches, stalwarts of Indian public and private sector defence companies were expected to attend this conclave besides representatives of Foreign Original Equipment Manufacturers. The conclave was designed to facilitate productive engagement between users in foreign countries, defence stakeholders and analysts.

15. India-Myanmar joint Army exercise held in Meghalaya

The six-day Army warfare exercise between India and Myanmar was held at the Joint Warfare Centre, which is at Umroi near Shillong in Meghalaya. The exercise code-named India-Myanmar Bilateral Army Exercise (IMBAX) was aimed at building and promoting closer relations with armies of the neighboring countries.



The focus was to train the Myanmar army delegation on the tactics, procedures, expertise and methodology required by the contingent of the member nations for serving in UNPKO (United Nations Peacekeeping roles and tasks).

16. Successful firing of Brahmos Air Launched Missile from Su-30 MKI Aircraft

The Indian Air Force has successfully fired the BrahMos air version anti shipping missile from its frontline Su-30 MKI fighter aircraft off the Eastern Coast.

The air launched BrahMos missile is a 2.5-ton supersonic air to surface cruise missile with ranges of more than 400 kms.

The IAF is the first Air Force in the world to have successfully fired an air launched 2.8 Mach surface attack missile of this category.



17. Defence of Andaman & Nicobar Islands exercise held

The five-day DANX exercise (defence of Andaman and Nicobar Islands) was conducted under the aegis of Andaman & Nicobar Command. It was aimed at joint planning and integrated approach for synergistic application of forces and practice procedures and drills of all the Command forces for defending Andaman & Nicobar Islands.

The highlights of the exercise were fighter ops, night para jumps at sea, slithering of troops from helicopters and amphibious landings of troops by ships.



18. Shubhangi Swaroop became Indian Navy's first female pilot

Shubhangi Swaroop created history by becoming Indian Navy's first female pilot. Of the 328 cadets, who passed out from the Indian Naval Academy at Ezhimala in the first batch of female officers, included Shubhangi Swaroop from Uttar Pradesh.

The three other cadets of the same batch Astha Segal from Delhi, Roopa A from Puducherry and Sakthi Maya S from Kerala also created history by becoming India's first women officers at the Naval Armament Inspectorate (NAI) branch of the Navy.

Shubhangi Swaroop is the daughter of a naval commander. She will be trained at the Air Force Academy at Hyderabad.



19. IMMSAREX 2017 began in Bangladesh

The 2017 International Multilateral Maritime Search and Rescue Exercise (IMMSAREX) was held in Bangladesh. It was inaugurated by Prime Minister of Bangladesh Sheikh Hasina.

Indian naval ships Ranvir, Sahyadri, Gharial and Sukanya along with one maritime patrol aircraft P-8I took part in the IMMSAREX 2017. The exercise took place under the aegis of Indian Ocean Naval Symposium (IONS) – an initiative of the Indian Navy that was launched in 2008 to bring together littoral states in the region.



20. Joint Indo-Bangladesh exercise Sampriti 2017 culminated

Joint Indo-Bangladesh Training Exercise SAMPRITI 2017, which is being conducted at Counter Insurgency & Jungle Warfare School, Vairengte in Mizoram culminated with a validation exercise. It is the seventh such exercise in the SAMPRITI series. The exercise was aimed to strengthen and broaden the aspects of interoperability and cooperation between the Indian and Bangladesh Armies.



It was conducted in a progressive manner wherein the participants initially familiarized themselves with each other's organizational structure and tactical drills. Subsequently, the training advanced to various joint tactical exercises by the two Armies.

21. INS Sarvekshak reached Dar-Es-Salaam

In an initiative to bolster bilateral relations with friendly foreign countries and navies in the Indian Ocean region, INS Sarvekshak, a hydrographic survey ship of Southern Naval Command, arrived Dar-es-Salaam Tanzania for undertaking joint Hydrographic Survey along with the Tanzanian Navy.



The joint survey was conducted with the naval personnel of Tanzania who have been trained in India in National Institute of Hydrography, Goa. INS Sarvekshak is a specialized survey ship of the Indian Navy presently based at Kochi and is fitted with state-of-the-art survey equipment like Deep Sea Multi beam echo sounder system.

1. Mineral Production during August 2017 (Provisional)

The index of mineral production of mining and quarrying sector for the month of August 2017 at 92.7 was 9.4% higher as compared to of August 2016. The cumulative growth for the period April- August 2017-18 over the corresponding period of previous year has been (+) 3.3%.

The total estimated value of mineral production in the country during August 2017 was Rs. 18015 crore. The contribution of Coal was the highest at Rs. 6158 crore (34%). Petroleum, Natural gas, Iron ore, Lignite and Limestone together contributed about 94% of the total value of mineral production in August 2017.



2. Patanjali signed MoU with Gol of 1000 crore

The inaugural day of World Food India 2017 saw signing of 13 MoUs worth Rs. 68,000 crore. Patanjali committed to invest Rs 10,000 crore by signing MoU with GoI.

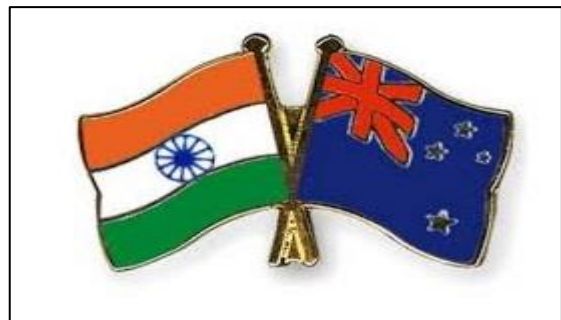
These investments will help in doubling farmers' income as well as generating massive employment in the food-processing sector. Other MoUs signed included Amazon in food retail business, Sharaf Group of UAE for Farm produce, collection, processing and Export; YES Bank for financing food processing projects across the sector. Patanjali Ayurved Ltd is an Indian FMCG company that manufactures Ayurvedic herbal products.



3. Third Protocol to the Convention between Government of India and New Zealand notified

The Third Protocol for amendment of the Convention between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of New Zealand for the avoidance of double taxation and the prevention of fiscal evasion with respect to taxes on income was signed by both countries.

The Protocol updates the existing framework of exchange of tax related information to latest international standard, which will help curb tax evasion and tax avoidance between the two countries and will enable mutual assistance in collection of taxes.



4. India signed loan agreement with World Bank for US\$ 119 Million

Financing Agreement for IBRD loan of US\$ 119 million (equivalent) for the "Odisha Higher Education Program for Excellence & Equity (OHEPEE) Project" was signed with the World Bank. A Project Agreement was also signed by Mr. G.V.V. Sarma, Additional Chief Secretary, Department of Higher Education, Government of Odisha and Mr. Hisham A. Abdo Kahin, Acting Country Director, World Bank.



The Objective of the project is to improve the quality of 'students' equitable access to selected institutions and enhance governance of the higher education system in Odisha.

5. GST Council reduced tax from 28 to 18% on 178 items

The Goods and Services Tax (GST) Council announced major changes in the new national law, reducing tax rate on a wide range of products. After the Council's meeting in Guwahati, Finance Minister Arun Jaitley reduced tax on 178 items, from 28% to 18% and now only 50 items remain in the highest tax slab of 28%.



Dining out will be taxed at 5% rather than 18%, without Input Tax Credit (ITC). Hotel and Restaurant Associations President Garish Oberoi demanded to bring down GST rate on restaurants to 12% with ITC or at 5% without ITC.

6. Price of new series of SGBs fixed at ₹2,961 per gram

The price of the new series of Sovereign Gold Bonds (SGBs) has been fixed at 2,961 rupees per gram. It has been offered at a discount of 50 rupees per gram to investors applying online and making payments digitally.



Under this scheme, the bonds are denominated in units of one gram of gold and multiples thereof.

Minimum investment in the bonds is one gram, with a maximum limit of 500 grams per person, per fiscal year.

7. Ola in union with Microsoft will build connected vehicle platform

Microsoft and Ola will be creating a new connected vehicle platform for car manufacturers worldwide. According to partnership deal, Microsoft will be a preferred cloud provider and will use Microsoft Azure to power Ola Play, the company's existing connected car platform. This will provide passengers, an improved experience due to better in-car productivity, advanced navigation system, denoting maintenance of vehicles etc.



Ola Play customers will be able to use Office 365 and Skype for Business, as well as voice-assisted controls, during their ride. Ola Play is the world's first connected car platform for ridesharing to enhance driver experiences.

8. Foreign tourist arrival in India increased by 18.1%

Foreign tourist arrival in India has increased by 18.1% as compared to 2016. The number of foreign tourist arrivals in India was 8.76 lakh as compared to 7.42 lakh previously. Most tourists came from Bangladesh followed by the US, the UK, Sri Lanka, Canada and Germany.



A total of 1.76 lakh foreign tourists arrived on e-Tourist Visa, registering a growth of 67.3 percent. Around 12.43 lakh foreign tourists arrived on e-tourist visas against 7.81 lakh during the same period previous year, registering a growth of 59.2%.

9. Uber entered into agreement with SoftBank

SoftBank and Uber Technologies Inc. entered into an agreement where SoftBank Group Corp.'s will invest \$1 billion in Uber and proceed with a tender offer to buy up to \$9 billion stake from existing investors. Deal states that SoftBank will buy shares from existing investors and Uber employees, which will allow SoftBank to maintain its stake up to 14%.



SoftBank Group Corp. is a Japanese multinational telecommunications corporation, based in Tokyo. Uber Technologies Inc. is a global transportation technology company, based in San Francisco, California, United States.

10. India launched BHARAT-22 Exchange Traded Fund

The Government of India launched the BHARAT-22 Exchange Traded Fund (ETF) managed by ICICI Prudential Mutual Fund targeting an initial amount of about Rs. 8,000 crore. The strength of this ETF lies in the specially created Index S&P BSE BHARAT-22 INDEX. This Index is a unique blend of shares of key CPSEs, Public Sector Banks (PSBs) and also the Government owned shares in blue chip private companies like Larsen & Tubro (L&T), Axis Bank and ITC.



The Sector and Stock exposure limits help in risk management and reduction of concentration, providing stability to the Index.

11. NEA, CTGC signed JV pact for construction of West Seti Hydropower Project

Nepal Electricity Authority (NEA) signed a joint venture agreement with a Chinese company to construct 750-MW West Seti Hydropower Project. It will be one of the largest reservoir type hydro project in Nepal. The estimated cost of project will be 1.8 billion US dollars.



CTGC will have 75% stake in the joint venture and NEA will hold remaining 25%. The project will be completed in 79 months after start of construction work. West Seti project will be spread over Baitadi, Bajhang, Dadeldhura and Doti districts of Nepal.

12. Bank of America-Merrill Lynch reported India to be third largest economy by 2028

According to a report unveiled by Bank of America-Merrill Lynch, India will become third-largest economy by 2028. India will lead ahead of Japan and Germany in terms of nominal GDP by 2028. India is expected to replace Japan in becoming world's fifth largest economy by 2019. Bank of America-Merrill Lynch reported that India would grow by 10% every year in the upcoming 10 years.



It was reported on basis of India's reduced dependency ratios, which are in-turn increasing saving and investment rates. While, lower lending rates structure due to financial maturity and increasing incomes that support 7% real GDP growth.

13. SARTTAC meeting held in Delhi

An Interim Meeting of the Steering Committee of the International Monetary Fund (IMF)'s South Asia Regional Training and Technical Assistance Center (SARTTAC) was held in Delhi, to assess the Centre's activities since its inauguration in February 2017 and to review the Fiscal Year 2018 Work Plan. The Committee welcomed progress in securing over 90 percent of the financing for SARTTAC's first five-year (2017-2022) Phase.



The South Asia Regional Training and Technical Assistance Center (SARTTAC), which was inaugurated in February 2017, is the first IMF Regional Capacity Development Center to integrate training and technical assistance activities.

14. Moody's upgraded Sovereign Credit Rating of India to Baa2 from Baa3

Moody's Investors Service ("Moody's") has upgraded the Government of India's local and foreign currency issuer ratings to Baa2 from Baa3 and changed the outlook on the rating to stable from positive. India's rating has been upgraded after a period of 13 years. India's sovereign credit rating was last upgraded in January 2004 to Baa3 (from Ba1).



Moody's have also rightly recognized the Government's commitment to macro stability which has led to low inflation, declining deficit and prudent external balance and Government's fiscal consolidation program, which has reduced fiscal deficits from 4.5% of GDP in 2013-14 to 3.5% in 2016-17.

15. India inked loan agreement with the World Bank for USD 100 Million

A guarantee agreement for IBRD/CTF loan of USD 98 Million and grant agreement for USD 2 million for the "Shared Infrastructure for Solar Parks Project" was inked between the World Bank and Department of Economic Affairs on behalf of Government of India.



The objective of the project is to increase solar generation capacity through establishment of large-scale parks in the country. The project will help establish large-scale solar parks and support the government's plan to install 100 Gigawatts (GW) of solar power out of a total renewable-energy target of 175 GW by 2022.

16. Moody's reported budget deficit may rise in FY18

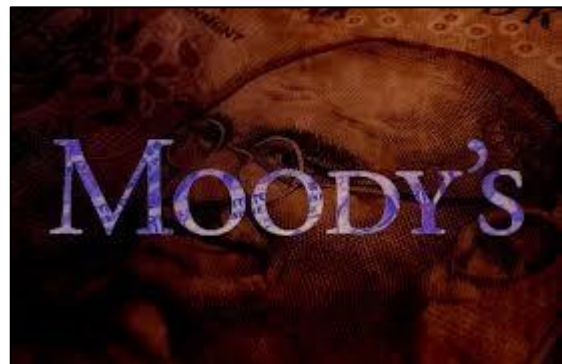
US-based rating agency Moody's reported that, lower taxes and higher public expenditure may widen budget deficit in 2017-18, but steps taken by the government to broaden the tax base and improve spending efficiency would help in narrowing it going forward.



The government's commitment to fiscal consolidation and sustained growth would help it reduce debt burden. Moody's had, recently, raised India's sovereign rating for the first time in over 13 years, to Baa2 from Baa3 and rating outlook was changed to stable from positive.

17. Moody's Investors service upgraded ratings after 13 years

Moody's Investors Service upgraded ratings of nine state-owned firms. These are Bharat Petroleum Corp Ltd (BPCL), Hindustan Petroleum Corp Ltd (HPCL), Indian Oil Corp (IOC), Petronet LNG Ltd (PLL), Oil and Natural Gas Corp (ONGC), National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC), NHPC, National Highway Authority of India (NHAI) and GAIL India.



This upgrade comes after 13 years. India's sovereign credit rating was last upgraded in January 2004 to Baa2 from Baa3. Ratings of NTPC, NHPC, NHAI) and GAIL India have been raised to Baa2 stable.

18. India becomes second largest fish producing country in the world

India has become the second largest fish producing country in the world. The Union Government has launched the scheme 'Blue Revolution' with the outlay of Rs. 300 crore for the integrated development of the Fisheries sector in the country. As a result, overall fish production has registered an increase of about 18.86%.



The total fish production in the country has reached at about 11.41 million tonnes in 2016-17. India has exported fish products amounting to US\$ 5.78 billion (Rs. 37,871 crore) during 2016-17.

19. Facebook aims to train five lakh Indians on digital skills by 2020

Facebook plans to train five lakh people in India on digital skills by 2020. It has unveiled two-programs that are Facebook Digital Training and Facebook Start-up Training Hubs, designed for individuals and start-ups.

These programs are being rolled out in India before any other country. These tools will help people learn digital skills and enable entrepreneurs and small and medium businesses in digitizing their business. India is poised to have a digital economy worth \$1 trillion by 2022.



20. Government notified post-GST rates for claiming rebate of taxes on exports

Government notified post-GST rates for claiming rebate of state levies or taxes under the scheme for Remission of State Levies on exports of ready-made garments, made-ups and under AA-RoSL for garments. Government had also enhanced rates for incentives for garments and made-ups from 2% to 4% of value of exports under merchandise exports from India. This will boost exports and generate employment in labour intensive textiles and apparel sector.



Post-GST rates of RoSL were made up to a maximum of 1.7% for cotton garments, 1.25% for manmade fibre (MMF), silk and woolen garments and 1.48% for apparel of blends.

21. FDI up 17% to \$25.35 Billion during April-Sept this fiscal

Foreign direct investment (FDI) in the country increased by 17% to USD 25.35 billion during April-September fiscal from USD 21.62 billion in the year-ago period.

The total FDI into India including equity inflows, reinvested earnings and other capital stood at USD 518.10 Billion during April 2000 to September 2017. The main sectors, which attract foreign inflows, include services, telecom, trading, computer hardware, software, and automobile. Bulk of the FDI came in from Singapore, Mauritius, the Netherlands and Japan.



22. S&P Retains India's Sovereign Rating at 'BBB-'

Global rating agency Standard and Poor has retained India's sovereign rating at BBB- with a stable outlook. The agency affirmed its 'BBB-' long-term and 'A-3' short-term sovereign credit ratings on India.

India remains at the lowest investment grade. The rating by S&P was affected by India's low wealth levels, measured by GDP per capita, which it estimated at \$2,000 in 2017. Earlier, Moody's had raised India's sovereign ratings to Baa2 from Baa3. The rating upgrade by Moody's was the first in 14 years.



Environment

1. New species of Orangutan identified in Sumatra

Researchers have discovered new species of Orangutan in northern Sumatra. North Sumatra is a large island located in the western Indonesian island of Sumatra, between the Malacca Strait and the Indian Ocean. This new species is named as Pongo tapanuliensis or Tapanuli Orangutan. Orangutan's are considered as most distinct among great apes family, which includes gorillas, chimpanzees and bonobos.



Pongo tapanuliensis or Tapanuli Orangutan are found in population of 800 across a 1,000km² area, due to which they are considered as threatened species.

2. India's first Blackbuck conservation reserve to be established in Allahabad of UP state

The State cabinet of Uttar Pradesh approved set up of Blackbuck Conservation Reserve in the Meja forest division of Allahabad city of state Uttar Pradesh. Around 126 hectares in the trans-Yamuna region of Allahabad will have conservation reserve. It has been estimated that around 350 blackbucks reside in Meja forest division of Allahabad.



Blackbuck is found in the plains of India, confined to areas of Maharashtra, Odisha, Punjab, Rajasthan, Haryana, Gujarat, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and Karnataka. Blackbucks are known for their spiral horns and coat color contrasts.

3. India Pavilion launched at COP 23 in Germany

Union Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Dr. Harsh Vardhan launched India Pavilion at COP 23, in Bonn, Germany thus representing India's theme "Conserving Now, Preserving Future" at the 23rd United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change meeting.



Indian delegation organized 20 sessions and discussed issues on climate change adaptation, mitigation, clean technology innovation and renewable energy. India presented climate change related actionable under the themes of Climate Justice and Sustainable Lifestyles.

4. MNRE organized panel discussion at CoP 23, Bonn, Germany

The Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE), Government of India, in partnership with the Confederation of Indian Industry, organized a panel discussion on 'Innovative Financing and Market Evolution to achieve 175 GW renewables by 2022' at the India Pavilion at Conference of Parties (CoP) 23, Bonn, Germany.



Panel stressed upon the need to push for higher research in storage technology, which could compliment the infirm renewable power. The panel included Dr. P.C. Maithani, Adviser, MNRE, Shri C.K. Mishra, Secretary, Ministry of Environment, Dr. Ajay Mathur, DG, The Energy and Resources Institute and Mr. Frank Determann, KfW Development Bank.

5. 'UN Climate Change' conference concluded

The UN Climate Change Conference (COP23) concluded in Bonn, Germany. Envoys from nearly 200 countries, including delegates from Washington, negotiated on implementing the Paris climate change agreement including a rulebook to be adopted in 2018 and for enacting the global deal reached to cheers and champagne in 2015.



US expressed desire to withdraw from the Paris agreement; however, it would continue to be a leader in clean energy and innovation. The Paris pact commits countries to limiting average global warming to under two degrees Celsius over Industrial Revolution levels, and 1.5 Celsius if possible, to avert worst-case scenario climate change.

6. Environmentalists recorded 130 butterfly species during butterfly & biodiversity meet

In Arunachal Pradesh, a team of environmentalists including entomologists and wildlife experts recorded 130 butterfly species during the second edition of Butterfly & Biodiversity meet. The team had conducted survey on the Butterfly species in the natural vegetation, which is in the foothill areas near Pasighat town.



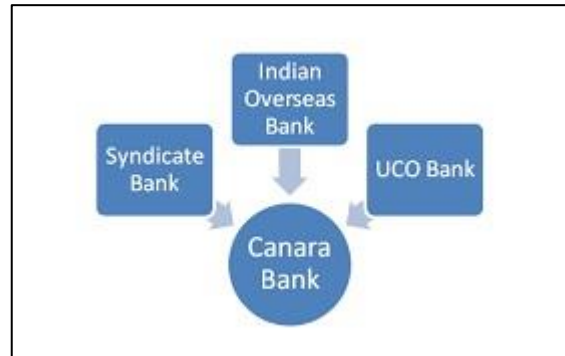
Siang valley, adjacent to Dihang-Dibang Biosphere Reserve, is suitable habitat of a variety of butterflies. The natural flora endowed with evergreen forests and angiosperms and perennial streams support comfortable survival and natural breeding of the winged species.

Finance

1. Approval of framework for consolidation of Public Sector Banks

An Alternative Mechanism for consolidation of the Public Sector Banks (PSBs) has been constituted under the Chairmanship of the Union Minister Arun Jaitley. The composition of the Alternative Mechanism will be as under:

- Chairperson: Arun Jaitley, Minister of Finance and Corporate Affairs.
- Member: Piyush Goyal, Minister of Railways and Coal.
- Member: Nirmala Sitharaman, Minister of Defence.

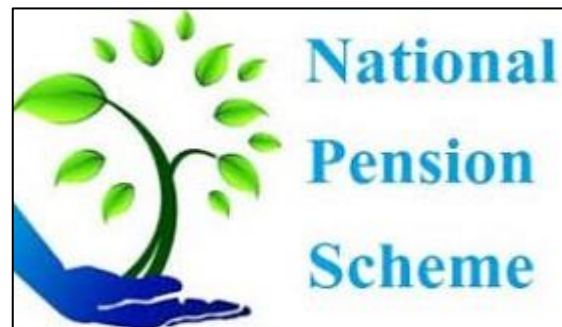


The proposals received from banks for in-principle approval to formulate schemes of amalgamation will be placed before the Alternative Mechanism. A Report on the proposals cleared by Alternative Mechanism will be sent to the Cabinet every three months.

2. Maximum age of joining NPS increased to 65 years under NPS – Private Sector

The Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA) has increased the maximum age of joining under NPS-Private Sector (i.e. All Citizen and Corporate Model) from the existing 60 years to 65 years of age. They can continue up to the age of 70 years in NPS.

The subscriber joining NPS beyond the age of 60 years will have the same choice of the Pension Fund as well as the investment choice as is available under the NPS for subscribers joining NPS before the age of 60 years.



3. SBI gives Rs. 2,317 crore loan for rooftop solar

State Bank of India (SBI) has extended Rs. 2,317 crore of financing for the rooftop solar power projects in collaboration with World Bank. Sanction letters have been handed out to JSW Energy, Hinduja Renewable Energy, Aure Energy, Adani Group and Hero Solar Energy.

Under this arrangement, SBI will take a line of credit of \$625 million from World Bank. Around 43 projects will be financed which will add 695 megawatt (mw) of solar rooftop capacity to the grid.



4. AU Small Bank and SIDBI Launch Rs. 200 crore Fund for MSMEs

AU Small Finance Bank tied up with Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) and launched a Rs. 200 crore fund for providing loans to micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs).

The program will fund term-loans in the range of Rs. 25 lakh to Rs. 2 crores ticket size. The loans will be offered at a rate of 10% to MSMEs. AU Bank will play the anchor in this program as all the processes including disbursement, monitoring and recovery will be handled by them.



5. IPPB Bank to become operational in 650 districts by April 2018

India Post Payments Bank will become operational in all 650 districts of the country by April 2018.

They will facilitate financial inclusion. These banks will be linked to 1.55 lakh rural post offices and carry out banking services. Each branch will be networked with about 1200 to 1500 post offices in a district.

Two such banks are already operational in Ranchi and Raipur. The focus of the payment bank will be on doorstep banking, direct benefit transfer and financial inclusion.



6. ICICI Bank launched Voice-Based International Remittance Service

ICICI Bank launched of India's first voice-based international remittance service to enable non-resident Indians (NRIs) to remit money to any bank in India. With this new unique feature in the ICICI Bank's Money2India app, an NRI customer can instantly initiate a remittance to his/her existing payees in India with just a simple voice command to Apple's virtual voice assistant, Siri, on his/her Apple iPhone / iPad.

It became first bank in the country to leverage on Apple's virtual voice assistant to enable cross-border remittance.



7. Paytm launched BHIM UPI to ease remittance

Digital wallet platform PayTm introduced Paytm BHIM UPI facility in its app to ease remittance. Paytm merchants can link their multiple existing bank accounts with Paytm BHIM UPI ID, provided by Paytm Payments Bank. Paytm BHIM UPI does not require IFSC Code or beneficiary name. A user has to link all its accounts and send money from its UPI address to beneficiary's UPI address.

As per directions of National Payments Corporation of India, users can send up to Rs. 1 lakh a day using BHIM UPI with no restriction on limit of receiving it.



8. HDFC Bank launched SmartUp Zone in Kochi

HDFC Bank announced the launch of SmartUp Zones in its branches across India. A SmartUp Zone is an exclusive area inside the branch dedicated to start-ups. In the first phase, SmartUp Zones will be launched in over 65 branches in 30 cities across India. SmartUp is tailored to meet all the requirements of a start-up, offering banking and payment solutions, along with advisory and forex services.

The enhanced offering includes specially trained staff, showcase products to over 40 million customers, access to HDFC Bank's SmartBuy platform etc.



9. PayPal launched its domestic payments in India

Paypal launched its domestic operations for Indian consumers. Indian consumers can now remit money with PayPal and with some of India's merchants including BookMyShow, Makemytrip, PVR and Yatra.

These merchants can now undergo both local and global payments for PayPal's 218 customer accounts around the world through a single payment mode. PayPal offered a compelling set of services designed to help consumers shop online with confidence. PayPal is an American company operating a worldwide online payments system that supports online money remittances and acts as a digital wallet.



10. RBI revealed new outsourcing norms for NBFCs

Reserve bank of India released directions on managing risks and code of conduct in outsourcing of financial services by NBFCs. RBI advised NBFCs to conduct a self-assessment of their existing outsourcing arrangements and bring these in line with the previously mentioned directions within two months from the date of issuing guidelines.

Self-assessment includes due diligence to assess the capability of the service provider, reviewing outsourcing agreement, management structure to monitor its outsourcing activities, etc. Outsourcing activities include applications processing (loan origination, credit card), document processing, marketing and research, supervision of loans etc.



11. PNB MetLife inked pact with Bank of Bahrain and Kuwait

In an initiative to cross-sell products to customers of Bank of Bahrain and Kuwait, PNB MetLife life Insurer Company entered into a corporate agency agreement with Bank of Bahrain and Kuwait B.S.C (BBK). PNB MetLife will be benefitted from Bank of Bahrain and Kuwait, mainly from cities Mumbai, Hyderabad, Aluva and New Delhi, where Bank of Bahrain and Kuwait has its wide presence.

PNB MetLife Insurance is a life insurance company, based in Mumbai. It has always entered into similar Bancassurance with other banks also.



12. Mumbai to host 'Asian Bankers Association Summit'

It has been for the first time that Mumbai city is selected to host 'Asian Bankers Association Summit'. The two-day 34th annual conference of the Asian Bankers Association will be based on theme 'Asia's turn to transform'. Conference will be organized by State bank of India. Over 160 domestic as well as international bankers will witness the Summit.

Various issues will be discussed such as policies, banking reforms, training programs, impact of the ongoing global recession on the Asian economies; financial consequences of the Brexit on Asia, and implications of fintech on banks.



13. Reliance General Insurance Company Limited entered into Bancassurance with YES Bank

Reliance General Insurance Company Limited signed a comprehensive Bancassurance - Corporate Agency agreement with YES BANK, with the objective to distribute multiple general insurance products to the customers of YES BANK, further augmenting its distribution network.

YES BANK with its extensive network of 1040 high-quality branches across all 29 states and seven union territories of India will enable Reliance General Insurance to reach a large base of Retail and MSME clients. Reliance General Insurance Company Limited provides a wide range of general insurance products like fire, motor, health, home, crop, travel etc.



14. RBL Bank inaugurated 'All Women branch' in Chennai

RBL bank established an all women branch in Chennai, Tamil Nadu, to promote gender equality. Chennai all women branch will be managed by all eight women staff. Chennai all women branch will offer all varieties of products and services.

RBL Bank Limited is a scheduled commercial bank, established in 1943 in Mumbai, Maharashtra. RBL bank has presence of 387 ATMs and 246 branches across India. RBL bank has customer base of 3.54 million across 246 branches with total business of over Rs. 64,000 Crores.



15. Andhra Bank launched scheme to push entrepreneurship

Andhra Bank has launched a new scheme, Pattabhi Sitaramayya – Self Business Group (PS-SBG), for self-help groups (SHGs) to encourage entrepreneurship.

As a part of the scheme, the bank will extend finance in the form of working capital and term loan to SHGs having five years of association with Andhra Bank and having successfully completed three credit rotations with good repayment record and an aptitude for entrepreneurship. The loan will be extended to the group or in individual capacity within the group to the extent of ₹25 lakh without any collateral security.



16. Paytm invests in lending startup firm CreditMate

Paytm has acquired a stake in CreditMate, a Mumbai-based start-up in the lending space, which is focused on enabling its dealer partners to seamlessly assess, approve, process and distribute two wheeler loans to customers with no formal credit history.

Paytm bought an undisclosed stake in Urja Money Pvt. Ltd and use Urja's proprietary CreditMate technology to create a loan management system. Earlier this year, Paytm invested in data analytics start-up Mobiquest and health-tech start-up QorQL.



17. SBI's revamped digital offering on one app 'Yono'

The State Bank of India launched a comprehensive digital platform with a view to providing all its services as well as its subsidiaries with just one app. The proposed digital service platform 'You Only Need One', Yono will offer everything related to financial services and lifestyle products and services.

The entire financial services product from SBI and its subsidiaries-- SBI Life, SBI General, SBI Mutual Fund, SBI Caps and SBI Cards are integrated on one platform 'Yono', which allows a seamless Omni Channel Customer Experience.



18. Reserve bank of India exempted ARCs from the limit of shareholding at 26%

On a review of the limit imposed on shareholding of the post-converted equity of the borrower company under reconstruction by Asset Reconstruction Companies (ARCs), Reserve Bank of India decided to exempt ARCs from the cap of 26%, subject to meeting the criteria prescribed by RBI.

The criteria mentioned by RBI were ARC's net owned fund requirement of ₹ 100 crore, at least half of the board of directors be independent directors, ARC's shall frame policy on debt to equity conversion and equity shares acquired under the scheme shall be periodically valued and marked to market.



19. Axis Bank launched 'Ripple-powered' instant payment service

Axis Bank launched instant international payment services using Ripple's Enterprise Blockchain Technology Solution. Ripple makes international remittances faster and transparent for customers while ensuring security and improving efficiencies. The transactions reach their destination account in minutes, with certainty of settlement, and with end-to end visibility over the journey of the payment.



The bank has launched a service for its retail customers in India to receive payments from RakBank in UAE and for its corporate customers in India to receive payments from Standard Chartered Bank in Singapore.

20. Bank of Baroda launched digital Supply Chain Finance solution

Bank of Baroda launched digital Supply Chain Finance solution to accelerate Working Capital opportunities for MSME & Large Corporate Clients. The Supply Chain Finance solution provides a range of Supply Chain Finance Products – covering pre and post shipment products – viz Dealer/Channel Finance, Vendor Finance and Payable Finance – and is highly flexible and scalable, with an Omni-channel user interface that supports rich analytics.



Product is embedded with latest state-of-art technology & features which is aimed to accelerate the business of customers.

21. Arun Jaitley launched Paytm Payments Bank

Union Finance Minister Arun Jaitley launched 'Paytm Payments Bank'. Currently, India has four Payments Bank including Paytm Payments Bank. The other three operational ones are Airtel Payments Bank, India Post Payments Bank and Fino Payments Bank.



Payment banks can accept deposits restricted to Rs. 1 lakh per customer. However, a payment bank cannot loan money to people, or issue credit cards. In addition, the payment banks are only allowed to invest the money customers deposit into government securities.

Important Days

1. Rashtriya Ekta Diwas observed

The Government of India observes 31 October all over the country to foster and reinforce the Government's dedication to preserve and strengthen unity, integrity and security of our nation, by celebrating it as Rashtriya Ekta Diwas to commemorate the birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, one of the founding fathers of the Republic of India.

As a fitting tribute to the builder of Indian unity, a 182-metre (597 feet) high Statue of Unity is under construction facing the Narmada Dam, 3.2 km away on the river island called Sadhu Bet near Vadodara in Gujarat.



2. World Tsunami Awareness Day observed on 5 November

The very first 'World Tsunami Awareness' day was observed worldwide on 5th November 2016 with theme as 'Effective Education and Evacuation Drills'. This theme of 2017 was 'Reduce the Number of Affected People'. It focused on reducing the number of affected people globally by disasters.

The observance of the day helps to spread awareness among people across the world in matters related to the dangers of tsunami and shall stress on the importance of early warning systems in order to mitigate damage from the often-devastating natural hazard.



3. World Diabetes Day observed across the world

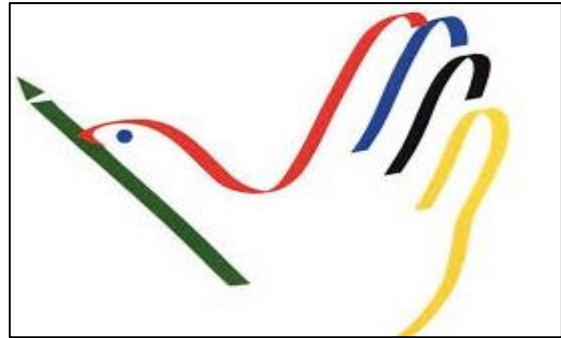
The World Diabetes Day is observed annually on November 14 each year. The day aims to increase an awareness of the effects of diabetes and the complications caused by the disease. The day is led by the International Diabetes Federation (IDF).

The theme of World Diabetes Day 2017 was 'Women and diabetes - Our right to a healthy future'. It is estimated that diabetes is the ninth leading cause of death in women globally. Various campaigns were organized to achieve optimal diabetes outcomes and strengthen women's capacity to prevent diabetes.



4. National Press Day observed on 16 November

National Press Day on November 16 is symbolic of a free and responsible press in India. The 2017 Press Freedom Day was dedicated to the 102nd martyrdom day of freedom fighter Kartar Singh Sarabha. Sarabha courageously printed Ghadar newspaper in Punjabi language against all the odds at San Francisco in US and invited media persons to fearlessly-show freedom of speech by publishing in Ghadar.



Various other courageous personalities were also given tribute such as Gauri Lankesh, SSP Harjit Singh and deputy commissioner Ghanshyam Thori.

5. Swachh Bharat Mission celebrated World Toilet Day nationwide

The 'World toilet day' was organized on 19 November, where a large number of behavior changes and toilet usage activities were undertaken by the States and districts around India as part of Swachh Bharat Mission. The central team had a three-day immersion exercise during which they extensively interacted with villagers directly, including women and students to generate demand for toilets.



The Mukhiyas of villages assured that they would help making the district ODF in six months of time. The Secretary, Mr. Iyer launched a national radio campaign for Toilet adoption and usage on the occasion.

6. Universal Children's day observed on 20 November

The United Nations Universal Children's Day was established in 1954 and is celebrated on November 20 each year to promote international togetherness, awareness among children worldwide, and improving children's welfare. The theme of Universal children's day was 'Stop violence against children'.



To celebrate the 2017 Universal Children's Day, UNICEF has invited children from around the world taking over key roles in media, politics, business, sport and entertainment to voice their support for millions of their peers who are unschooled, unprotected and uprooted on 20 November.

7. World Fisheries day

The World Fisheries day is celebrated every year throughout the world on 21 November by the fisher folk communities holding rallies, workshops, public meetings, cultural programs and exhibition to highlight the importance of maintaining the world's fisheries.

The Day helps in highlighting the critical importance to human lives, of water and the lives it sustains, both in and out of water. A recent United Nations study reported that more than two-thirds of the world's fisheries are overfished or are fully harvested and more than one third are in a state of decline because of pollution and global warming.



8. Indian communal harmony Flag Day observed

The National Foundation for Communal Harmony observed the Communal Harmony Campaign and Fund Raising Week and the Flag Day on 26 November 2017. Various flag stickers, wrappers, posters, brochures, pamphlets etc. were dispatched to about 1.24 Lakh units for appropriately marking of this significant occasion all over India.

Various programs were organized by government departments/ agencies, NGOs and voluntary organizations during the Week to promote the ethos of Communal Harmony and National Integration. Flag Day is also utilized to generate financial support for destitute children affected by communal, caste, ethnic or terrorist violence.



9. National Law Day celebrated jointly by Law Commission and NITI Aayog

National Law Day 2017 was celebrated jointly by the Law Commission of India and NITI Aayog in Delhi. The significance of the event lies in the fact that the Constitution of India was adopted by the Constituent Assembly on 26 November 1949.

A large number of dignitaries from the three wings of the government- executive, legislature and judiciary along with the academicians, students, scribes participated. The event had four technical sessions named as judicial review and parliamentary democracy, appointments to higher judiciary, structural reforms for overcoming delays in justice delivery and scope of judicial powers.

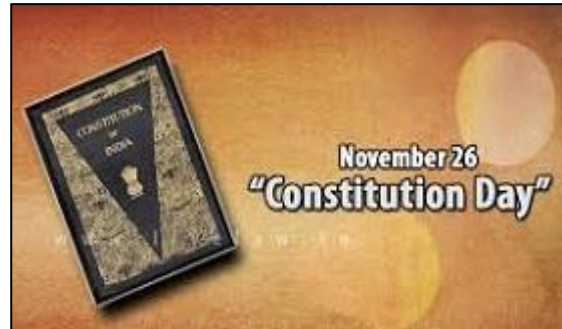


10. Constitution Day observed on 26 November

The Constitution Day, also known as Samvidhan Divas, is celebrated in India on 26 November every year. The day commemorates the adoption of Constitution of India.

On this day in 1949, the Constituent Assembly of India adopted the Constitution of India, and it came into effect on 26 January 1950.

The Government of India declared 26 November as Constitution Day on 19 November 2015 by a gazette notification.



1. China blocks bid to list Masood Azhar as global terrorist

China blocked bid by the US, France and the UK to list Pakistan-based Jaish-e-Mohammad Chief and Pathankot terror attack mastermind Masood Azhar as a global terrorist by the UN.

China said it has rejected the move, as "there is no consensus". A veto-wielding permanent member of the Security Council, China has repeatedly blocked India's move to put a ban on the Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM) chief under the Al-Qaeda Sanctions Committee of the Council. This is the second year in succession that China has blocked the resolution.



2. 'Fake news' named word of the year 2017

Fake news, a term heavily popularized by US President Donald Trump, has been named the word of the year by Collins dictionary due to its widespread use around the world. The UK-based dictionary writer found that the use of this word registered a 365% rise in the last 12 months.

Fake news takes over from Brexit - which was named the definitive word last year after the June 2016 referendum in favor of the UK's exit from the European Union. Other words on 2017 shortlist included "genderfluid", "fidget spinner", and "gig economy".



3. Belgium's King and Queen arrived on a 7-day visit to India

Belgium's King Philippe and Queen Mathilde arrived in New Delhi on a seven-day visit to India. This is King Philippe's first state visit to India after his ascension to the throne in 2013. The aim of their visit was to boost overall cooperation between the two countries with a focus on further ramping up trade and investment ties.

India is Belgium's second largest export destination and the third largest trading partner outside the European Union. King Philippe attended an India-Belgium Business Forum meeting.



4. China revealed Asia's largest artificial magical island-maker vessel

China became first country to unveil Asia's largest magical island maker vessel. It appears to be like a big massive ship. The unique feature of ship is that it can build artificial islands, similar to that of which China has built in South China Sea.

China has named ship as Tian Kun Hao, capable of digging 6,000 cubic meters an hour. Tian Kun Hao is considered as the most powerful of Asia. Ship is also termed as "magic island maker".



5. The 2017 World Youth Forum held in Egypt

The five-day 'World Youth Forum' was held at Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt, in the supervision of President of Egypt Mr. Abdel-fateh El Sisi. The Forum aimed to provide a platform to the youth from all over the globe to engage with the key global policy makers. The forum covered role of youth in business and innovation, challenges and making of future leaders, gender equity and women empowerment among other things.



World Youth Forum also launched official opening song, "I dream of a world where everyone would live in peace".

6. Trump, Putin issued joint statement on fighting ISIS in Syria

Russian President Vladimir Putin and US President Donald Trump agreed on a joint statement on Syria stating that there was no military solution to the conflict and political one was needed. Donald Trump and Vladimir Putin approved the statement on the sidelines of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) summit.



In their joint statement, the two world leaders repeated the urgency of destroying the Islamic State. They agreed to maintain open military channels of communication among army professionals to help ensure the safety of both U.S. and Russian forces.

7. Guinea became member of International Solar Alliance

Guinea became member of International Solar Alliance. India's External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj taken over Guinea's instrument accession to the India-initiated International Solar Alliance from Guinea's Foreign Minister, Mamady Toure, during a meeting. With this membership, India will support Guinea's development through line of credit.



The International Solar Alliance (ISA) is an alliance of more than 121 countries that aims to work for efficient exploitation of solar energy and reduce dependence on fossil fuels. The formation of alliance was proposed by Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi at India Africa Summit.

8. UNESCO appointed France Culture Minister Audrey Azoulay as its new head

The General Conference of UNESCO appointed France culture minister Audrey Azoulay to the post of Director-General of the Organization, replacing Bulgaria's Irina Bokova. Bulgaria's Irina Bokova finished her 8-year term of service. With this appointment, Audrey Azoulay will be called as the 11 Director-General of UNESCO and the second woman in that position.



Prior to this appointment, she has served as France's Minister of Culture and Communication. Audrey has experience of working as Deputy Audiovisual Director and Director of Financial and Legal Affairs at France's National Cinema Centre.

9. India re-elected as a member on UNESCO's executive board

UN educational, scientific and cultural organization re-elected India as its member of the executive board. The election was made at 39th session of the General Conference of the UNESCO in Paris, France followed by announcement of its voting results.



UNESCO's Executive Board conference is organized in every 2 years. It was attended by member states and associate members, observers for non-member states, intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations. UNESCO executive board members are elected in every 4 years, to plan and conduct the programs and the budget of the UNESCO.

10. EU launched election observation mission for Nepal electoral process

In order to have check over general and provincial polls in Nepal, European Union launched election observation mission. Nepal provincial polls are scheduled to happen from 26 November to 7 December 2017. European Union has deployed 100 election observers from 38 member countries of EU. The entire election observation process will cost 3.5 million euro.

Under the election observation mission, Kathmandu based 10 election analysts will monitor electoral process and these analysts will be joined by seven member parliamentary delegation from the European Union.



11. The first WHO global ministerial conference on ending TB, held in Russia

Shri J P Nadda, Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare reaffirmed India’s commitment to eliminating TB by 2025 at 1st WHO Global Ministerial Conference on Ending TB in Sustainable Development Era’ at Moscow, Russia. The Ministerial and High-Level meetings offered participating nations the potential to strengthen and energize the discourse on TB.



These meetings are perhaps the biggest window for global action on TB in the near future. Ministry of Health and Family Welfare organized a side event at the conference on ‘Ending TB: Our Promise to Our People’ assisted by Global Coalition against TB.

12. UN surveyed Afghan opium production raised to 87%

The United Nations Office on Drug and Crime (UNODC) Afghanistan Opium Survey 2017 reported that Afghanistan revealed an 87% production increase compared to 2016. According to survey, the international community and Afghanistan should reprioritize drug control, and acknowledge that every nation has a shared responsibility for this global problem.



The report stated that 87% rose to a record level of 9,000 metric tonnes in 2017 and the area under opium poppy cultivation also increased to a record 328,000 hectares in 2017 up 63% compared with 201,000 hectares in 2016.

13. The 31st ASEAN Summit 2017 held

The 31st ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations) Summit was held in Manila, Philippines. 2017 year marked the 50th anniversary of the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN). The theme of ASEAN summit was "Partnering for Change, Engaging the World".



Leaders discussed the implementation of the ASEAN Community Vision 2025 and signed the historical ASEAN Consensus on the 'Protection and Promotion of the Rights of Migrant Workers of Southeast Asia'. Various other MoUs on ASEAN-Hong Kong, China (AHKFTA) Free Trade Agreement, and the ASEAN-Hong Kong Investment Agreement were inked.

14. International Solar Alliance founding ceremony held in Germany

International Solar Alliance founding ceremony was held at Bonn, Germany. The ISA was jointly launched in November 2015 by Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi, and then-President of France, H.E. François Hollande, on the sidelines of the UNFCCC Conference of Parties 21 (CoP21) at Paris, France.



The ISA is a treaty-based alliance of 121 prospective solar-rich Member Nations situated fully or partially between the Tropics, and aims at accelerating development and deployment of solar energy globally. ISA will become a treaty-based international intergovernmental organisation, for which 44 countries have already signed the ISA treaty.

15. Borut Pahor won second term Slovenia's presidential elections

Borut Pahor won the second term in Slovenia's Presidential Elections by 53% votes against former actor and Ljubljana's mayor Marjan Sarec. Borut Pahor won a five-year mandate and became the second two-term president since 1991. Pahor is famously known as "King of Instagram" for his frequent use of social media.



Slovenia's presidency carries no executive powers, but the office-holder proposes a prime minister and his or her opinion on important issues such as the privatization of Slovenia's biggest bank and the composition of the country's anti-corruption body.

16. Saudi Arabia approved practice of yoga as a sport

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has agreed to recognize the teaching and practice of yoga as a sports activity. At present, there are five recognized yoga schools in Saudi Arabia where schools offer workshops and training on meditation techniques and specialized classes in various forms of yoga. Yoga is a combination of physical, mental, and spiritual practices that helps in being healthy. It was originated in ancient India.



Other sports of Saudi Arabia include horse and camel racing, football, basketball, rugby union, ice hockey, falconry, soccer and hunting with hounds.

17. World's first all-electric cargo ship was unveiled by China

World's first all-electric ship was unveiled by China. The 70.5-metre-long ship can travel up to 80 km with 2000-tonnes cargo after a two-hour charge. Guangzhou Shipyard International Company Ltd made vessel is powered by 26-tonne lithium battery. Electric ships have benefit of protecting water quality and aqua life. Electric ship can be used as a passenger liner or a working ship.



Some other countries like Norway has also announced the launching of all electric and autonomous cargo ships by 2018.

18. UN Peacekeeping Defence Ministerial Conference 2017 held in Canada

Canada hosted the 2017 UN Peacekeeping Defence Ministerial in Vancouver, British-Columbia. The conference was the largest gathering of Defence ministers dedicated to UN Peacekeeping with more than 550 delegates from some 79 countries and 5 international organizations.



The goals the conference were to encourage new pledges from member states, to advance peacekeeping reform, to improve the UN's capacity to better plan and perform peacekeeping operations and measure the progress made since the 2016 UN Peacekeeping Defence Ministerial. Around 54 countries endorsed the Vancouver Principles on the prevention of the recruitment and use of child soldiers in peacekeeping operations.

19. Minister of Commerce and Industry in Russia participated in Shanghai Cooperation organization meeting

The Minister of Commerce and Industry, Shri Suresh Prabhu participated in Shanghai Cooperation Organization Meeting of the Ministers of Member States responsible for Foreign Economic and Foreign Trade in Russia. This was the first Ministerial Conference on Trade organized by the Shanghai Cooperation Organization after India became a full member of the Organization in June 2017.



The Minister of Commerce discussed the current level of bilateral trade between India and Russia and ways for its enhancement. They also discussed opportunities that the fast growing economy of India provides for doing business, particularly in the field of manufacturing.

20. UK military dog awarded medal for saving troops in Afghanistan

UK special forces dog was awarded a medal equivalent of the country's highest military honour for his role in saving hundreds of troops during his tour of duty in Afghanistan. The eight-year-old dog was instrumental in assisting troops to clear militants from a Kabul tower block despite suffering serious shrapnel injuries.



Mali, a Belgian Malinois, was awarded the PDSA Dickin Medal - the equivalent of the human Victoria Cross - for his heroic actions in sniffing out Taliban booby traps during a highly sensitive military operation in 2012.

21. Argentina hosted the fourth Global Conference on sustained eradication of child labour

The IV Global Conference on the Sustained Eradication of Child Labour, held in Buenos Aires, Argentina concluded with a call to action to accelerate efforts to end child labour by 2025 and forced labour by 2030, and to generate more decent employment opportunities for young people around the world.



The Buenos Aires Declaration was delivered and 3,000 people signed up to attend plenary sessions and panel discussions. The conference concluded with series of principles that highlighted the commitment to respect human rights as well as fundamental principles in the best interests of children and adolescents.

22. US President Trump declared North Korea state sponsor of terrorism

US President Donald Trump has declared North Korea a state sponsor of terrorism with an aim to impose additional sanctions on Pyongyang over its nuclear and missile programs.



North Korea had been removed from the list of state sponsor of terrorism under the George W Bush administration in 2008. According to Mr. Trump, North Korea threatened the world by nuclear devastation and repeatedly supported acts of international terrorism including assassinations on foreign soil.

23. Bangladesh and Myanmar sign Rohingya repatriation deal

Bangladesh and Myanmar have signed a deal on the repatriation of Rohingyas with no specific deadline, but with high hopes that the refugees will start returning to their homeland in Rakhine State within the next 2 months.



The two neighboring countries struck the deal in Naypyidaw. Bangladesh had sought to keep a provision for a specific period for completing the repatriation process, but Myanmar wants to keep it an open-ended process. There was also no agreement on the involvement of the international community especially the UN agencies in the verification process.

24. The USA and Russia agree to support UN in Syrian peace process

The US President Donald Trump and Russian President Vladimir Putin discussed plans to peacefully resolve the Syrian civil war, end the humanitarian crisis, allow displaced Syrians to return home, and ensure the stability of a unified Syria free of malign intervention and terrorist safe havens.



The two leaders agreed to support the U.N. effort to "peacefully resolve" the nearly seven-year-long Syrian civil war. They also discussed ways to implement a lasting peace in Ukraine.

25. Emmerson Mnangagwa elected as new President of Zimbabwe

Emmerson Mnangagwa was sworn in as Zimbabwe's President, marking the final chapter of a political drama that toppled his predecessor Robert Mugabe after a military takeover. Mnangagwa took the oath of office at the national sports stadium on the outskirts of Harare before thousands of supporters, dignitaries and foreign diplomats.



The former President, who ruled the southern African country for 37 autocratic years, was ousted from office when the military intervened after he had sacked Mnangagwa as Vice President.

26. Asian Development Bank inked MoU to provide 150 million USD loan to Nepal

The Asian Development Bank will provide a 150 million USD loan to Nepal to improve its urban infrastructure. ADB and Nepal signed the agreement for investment that will cover eight municipalities located in southern Terai and far west of Nepal.



The project will be completed within five years and is expected to enhance urban infrastructure in the Terai region, reduce the flooding duration to less than an hour in its eight municipalities.

27. Victoria became first Australian state to legalize euthanasia

In Australia, the state of Victoria has legalized assisted dying. The state Parliament voted in favor of bill. It was approved after more than 100 hours of debate including two all-night sittings. The law means terminally ill patients in Australia's second-most populous state will have the right to request a lethal drug from mid-2019.



The law is designed for patients who are in severe pain and has 68 safeguards, including, making three requests to specially trained doctors in order to end their life and a special board must review all cases.

28. Britain appointed Karen Pierce as its new Ambassador to UN

Britain appointed Karen Pierce as its new Ambassador to the UN, replacing incumbent Matthew Rycroft under whom it suffered a humiliating defeat at the hands of India in the recent election to the International Court of Justice.



Pierce is the first woman appointed to this role. She had previously served as Deputy Permanent Representative to the UN in New York, and more recently as the Permanent Representative to the UN in Geneva. Britain's Permanent Mission to the United Nations did not give any reason for appointing Pierce as new ambassador to the world body.

29. India pledged additional USD 100 Million to UN Partnership Fund

India-UN Development Partnership Fund was set up to help in achievement of sustainable development goals. Various countries contributed to various UN Funds and Programs with a total amount of USD 398.98 million at the UN Pledging Conference for the year 2017.



Government of India has additionally contributed amount of USD 100 million to USD 10.582 million that India has already contributed to various other UN programs. With this fund, UN will work on various projects such as reconstruction in Dominica and Antigua and Barbuda, which took a big hit from hurricanes.

Miscellaneous

- The government will open 55 additional immigration counters at Delhi's IGI airport and deploy 1,800 more personnel by January 2018 to deal with the rising passenger traffic.
- A Festival of India is being organized in Fiji, Kiribati, Tonga, Vanuatu, Nauru, Tuvalu and Cook Islands from October 2017 – March 2018.
- Shri Nasir Kamal, IPS (UP: 1986) has been appointed as Additional Director General, Border Security Force.
- The President of India, Shri Ram Nath Kovind, inaugurated the 21st World Congress of Mental Health being organized by the World Federation for Mental Health in partnership with Caring Foundation and other institutions in New Delhi.
- Indiana, a State in the US, and Karnataka have signed an agreement to establish sister-state ties for cooperation in economic, educational and cultural fields.
- Bhutanese King Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck and his Queen Gyaltsuen Jetsun Pema Wangchuck along with crown prince Jigme Namgyel Wangchuck arrived in India for a four-day visit.
- The state government of Haryana has announced lifetime monthly pension of Rs 10,000 for 'Hindi Satyagrahis' and those from the state who were jailed during the Emergency.
- Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) has revamped its portal www.udyamimitra.in with enhanced features to provide easy access to credit and handholding services for micro small medium enterprises (MSME).
- Online travel solutions provider Cleartrip was named the 'Best Mobile App for Travel and Leisure' at the Mobexx Awards 2017.
- Turki Al-Asheikh, Chairman of the General Sports Authority of Saudi Arabia has announced that Saudi women will now be able to attend sports events in stadiums starting from 2018.
- Hosts India finished seventh overall with one gold, one silver, and a bronze, while Italy pipped China in the medals tally, at the ISSF World Cup Final, in New Delhi.
- Heena Sidhu of India has won the gold in the 10m air pistol event at the Commonwealth Shooting Championships in Brisbane.
- Haryana Health Department has notified the policy for cashless medical services for State Government employees and pensioners from November 2017.
- A two-day conference of all Commanders of Eastern Air Command was held in Shillong.
- President Ram Nath Kovind inaugurated International Gita Mahotsav-2017 in Haryana's Kurukshetra.
- The President of India, Shri Ram Nath Kovind, inaugurated the International Ambedkar Conclave, organized by the Forum of SC and ST Legislators and Parliamentarians in New Delhi.

- The Golden Temple has been awarded the 'most visited place of the world' by 'World Book of Records' (WBR).
- The Government of India will assist Mauritius to develop and set up digital locker services.
- Indian men's kabaddi team won 2017 Asian Kabaddi Championships, after beating Pakistan.
- Indian women's kabaddi team won 2017 Asian Kabaddi Championships, after beating South Korea.
- The National Green Tribunal has put a cap of 50,000 visitors at Vaishno Devi pilgrimage site.
- World Pneumonia Day was observed on 12 November.
- The 10th South Asia Economic Summit was hosted by Nepal.
- Vietnam is the partner country at the 37th India International Trade Fair in New Delhi.
- The seventh Regional Economic Cooperation Conference on Afghanistan was held at Turkmenistan.
- Italy has failed to qualify for FIFA World cup for the first time since 1958.
- According to 'India 2028' report, India is likely to overtake Japan as the world's third largest economy in nominal GDP by 2028.
- Indian Railways launched Project Saksham to upgrade the skill-sets of its workforce.
- India hosted Tribal Entrepreneurship Summit at Dantewada.
- Akash Manoj received a gold medal from the President during the conferral of National Child Awards for Exceptional Achievement.
- Kyrgyzstan is the focus country at the 37th India International Trade Fair in New Delhi.
- A proposal has been put forward to rename Indore.
- The target of installing bio-toilets in all railway coaches has been advanced until December 2018.
- Ganga Kumari will be the first transgender police constable of Rajasthan.
- Scientists have discovered oldest evidence of life on earth in Australia.
- The International Day for Tolerance was observed on 16 November.
- President Ram Nath Kovind recently launched JOHAR scheme to double income of rural poor in Jharkhand.
- Union Government sanctioned Rs 10000 crores for irrigation purposes for Maharashtra.

- Saudi Arabia recognized teaching of Yoga as a Sports activity.
- India will host 36th International Geological Congress 2020.
- Mumbai will host the 15th MIFF for Documentary, Short and Animation Films.
- ISRO will launch Aditya L1 Mission in 2019.
- Axis Bank launched Blockchain-based International Payment Service.
- The combined military exercise 'Ajeya Warrior- 2017' was held in Bikaner, Rajasthan between India and UK.
- The Indian Sports Honour for 'Sportsman of the Year' award in team sports category went to Ravichandran Ashwin.
- Dia Mirza was appointed as UN Environment Goodwill Ambassador for India.
- India's first crypto-currency exchange 'Coinome' was launched by Billdesk.
- P V Sindhu won the 'Sportswoman of the Year' award in the individual sport category at the Indian Sports Honours.
- Pritam Singh has been appointed as the Director General of National Archives.
- Nayantara Sahgal was awarded with the Lifetime Achievement Award at Times Lit Fest 2017.
- Anupam Kher won the 2017 Parmod Mahajan Smriti Award.
- The Union Cabinet has approved agreement on cooperation in customs matters between India and Armenia.
- Union cabinet has approved a trade agreement for strengthening and promoting trade and economic cooperation between India Ethiopia.

1. India and Italy sign six MoUs

India and Italy signed six agreements following delegation-level talks headed by Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his Italian counterpart Paolo Gentiloni.

The MoUs are as follows:

- Joint Declaration of Intent of Cooperation for Safety in the Railway sector between India and Italy
- MoU on 70 years of diplomatic relations between Indian Council of Cultural Relations and Ministry of Foreign Affairs & International Cooperation, Government of the Republic of Italy
- MoU on cooperation in the field of Energy
- Executive Protocol on Cultural Cooperation
- MoU between the Training Unit of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, Government of the Republic of Italy and the Foreign Service Institute of the Ministry of External Affairs, GoI
- MoU for promoting mutual investments between Italian Trade Agency and Invest India



2. The GoI and World Bank sign \$200 Million Loan Agreement for the Assam Agribusiness and Rural Transformation Project

The Government of India and the World Bank signed a \$200 million Loan Agreement for the Assam Agribusiness and Rural Transformation Project. The Project will support the Government of Assam to facilitate agribusiness investments, increase agriculture productivity and market access, and enable small farm holders produce crops that are resilient to recurrent floods or droughts in the state.



The Project will be implemented in over 16 Districts of Assam. Over 500,000 farming households will directly benefit from the Project. At least 30% women are expected to participate in project activities.

3. World Food India 2017

The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi, inaugurated the World Food India 2017 at Vigyan Bhavan New Delhi. The fair was organized by Ministry of Food Processing and Industries, Government of India jointly with Confederation of Indian (CII).

World Food India is an International Event comprising series of Sectoral Conferences along with Exhibition and vibrant Food Street.

India is expected to attract an investment of US\$ 10 billion in food processing sector and generate 1 million jobs in the next 3 years.



4. MHA gives a boost to “Make in India” in the field of manufacturing of arms

The Ministry of Home Affairs has liberalized the Arms Rules to boost “Make in India” manufacturing policy of the Government as also to promote employment generation in the field of manufacturing of arms and ammunition.

The liberalization of the Arms Rules will encourage investment in the manufacturing of arms and ammunition and weapon systems as part of the “Make in India” program. One of the key features is that the license granted for manufacturing shall now be valid for the lifetime of the licensee company. There is no requirement of renewal of the license after every 5 years.



5. MSME Delayed Payment Portal, MSME Samadhaan, launched

Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Shri Giriraj Singh launched MSME Delayed Payment Portal – MSME Samadhaan (<http://msefc.msme.gov.in>) empowering micro and small entrepreneurs across the country to register their cases relating to delayed payments by Central Ministries/Departments/CPSEs/State Governments.



The Portal will give information about the pending payment of MSEs with individual CPSEs / Central Ministries, State Governments, etc. The CEO of PSEs and the Secretary of the Ministries concerned will also be able to monitor the cases of delayed payment under their jurisdiction and issue necessary instructions to resolve the issues.

6. DoNER Ministry sanctioned Rs. 200 crores for flood affected reconstruction works in the Northeast

The Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region (DoNER) has sanctioned Rs. 200 crore for flood affected reconstruction works in the four North Eastern States of Assam, Nagaland, Manipur and Mizoram. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi had announced a flood relief package of Rs. 2,000 crore.

The government also has set up a high-level committee to monitor the flood related operations and plan for future roadmap to avoid such situations. The first-ever airport at Sikkim coming up at Pakyong is ready to become functional soon.



7. Cabinet approved trade Agreement between India and Ethiopia

The Union Cabinet has given its ex-post facto approval for the trade Agreement between India and Ethiopia for strengthening and promoting trade and economic co-operation. The trade Agreement will replace the existing trade Agreement signed in 1982. The trade Agreement will provide for all necessary measures to encourage trade, economic cooperation, investment and technical co-operation.



The bilateral trade between India and Ethiopia declined to USD 840.5 million in 2016-17, from USD 854.6 million in the previous fiscal.

8. Cabinet approved signing an Agreement between India and Armenia

The Union Cabinet has given its approval for signing and ratifying an Agreement between India and Armenia on cooperation and mutual assistance in customs matters.

The Agreement would provide a legal framework for sharing of information and intelligence between the Customs authorities of the two countries and help in the proper application of Customs laws, prevention and investigation of Customs offences and the facilitation of legitimate trade.



9. Cabinet approved amendment in the National Council for Teacher Education Act, 1993

The Union Cabinet has given its approval for introduction of a Bill in Parliament to amend the National Council for Teacher Education Act, 1993, namely the National Council for Teacher Education (Amendment) Act, 2017 to grant retrospective recognition to the Central/State/Universities who are found to be conducting teacher education courses without NCTE permission.



The amendment will make students studying in these Institutions/Universities, or already passed out from here, eligible for employment as a teacher.

10. Cabinet approved continuation of RKVY as RKVY-RAFTAAR

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs has approved the continuation of Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY) as Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana- Remunerative Approaches for Agriculture and Allied sector Rejuvenation (RKVY-RAFTAAR) for three years i.e. 2017-18 to 2019-20.



The financial allocation of the scheme will be Rs. 15,722 crore with the objective of making farming as a remunerative economic activity. RKVY-RAFTAAR funds would be provided to the States as 60:40 grants between Centre and States (90:10 for North Eastern States and Himalayan States).

11. Cabinet approved Special Banking Arrangement (SBA) for payment of outstanding subsidy to fertilizer companies during 2016-17

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs has accorded the ex-post facto approval for implementation of Special Banking Arrangement (SBA) for Rs. 10,000 crore for payment of outstanding claims because of fertilizer subsidy in the year 2016-17.



Under the SBA, a total loan of Rs. 9,969 crore for settlement of outstanding subsidy bills with SBI was raised by the Government. The loan amount along with interest liability on the part of Government amounting to Rs. 80.90 crore were paid to SBI.

12. Cabinet approved revised price of ethanol under EBP for the Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs has approved the revision in the price of ethanol under the Ethanol Blended Petrol (EBP) Program for supply to the Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies.

The revised price of ethanol would be fixed at Rs.40.85/- per liter under EBP and will be applicable for the forthcoming sugar season 2017-18. GST and transportation charges will also be payable additionally. The revised price will be applicable during ethanol supply period from 1 December 2017 to 30 November 2018.



13. Food Regulatory Portal launched

Union Ministry of Food Processing Industries and FSSAI, the apex Regulatory body for Food Safety in India launched a powerful new tool called 'The Food Regulatory Portal'. The portal will act as a single interface for food businesses to cater to both domestic operations and food imports.

The Ministry also launched an Investor Facilitation Portal "Nivesh Bandhu" during the World Food India 2017 fair. The portal will assist investors to make informed investment decisions. It would provide information on Central and State Governments' investor friendly policies, agro-producing clusters, infrastructure, and potential areas of investment in the food-processing sector.



14. EESL launched 'Creating and Sustaining Markets for Energy Efficiency' project

The Global Environment Facility (GEF) has collaborated with Energy Efficiency Services Limited (EESL), under Ministry of Power, for the project 'Creating and Sustaining Markets for Energy Efficiency'.

The project will receive a composite funding of \$454 million comprised of the GEF grant of \$20 million and co-financing of \$434 million in the form of loans and equity, including a \$200 million loan from the Asian Development Bank (ADB). EESL further proposes Energy Efficiency Revolving Fund (EERF) for sustainable funding mechanism of energy efficiency projects in the country.



15. The 12th Session of India-Tunisia Joint Commission

The 12th Session of the India-Tunisia Joint Commission was held in New Delhi. To celebrate the 60th Anniversary of establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries, it was decided to hold a yearlong Festival of India in Tunisia and Festival of Tunisia in India in 2018.



A MoU was signed for establishment of Soil, Water and Tissue Testing Laboratory in Tunis. The Government of Tunisia announced that it would become a partner country in the International Solar Alliance (ISA). Tunisia agreed to fight against terrorism, extremism, radicalism, drugs and organized crime and in the field of security including cyber security. Both countries proposed to reach the bilateral trade to USD 1 Billion in the next five years.

16. Deen Dayal SPARSH Yojana launched to promote philately

Minister of Communications Shri Manoj Sinha launched a Pan India scholarship program for schoolchildren called Deen Dayal SPARSH Yojana to increase the reach of Philately.



Under the scheme of SPARSH (Scholarship for Promotion of Aptitude & Research in Stamps as a Hobby), it is proposed to award annual scholarships to children of Standard VI to IX having good academic record and also pursuing Philately as a hobby through a competitive selection process in all postal circles. It is proposed to award 920 scholarships to students pursuing Philately as a hobby.

17. The fourth JWGACTC meeting held in India

The fourth meeting of the Joint Working Group on Aircraft Carrier Technology Co-operation (JWGACTC), constituted under the auspices of the Indo - US Defence Trade and Technology Initiative, was organized in Delhi, India.



During the meeting, both sides acknowledged the significant achievements of the Joint Working Group so far and discussed plans for future co-operation under various aspects of aircraft carrier technology such as design optimization, construction philosophy, trials procedure and project management. The meeting marked yet another significant landmark in the ongoing cooperation between the two countries in the field of aircraft carrier technology.

18. Scope of Coastal Berth Scheme expanded to cover DPR preparation

The Ministry of Shipping has taken up projects worth Rs 2,302 crore for financial assistance under the Coastal Berth Scheme of the flagship Sagarmala Program. The period of this scheme was extended for three years, up to 31 March 2020. It expanded its scope to cover capital dredging at Major Ports and preparation of DPR for coastal berth project in Oct 2017.



The projects under Coastal Berth Scheme of the flagship Sagarmala Program are distributed over eight states with the highest number of projects in Maharashtra.

19. A three-day mega food fair attracted investment worth 19 billion dollars

Investment of around 19 billion dollars were committed during the three-day mega food event- World Food India. The event achieved a resounding success and saw participation from 60 countries and over 50 global CEOs. This was the first time that India hosted such an event for the food-processing sector.



Over 8 thousand business-to-business and business to government meetings were held. 50 MoUs were signed worth 11.25 billion dollar to boost food processing levels, of which, about 2.5 billion dollar worth of MoUs were signed between state governments and stakeholders.

20. Tata Steel established India's largest CDQ Facility at Odisha

India's largest coke dry quenching (CDQ) facility was set up by Tata Steel in Odisha's Jaipur district. Essar Projects has made it possible with the help of technology partner Japan's Nippon Steel and Sumkin Engineering. Coke dry quenching is required to cool the hot coke from coke ovens.



It is one of the eco-friendly facility in steel production where steam created out of waste heat recovery boiler, generates electricity. The CDQ facility saves water, decreases dust emission, generates electricity and provides improved coke quality.

21. Border Roads Organisation created world's highest motorable road

World's highest motorable road is created by Border Roads Organisation in Ladakh region of Jammu and Kashmir, at a height of over 19,300 feet. This creation was a part of project named Project Himank of Border Roads Organisation.

Prior to this, various roads have been constructed under Project Himank, such as Khardangu La at an altitude of 17,900 ft. and Changla Pass at 17,695 ft. in Leh by connecting Nobra valley and Durbuk valley in the cold desert.



22. Expert Group advised for MR campaign to cover the country by 2018

The India Expert Advisory Group on Measles & Rubella (IEAG-MR) has commended India on the progress of the measles and rubella vaccination campaign, as it reviewed the existing strategies and efforts towards measles elimination and control of rubella during the past two days with Ministry of Health & Family Welfare. The expert member group concluded that 'the country is on the right track'.

The group has advised for the MR vaccination campaign to cover the whole country by 2018. It is planned to expand across the country, covering 41 crore children by the end of 2018.



23. Coal India launched a new App “Grahak Sadak Koyla Vitaran App”

Shri Piyush Goyal, Union Minister of Railways & Coal has launched 'Grahak Sadak Koyla Vitaran App' benefitting customers of Coal India Limited (CIL) lifting coal through road mode. The app helps achieve transparency in dispatch operations, as a tool to monitor, whether the dispatches are made on the fair principle of 'First in First Out' and keeps track of all the activities from issuance of Sale Order to physical delivery of coal by road.

The launching of the app is also one of the initiatives of CIL towards achieving the much-cherished goal of 'Digital India' and transparency.



24. Affordable tariff structure for rural and remote areas to promote Digital India

BharatNet, a flagship project to provide Broadband services in rural and remote areas has entered in service provisioning phase. In order to provide affordable broadband services in rural areas, a new attractive and affordable tariff structure has been decided with the principle of more you use, less you pay. This tariff structure is expected to reflect in the tariffs to be charged from the consumers by the service.



For asymmetrical bandwidth between block to GPs the charges per annum varies from Rs.700/- per Mbps for up to 10Mbps and Rs. 200/- per Mbps for one Gbps.

25. IBBI strengthens its Due Diligence Framework under the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016

Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India amended its Corporate Insolvency Resolution Process Regulations to ensure that as part of due diligence, prior to approval of a Resolution Plan, the antecedents, credit worthiness and credibility of a Resolution Applicant, including promoters, are taken into account by the Committee of Creditors.



The Revised Regulations make it incumbent upon the Resolution Professional to ensure that the Resolution Plan presented to the Committee of Creditors contains relevant details to assess the credibility of the Resolution Applicants.

26. NDMA conducted brainstorming session on use of UAVs in Disaster Management

The National Disaster Management Authority conducted a one-day national-level brainstorming session on "Application of Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs) in Disaster Management. The event aimed to build and improve the capacity of stakeholders to use UAVs and related technologies for better disaster preparedness and response.



UAVs can provide high-resolution, real-time images of even the inaccessible locations. These images can then be used to produce accurate hazard maps so that prevention and mitigation measures for reducing disaster risks are planned accordingly. In a post-disaster situation, UAVs can be used to map the affected areas in high resolution within a short time.

27. SHe-Box Online Complaint Management System for working women launched by WCD

WCD Minister Smt. Maneka Sanjay Gandhi launched a comprehensive SHe-Box online complaint Management System for women working in both public and private organizations to lodge complaints of sexual harassment at workplace. The portal provides information on 112 institutions empaneled by MWCD to conduct training/workshops on the issue of sexual harassment at the workplace.



Users of SHe-Box also have the option of interacting with Ministry of WCD through this portal, with an assured time-bound response. It is an effort to utilize the digital space to enable speedier response to the complaints of women against sexual harassment at workplace.

28. India's Second Technology and Innovation Support Center established at Chennai

The Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion (DIPP), Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Government of India, has signed an Institutional agreement with Anna University to establish India's second Technology and Innovation Support Center (TISC) at the Centre for Intellectual Property Rights (CIPR), Anna University, Chennai, 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.

29. IICA, Atal Innovation Mission and HVSU celebrated National Entrepreneurship Day 2017

Two Memorandum of Understanding (MoUs) were signed between Indian Institute of Corporate Affairs, Atal Innovation Mission – Niti Aayog and Haryana Vishwakarma Skill University in Delhi. IICA explored ways to collaborate and undertake various activities to promote incubation/ entrepreneurship and innovation.



Shri R. Ramanan, Mission Director, Atal Innovation Mission, Niti Aayog, dwelt on building the ecosystem for entrepreneurship in India through specific interventions such as Atal Tinkering Labs, Atal Incubation Centre.

30. Shri Rajnath Singh chaired second meeting of Island Development Agency

The Union Home Minister Shri Rajnath Singh chaired the second meeting of Island Development Agency (IDA). The Island Development Agency reviewed the concept development plans and detailed master plans for holistic development of 09 islands (four in A&N Islands i.e. Smith, Ross, Long, Avis) and (five in Lakshadweep i.e. Minicoy, Bangaram, Thinnakara, Cheriya, Suheli).



The project being steered by NITI Aayog aims at promoting and implementing development based on sustainable approach to building a thriving maritime economy of the project islands. NITI Aayog was also asked to drive the formulation of PPP projects and proposed detailed guidelines to boost private sector participation.

31. PM Modi, Bangladesh PM, and West Bengal CM, jointly launched connectivity projects between India and Bangladesh

The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi, the Bangladesh Prime Minister, Sheikh Hasina, and the Chief Minister of West Bengal, Ms. Mamata Banerjee, jointly launched a series of connectivity projects between the two countries.



These include the second Bhairab and Titas Railway Bridges and the International Rail Passenger Terminus at Chitpur in Kolkata. The dignitaries also flagged off the inaugural run of the Bandhan Express between Kolkata and Khulna. External Affairs Minister Smt. Sushma Swaraj also joined the event from New Delhi.

32. Shri Kiren Rijju launched the 'India Disaster Response Summit'

Shri Rijju launched the 'India Disaster Response Summit', organized jointly by the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) and Facebook on how best to leverage social media platforms to 'prepare, respond and recover' for, during and after a disaster. This partnership is a benchmark and first of its kind – India became the first Government to collaborate with Facebook on disaster response.



Facebook will share its disaster maps, developed using aggregated, de-identified data, with NDMA. These maps can aid swift disaster response by providing real-time, actionable information.

33. Indian Panorama selection of films for 48th IFFI 2017 announced

Indian Panorama 2017 announced its final selection of Feature & Non-Feature films to be screened in Goa at 48th International Film Festival of India, 2017. Five Mainstream films were also selected. The opening film of the feature film section of Indian Panorama is Pihu, which has been directed by Vinod Kapri. The Non – Feature Film Jury was chaired by well-known film director and screenwriter Shri Sudhir Mishra.



The Jury for Feature Films was headed by acclaimed film director, actor and screenwriter, Shri Sujoy Ghosh. The Jury previewed 153 eligible entries.

34. Cabinet approved MoU between India and Philippines on agriculture and related fields

The Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi gave approval for signing a Memorandum of Understanding between India and Philippines in the field of agriculture and related fields. The MoU will improve bilateral cooperation in the field of agriculture and will be mutually beneficial to both countries.



This MoU provides for cooperation in the fields of rice production and processing, multi cropping system, dryland farming systems, bioorganic farming, solid and water conservation and management, soil fertility, sericulture, agro forestry, livestock improvement etc.

35. Cabinet approved agreement between India and the Hong Kong

The Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi gave its approval for entering into an Agreement between India and the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) of China for the Avoidance of Double Taxation and the Prevention of Fiscal Evasion with respect to taxes on income.



The Agreement will stimulate flow of investment, technology and personnel from India to HKSAR & vice versa, prevent double taxation and provide for exchange of information between the two Contracting Parties. It will improve transparency in tax matters and will help curb tax evasion and tax avoidance.

36. Cabinet approved the protocol amending the Agreement between India and Kyrgyz Republic

The Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi gave its approval for the protocol amending the Agreement between India and Kyrgyz Republic for the avoidance of double taxation and the prevention of fiscal evasion with respect to taxes on income.



The updated Article provides for exchange of information to the widest possible extent. The Protocol further empowers India to use information received under the DTAA to be used for other law enforcement purposes on the supplying State authorizing such use.

37. Cabinet approved Joint Interpretative Declaration between India and Colombia

The Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi gave its approval for signing the Joint Interpretative Declaration (JID) between India and Colombia regarding the existing Agreement for the Promotion and Protection of Investments between India and Colombia signed on November 10, 2009.



The JID would impart clarity to the interpretation of the existing Agreement as it includes interpretative notes to be jointly adopted for many clauses, including, the definition of investor, definition of investment, Fair and Equitable Treatment, National Treatment and Most Favoured Nation treatment, expropriation, Investor - State Dispute Settlement provision and Denial of Benefits.

38. Cabinet approved appointment of Second National Judicial Pay Commission

The Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi approved appointment of Second National Judicial Pay Commission (SNJPC) for Subordinate Judiciary in the country. The Commission is to be headed by Shri Justice (Retd. J P. Venkatrama Reddi, former Judge of Supreme Court of India. Shri R. Basant, a former Judge of the Kerala High Court is the Member of the Commission.



The Commission aims to evolve the principles, which would govern pay structure and other emoluments of Judicial Officers belonging to the Subordinate Judiciary of the country, thus making the pay scales of Judicial Officers uniform.

39. NITI Aayog released proposal for a quick pilot on EV charging infrastructure in Delhi

NITI Aayog Vice Chairman, Dr. Rajiv Kumar, released a proposal to develop electric vehicle charging infrastructure in Delhi. The proposal was drafted by AC2SG in collaboration with NITI Aayog. The proposal for the quick pilot could be used to provide a structure for EV infrastructure rollout in the Gurgaon-IGI-South Delhi-Noida corridor. This planning will make the actual rollout easier, faster and save cost on the deployment.



This proposal for developing the pilot includes 55 locations with 135 charging stations of which 46 are DC quick charging stations and 89 are slower AC charging stations.

40. Home Ministry sets up two new divisions to deal with cyber crime

The Union Home Ministry, as part of an administrative rejig, has formed two new divisions to exclusively deal with emerging security challenges such as radicalization and cybercrime. The two divisions called Counter-Terrorism and Counter-Radicalization (CTCR) and the Cyber and Information Security (CIS) encompass merger of some of the Ministry's existing divisions.



The CTCR wing will focus on tracking and assessing the online reach of global terrorist outfits and devising strategies to counter their propaganda. The CIS division will monitor online crimes and threats, including cyber fraud and hacking, and suggest ways to minimize and fight them.

41. WCD Ministry celebrated Child Rights Week Hausla 2017

The Ministry of Women and Child Development celebrated the Child Rights Week Hausla 2017. To mark the occasion various events were held including Bal Sansad, painting competition, athletics meet, football, chess competition and speech writing.



The country celebrated the Children's Day on 14 November and the International Child Rights Day on 20 November every year. The ministry celebrated the period between these two important events as the Child Rights Week. Child reporters from street children's news magazine 'Balaknama' covered the entire event and UNICEF published the speeches in the form of a booklet.

42. Railway announced to provide skill training for its employees

Railway has designed a five-day on-the-job or classroom intensive plan to provide skill training for its employees to meet the growing passenger expectations of better services and amenities.

All employees in each zone will be put through a week's training in skills and knowledge relevant to their work area over the next one year.

Training need is quickly identified for each category of employees in their specific zones. Training will be completed within 9 months.



43. Indian Railways to set up main arch on world's highest bridge on Chenab

Railways of India will install a main arch at the world's highest bridge on Chenab River in Jammu and Kashmir's Reasi district. This 1.3-km-long bridge will be built at a cost of Rs. 1,250 crore. Arch will provide direct connectivity to the Kashmir Valley. The bridge will be built at 359 meters above the bed of the River Chenab and will be 30 meters taller than the iconic Eiffel Tower in Paris.

It will ease the 111-km stretch between Katra and Banihal. The two ends of the bridge the Kauri end and the Bakkal end require world longest cable crane arrangement.



44. The fourth Annual India-Canada ministerial dialogue held in Delhi

The fourth India-Canada Ministerial Dialogue on Trade and Investment was held in New Delhi. Both sides recognized that the current bilateral trade is much below the potential between the two world's robust economies, despite the huge untapped potential for two-way trade and investment. The other issues such as early institutionalization of the CEO Forum mechanism, issue of extension of derogation of pulses, etc. were also discussed.



It was agreed to explore collaboration in the area of export credit insurance through India's Export Credit Guarantee Corporation Ltd. (ECGC Ltd.) and Canada's Export Development Canada (EDC).

45. Army organized a youth fest at Kishtwar

The Indian Army organized a mega event 2017 Youth Fest at the historic Chowgan ground of Kishtwar. The Fest was an amalgamation of varied programs highlighting the rich culture of different regions of India and stalls of food, entertainment and games for people of all the age groups to rejoice & cherish. The event also encompassed display of various ethnic specialties from across the country.



Students from various schools of Kishtwar district participated in the event to display their talent and performed folk dances of Rajasthani, Punjabi & Kashmiri culture.

46. International Road Federation organized the 'Transport Ministers' Forum on Road Safety'

International Road Federation organized the 'Transport Ministers' Forum on Road Safety'. The importance to create an enhanced capacity and infuse the knowledge of road safety related actions in public bystanders was discussed.



Around 85 new trauma care facilities are approved to establish in Government Hospitals on National Highways. National Injury Surveillance, Trauma Registry and Capacity Building Centre at Dr. RML Hospital and ATLS/NELS training for doctors and BLS training for nurses at Dr. RML Hospital has been established.

47. National Achievement Survey (NAS) conducted successfully

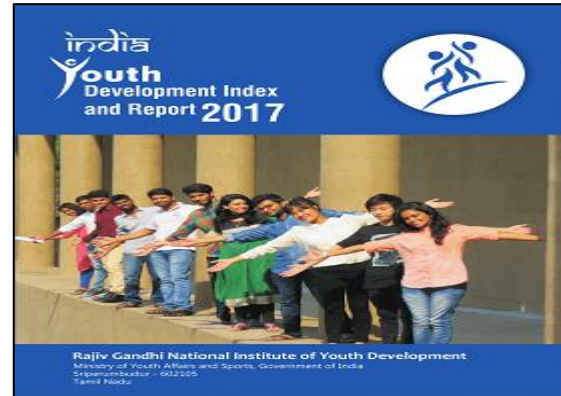
The National Achievement Survey is the largest national assessment survey in the country and is amongst the largest in the world, was conducted throughout India. NAS is a transparent and credible exercise done under third party verification. It was conducted for the Classes 3, 5 and 8 in government and government aided schools. The survey tools used multiple test booklets. The competency-based test questions developed, reflected the Learning Outcomes developed by the NCERT.



The findings of the survey will help in understanding the efficiency of the education system, help guide education policy, planning and implementation.

48. Col. Rajyavardhan Rathore released the India Youth Development Index and Report 2017

Union Minister of State for Youth Affairs and Sports (Independent Charge) Col. Rajyavardhan Rathore released the India Youth Development Index and Report 2017. The objective of constructing the India Youth Development Index (YDI) 2017 was to track the trends in Youth Development across the States.



The Rajiv Gandhi National Institute of Youth Development (RGNIYD), Sriperumbudur, Tamil Nadu, an Institute of National Importance proposed the index. YDI-2017 will enable the policy makers to track the national and the regional progress as well setbacks in youth development policies, planning and priority identification and implementation strategies.

49. Government launched BharatNet phase 2 project

To provide high-speed broadband service in all Gram Panchayats by March 2019, government launched its second and final phase of BharatNet project. It will be implemented at an outlay of around 34000 crore rupees. Department of Telecommunications signed MoUs with states for the implementation of the second phase of BharatNet.



Under this phase, broadband connectivity will be provided in remaining 1.5 lakh Gram Panchayats in the country. Broadband infrastructure on Optical Fibre network has been made available in more than one lakh Gram Panchayats as part of BharatNet Phase-1.

50. Northeast all set to get India's first-ever air dispensary based in helicopter

Northeast is all set to get India's first-ever air dispensary based in a helicopter, for which government has contributed 25 crore rupees as part of the initial funding for this initiative.



A helicopter based Dispensary and OPD service is introduced in far-flung and remote areas, where no doctor or medical facility is available. The proposal has been accepted and is in the final stages of process in the Ministry of Civil Aviation. Nearly one third of country's population did not have access to proper hospital bed care.

51. President of India inaugurated the 37th India International Trade Fair-2017

The President of India, Shri Ram Nath Kovind, inaugurated the 37th India International Trade Fair (IITF) -2017 in New Delhi. Around 3,000 exhibitors, including 222 companies from abroad, are participated at IITF 2017. Thirty-two of India's states and Union territories represented.



IITF is snapshot of the diversity and the sheer energy of this subcontinent. The 2017 IITF took place at a point when India is recognized as one of the bright spots of the global economy. The world has acknowledged the changed business environment in India and the strides made in ease of doing business.

52. First ever Asia Pacific Computer Emergency Response Team (Apcert) conference held

The Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-In) under the aegis of Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology organized the Asia Pacific Computer Emergency Response Team (APCERT) Conference in New Delhi. This was the 15th Conference of APCERT and first ever conference in India and South Asia.



The conference theme was "Building Trust in the Digital Economy". Conference was attended by over 300 cyber security professionals from the Asia Pacific region, USA, Europe, Industry, Academia, Government and Media.

53. Vice President of India released the findings of 'India State Level Disease Burden' report

Vice President of India, Shri M Venkaiah Naidu released the findings of 'India State Level Disease Burden' report of Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR). The estimates released were based on utilization of all available epidemiological data.



It shows per person burden due to major infectious disease, which is 7 to 9 times higher in the states like Bihar, Odisha, U.P, Assam, Rajasthan, M.P. and Jharkhand than in other states. The India State-level Disease Burden Initiative is a joint initiative between the Indian Council of Medical Research, Public Health Foundation of India, and Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation.

54. Shri R.K. Singh launched the national power portal

Shri R.K. Singh, Minister of State (IC) for Power and New & Renewable Energy, launched the National Power Portal (NPP).

NPP is a centralized system for Indian Power Sector, which facilitates online data capture/ input from generation, transmission and distribution utilities in the country and disseminate Power Sector Information through various analyzed reports, graphs, statistics for generation, transmission and distribution at all India, region, state level for central, state and private sector. It standardized data parameters and formats for seamless exchange of data between NPP and respective systems at utilities.



55. Railway Minister gives directions for “comprehensive training programme” for all employees

Under the direction of Minister of Railways & Coal, Shri Piyush Goyal, a comprehensive plan for imparting training to all employees of Indian Railways is being prepared with a view to upgrade skill & knowledge. This comprehensive training program named as “Project Saksham” will help boost productivity and efficiency. Under this plan, all employees in each zone will be put through a week’s training in skills.



This training will not only upgrade skill of each of the employees but also go a long-way in improving the performance of the Indian Railways.

56. India and Canada technology summit held in Delhi

India and Canada opened a new chapter in their bilateral relationship with the start of a two-day India-Canada Technology Summit in New Delhi. The Summit, organized jointly by the Department of Science & Technology (DST) and Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) was inaugurated by Union Minister for Science & Technology and Earth Sciences.



The new phase of India Canada - IMPACTS program between DST and NSERC, Canada, was announced to promote multidisciplinary research partnerships aimed to deliver practical solutions through application of science and technology. The themes were Advanced Manufacturing, Intelligent Transport Systems, Aviation, and Infrastructure.

57. Hunar Haat inaugurated in IITF 2017

“Hunar Haat”, a spectacular platform of Ministry of Minority Affairs where exquisite pieces of Handicraft & Handloom prepared by inmates of Tihar Jail and master artisans from across the country were displayed at India International Trade Fair. “Hunar Haat” have become a successful mission to provide employment and employment opportunities.

Artisans from various states participated. Various handloom work like Cane & Bamboo & Jute Products of Assam; Tussar, Geeja, Matka Silk of Bhagalpur; Traditional Jewellery, Lac Bangles & Jewellery from Rajasthan & Telangana were displayed.



Bangles & Jewellery from Rajasthan &

58. Union Steel Minister launched Steel Pavilion at IITF 2017

The Union Minister of Steel Shri Chaudhary Birender Singh launched Ministry of Steel's Pavilion at India International Trade Fair (IITF) 2017. The pavilion, where all public sector and major private sector steel companies jointly participated, was designed on IITF 2017's theme of Start-Up India: Stand-Up India.

Start-up India: Stand-Up India is one of the core economic development initiatives of the government and the theme of IITF 2017, which aims at promoting entrepreneurship and business in various sectors.



59. National seminar on adoption organized in Delhi

A one day National Seminar on Adoption was held to the Children's Festival "Hausala 2017" being celebrated as Child Right's Week by the Ministry of Women & Children Development. It was organized by Central Adoption Resources Authority. The Minister announced that the government would soon launch the process of categorizing and ranking adoption agencies based on their performance. The best performing agencies will be rewarded and projected as role model.



The purpose of the seminar was to discuss the issues and concerns pertaining to adoption program, the role of SARAs, DCPUs & CWCs and legislations governing adoption.

60. 'Aadi Mahotsav' a mega national tribal festival launched

Vice President of India launched "Aadi Mahotsav", a Mega fortnight long National Tribal festival with the theme: 'A celebration of the spirit of Tribal culture, cuisine & commerce'. Over 750 tribal artisans from over 25 States will be participated in the festival. The festival featured exhibition-cum-sale of tribal handicrafts, art, paintings, fabric, Jewellery and much more through about 200 stalls.



The 15 days Mahotsav promises to be a feast of shopping, exotic dining and fine music from Artists from all over the Country. A team of 350 tribal artists presented excellent and choreographed dances, vocal and instrumental music.

61. Cabinet approved the establishment of the National Anti-profiteering Authority

The Union Cabinet approved for the creation of the posts of Chairman and Technical Members of the National Anti-profiteering Authority (NAA) under GST.



The establishment of the NAA, to be headed by a senior officer of the level of Secretary to the Government of India with four Technical Members from the Centre and/or any of the States. This is one more measure aimed at reassuring consumers that Government is fully committed to take all possible steps to ensure the benefits of implementation of GST in terms of lower prices of the goods and services reach them.

62. Cabinet approved agreement between India and Belarus on scientific and technological cooperation

The Union Cabinet apprised of the Agreement between the Indian National Science Academy (INSA) and the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus (NASB) on Scientific and Technological Cooperation for mutual benefit in the areas of science, technology, agriculture, etc.



The Agreement is aimed at identifying, assessing, developing and commercializing globally competitive technologies from India and Belarus. It will support institutions in both countries by way of research, technology transfers, exchange of visits and joint workshops leading to scientific and economic benefit.

63. Cabinet approved MoU between India and Poland

The Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi approved for signing the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between India and Poland for the Promotion of Civil Aviation Cooperation. The MoU will be signed on behalf of the two countries after its approval by the two Governments. The MoU would be for a term of five years.



The objective of the MoU is to recognize the mutual benefit of Cooperation in the field of Civil Aviation having particular significance in establishing and improving Regional Air Connectivity in India.

64. The two-day 12th northeast business summit held in New Delhi

The Two-day “12th North-East Business Summit” was organized in Delhi. The summit aimed to explore the scope for business opportunities in the Northeastern region of India.

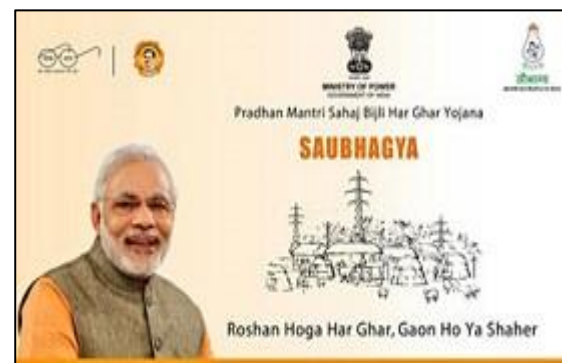


The Summit was organized by the Indian Chamber of Commerce (ICC), with Manipur being the state partner for the event. Focus areas were Infrastructure and Connectivity with Public Private Partnerships, Skill Development, Financial Inclusion, Services Sector Development- Particularly in Tourism, Hospitality & Food Processing.

65. ‘Saubhagya’ Web-Portal – a Platform for Monitoring Universal Household Electrification launched

Shri R.K. Singh, Minister of State (IC) for Power and New & Renewable Energy, launched the Pradhan Mantri Sahaj Bijli Har Ghar Yojana – ‘Saubhagya’ Web Portal.

The portal can be accessed at <http://saubhagya.gov.in>. Saubhagya Dashboard is a platform for monitoring household electrification progress, which would disseminate information on Household Electrification Status (State, District, village-wise), Household Progress on live basis, State-wise Target vs Achievement, Monthly Electrification Progress, etc.



66. Aadhaar card enrolment facility launched at post offices from 2018

The residents of Maharashtra and Goa would be able to enroll for Aadhaar Cards in more than 1,200 Post Offices, in the two States from 2018. Public can present their Aadhaar cards corrected or updated at 1,293 post offices, out of the total 2,216, from 2018.

The Department of Post had started updation facility for Aadhaar at its 120 post offices across the Maharashtra and Goa circle.

Almost 4,000 staffers of the postal department are being trained to issue Aadhaar cards to the residents of the circle.



67. Ministry of Shipping laid foundation stone for Cochin Shipyard

The Minister of Shipping Shri Nitin Gadkari laid the foundation stone for Rs. 970-crore International Ship Repair Facility (ISRF) for Cochin Shipyard Limited. The facility is being built at Cochin Port Trust where CSL has leased out a 40-acre plot for the project.

The International Ship Repair facility will be a State of the Art facility that can handle a major chunk of small and medium sized vessels plying in India. The facility can repair up to 85 vessels, and CSL will thereby be almost doubling the number of ships that can be repaired every year.



68. Ministry of Shipping organized the conference 'Build the ship – 2017'

Build The Ship – 2017 conference was organized by the Ministry of Shipping in Cochin. The event deliberated upon the recommendations of a study regarding the growth strategies for promotion of Shipbuilding, Ship Design, Ship Repair and Marine Ancillaries in India.

The start of Center of Excellence in Maritime and Shipbuilding (CEMS), a start up in skill development for maritime and shipbuilding sector was discussed at the conference. A joint venture between Hooghly Cochin Shipyard Ltd. with CSL was incorporated. A Shareholders agreement was signed between CSL and HDEPL at the conference.



69. Government removed restrictions on export of all types of pulses

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs, CCEA removed restrictions on export of all types of pulses. The decision will help farmers offer greater choice in marketing their produce and enhance their incomes. The opening of export of pulses will help the farmers to dispose of their products at remunerative prices and encourage them to expand the area of sowing.



This will help in pulses production to sustain in the country and its import dependence on pulses will come down substantially. This is also likely to provide higher levels of protein to the population and work towards nutritional security.

70. NCPCR celebrated 'Baal Utsav' as part of Hausla-2017

The National Commission for Protection of Child Rights celebrated Baal Utsav as part of Hausla-2017, a weeklong festival for children living in Child Care Institutions across India. The main objective of the program was to promote child participation and display their talents in other creative activities.



The main attraction of the program was an interactive session between the children and the dignitaries of the event. Apart from sports activities, cultural programs by differently abled children and others were presented.

71. The 42nd International congress of military medicine held

The 42nd World Congress of the International Committee of Military Medicine (ICMM) organized by the Armed Forces Medical Services (AFMS) under the aegis of the Ministry of Defence (MoD) held in Delhi. The theme of this 42nd World Congress was "Military Medicine in Transition: Looking Ahead."



There were 26 thematic sessions covering diverse areas including "Terrain Specific Military Medical Support", "Health Protection and Promotion in the Military Environment", "Combat Medical Support", and "Humanitarian Aid and Disaster Relief". Panel discussions on women in combat, medical disability benefits, veterans' health and health screening of recruits were planned.

72. Health Ministry notified amendment to Food Safety & Standards (Contaminants, Toxins & Residues) Regulations, 2011

Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, through FSSAI, notified amendment to Food Safety & Standards (Contaminants, Toxins & Residues) Regulations, 2011. This notification contains maximum permissible limits of various antibiotics in meat and meat products. Maximum permissible limits of 37 antibiotics and 67 other veterinary drugs are prescribed for chicken.



The recommendations of the Scientific Panel will be considered by the Scientific Committee and then the Food Authority for approval after which it will be notified in the Gazette of India with the approval of the Hon'ble Minister.

73. The 48th International Film Festival of India held in Goa

The 48th International Film Festival of India was organized in Goa. Around 200 films from 82 countries were screened during the nine-day extravaganza in Panaji. Apart from 20 Oscar-nominated movies, 2017 screened over 10 Asia premiers, 3 world premieres and 64 India premiers of international films.



Around 26 feature films and 16 non-feature films belonging to different languages and regions of India were screened in the Indian Panorama Section of the festival. Canada was the focus country of 2017 and presented a package of its eight best recent films.

74. Government increased import duty on edible oils

Government of India increased import duty from 15% to 30% on crude palm oil and from 15% to 40% on refined oil, to lower shipment cost and increase farmer's income.



Import duty on crude soya bean oil was increased to 30% from 17.5% and refined soya bean oil to 35% from 20%. Import duty on soya bean was also increased to 45%.

The said decisions were taken under the supervision of inter-ministerial group headed by Union minister Nitin Gadkari and the Economic Advisory Council to Prime Minister.

75. India-Russia inked pact for visa free entry of flight crew

India and Russia have agreed to implement the general declaration for visa free entry of the crew of chartered and scheduled flights between the two countries.

The agreement will facilitate visa-free entry, stay and exit of crew of aircraft of the designated airlines as well as other aircraft companies operating chartered and special flights in the respective territories on reciprocal basis. According to official estimates, around 1,200 scheduled flights ply between India and Russia every year. Moreover, about 1,100 Russian chartered flights arrive in India every year.



76. 1st World Conference on Access to Medical Products and International Laws for Trade and Health

The Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Government of India and Indian Society of International Law with the support of WHO organized the "1st World Conference on Access to Medical Products and International Laws for Trade and Health in the Context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development" from 21-23 November 2017 at New Delhi.

The objective of the Conference was to exchange knowledge and expand understanding on contemporary issues in international trade laws, research, and innovation for access to medical products to achieve SDG 2030 agenda.



77. Canada chosen as the Country of Focus at IFFI, Goa 2017

Canada has been chosen this year as the Focus Country at the 48th International Film Festival of India. IFFI 2017 hosted and presented a Canadian delegation, in addition to presenting a package of eight best films from recent Canadian Cinema.

The International Festival of India features a Country of Focus every year. Through this category, prominent films made by the country of focus are screened at IFFI Goa 2017. The festival encourages friendly ties between India and other countries through this category.



78. Nagaland, Andaman & Nicobar Islands, Dadra & Nagar Haveli & Daman & Diu sign MoU under UDAY Scheme

On the second anniversary of Ujwal DISCOM Assurance Yojana (UDAY), the Government of India has signed four Memorandum of Understandings (MoUs) with the State of Nagaland as well as with Union Territories (UTs) of Andaman & Nicobar Islands, Dadra & Nagar Haveli & Daman & Diu.



These State/UTs have joined only for operational improvement and shall not undergo financial restructuring/issue of bonds under the scheme. An overall net benefit of approximately Rs. 551 crores, Rs. 18 crores, Rs. 13 crores and Rs. 10 crores respectively would accrue to the State of Nagaland & UTs of Andaman & Nicobar, Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu.

79. Cabinet approved agreement between India and Philippines on co-operation in customs matters

The Union Cabinet has approved the signing and ratifying of an Agreement between India and Philippines on co-operation and mutual assistance in customs matters.



The Agreement will help in the availability of relevant information for the prevention and investigation of Customs offences. The Agreement is also expected to facilitate trade and ensure efficient clearance of goods traded between the countries. The Agreement would provide a legal framework for sharing of information and intelligence between the Customs authorities of the two countries.

80. Cabinet approved India's Membership for European Bank for Reconstruction & Development

The Union Cabinet has approved India's Membership for European Bank for Reconstruction & Development (EBRD). The minimum initial investment towards the membership of EBRD will be approximately €1 (one) million.



Membership of EBRD would enhance India's international profile and promote its economic interests as well as access to EBRD's Countries of Operation and sector knowledge. It would increase the scope of cooperation between India and EBRD through co-financing opportunities in manufacturing, services, Information Technology, and Energy.

81. Cabinet approved signing of India - Russia Agreement on cooperation in combating terrorism

The Union Cabinet has given its approval for signing an Agreement on Cooperation between India and Russia in the field of combating all forms of terrorism and organized crime.

The proposed Agreement, which will replace the Agreement of October 1993, is a step towards consolidating the benefits accrued in the field of security and seeks to fight the new and evolving risks and threats.

This agreement will help in exchange and sharing of information, expertise, best practices.



82. Cabinet approved setting up of the 15th Finance Commission

The Union Cabinet has approved the setting up of the 15th Finance Commission. Under Article 280 (1) of the Constitution, it is a Constitutional obligation.

Former Planning Commission member N.K. Singh was appointed Chairman of the 15th Finance Commission. The commission is required to submit its report by October 2019. The other members are former economic affairs secretary Shaktikanta Das and former chief economic adviser Ashok Lahiri, Niti Aayog member Ramesh Chand and Georgetown University professor Anoop Singh.



83. The fifth Global Conference on Cyberspace, 2017 launched

The fifth edition Global Conference on Cyberspace 2017 was inaugurated in New Delhi. Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the UMANG App that aims to bring 162 government services on a single mobile app, with a larger goal to make the government accessible on the mobile phone of citizens.

This year the theme was Cyber4All: A Secure and Inclusive Cyberspace for Sustainable Development. The overall goal of GCCS 2017 is to promote the importance of inclusiveness and human rights in global cyber policy.



84. Centre approved over one lakh crore rupees worth Highway and Shipping Projects for Tamil Nadu

The Union Government has approved projects of value of more than one Lakh crore rupees for Tamil Nadu. These projects will cover the Highways, Shipping and Port and for finding a permanent solution to the irrigation and drinking water requirements of the state.



Three New Elevated Corridors have been approved first being the Tambaram–Chengelpatu at a cost of 2250 crores, Poonamalee–Maduravoyal Corridor with an outlay of 1500 crores and the Tiruvallur Corridor budgeted at 1000 crore.

85. President nod to Ordinance to amend Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code

President Ram Nath Kovind has given his assent to the ordinance to amend the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016.



The Code provides for a market-determined and time-bound insolvency resolution process. The ordinance aims at putting in place safeguards to prevent unscrupulous, undesirable persons from misusing or vitiating the provisions of the code. The amendment also provides such check by specifying that the Committee of Creditors ensure the viability and feasibility of the resolution plan before approving it.

86. Union Government promulgated Indian Forest (Amendment) Ordinance, 2017

The Union Government has promulgated Indian Forest (Amendment) Ordinance, 2017 to encourage bamboo cultivation in non-forest areas.



The ordinance exempts bamboo grown in non-forest areas from definition of tree, thereby dispensing with the requirement of felling and transit permit for its economic use. Bamboo, though, taxonomically a grass, was legally defined as a tree under the Indian Forest Act, 1927. The measure will go a long way in enhancing the agricultural income of farmers and tribals, especially in Northeast and Central India.

87. Multi state mega mock tsunami exercise 2017 held

The Ministry of Home Affairs through National Disaster Management Authority and the Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services conducted a first-of-its-kind multi-State mega mock exercise on tsunami preparedness covering the entire eastern coastline of India.



Simulation exercises were conducted simultaneously in 35 coastal districts across four States of West Bengal, Odisha, Andhra Pradesh & Tamil Nadu and Union Territory of Puducherry along the entire East Coast, to assess and improve the early warning and response mechanism to mitigate the impact of a high-intensity tsunami.

88. HRD ministry launched Digital Signature campaign on Constitution Day

A signature campaign was launched by Human Resources Development department on Constitution day. This will help in creating awareness on fundamental duties as per the Constitution. The constitution was adopted on 26 November 1949, which came into effect on January 26, 1950. The day is also known as 'Samvidhan Divas'.



Public was invited to join the campaign by filling a form online. The form not only gave information about the Constitution but also created importance of the day among people.

89. Prime Minister launched all in one app 'UMANG'

Indian Prime minister launched new app called UMANG (Unified Mobile Application for New-age Governance), meant for citizens to access all government services such as Aadhaar, DigiLocker, Bharat Bill Payment System (BBPS), EPFO services, PAN applications etc., on single platform. App will provide access to 1200 services.



This app will also facilitate users to apply for job by registering on Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana. It was done in an initiative to welcome digital world and make public friendly to digital services.

90. India and Russia ink anti-terror pact

India and Russia signed a key agreement and agreed to help each other in combating terrorism. The pact was signed by Indian ambassador to Russia Pankaj Saran and deputy minister for internal affairs of the Russian Federation Igor Zubov.



The new agreement between India's MHA and Russia's interior ministry will replace the October 1993 agreement between both the countries. Indian and Russian representatives also signed a joint action plan for countering the threat posed by narcotics. This agreement will provide legal framework for bilateral cooperation in this field.

91. India, Greece sign Air Services Agreement

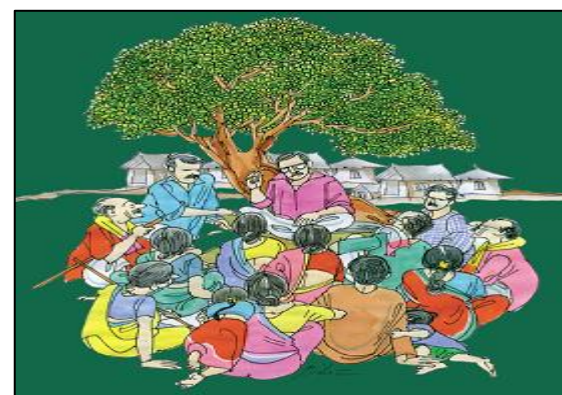
India and Greece signed Air Services Agreement and MoU on Cooperation in the field of New and Renewable Energy in New Delhi.



The pacts were inked after talks between External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj and visiting Minister for Foreign Affairs of Greece Nikos Kotzias. As per the new civil aviation policy, the government would enter into an 'open sky' air services agreement on a reciprocal basis with SAARC nations as well as countries with territory located entirely beyond a 5,000-kilometre radius from New Delhi.

92. Maneka Sanjay Gandhi launched program to train Elected Women Representatives of Panchayati Raj Institutions

The Minister of Women and Child Development, Smt. Maneka Sanjay Gandhi launched an intensive training program for Elected Women Representatives (EWRs) of Panchayati Raj Institutions and Master Trainers.



The program is being organized by National Institute of Public Cooperation and Child Development (NIPCCD) of the WCD Ministry, which will ultimately train approximately twenty thousand EWRs by March 2018. The training program will include simple engineering skills, which will give them an insight into women's issues as well as focus on education and financial matters.

93. The 12th meeting of Standing Committee of Inter-State Council

The Union Home Minister Shri Rajnath Singh chaired the 12th meeting of the Standing Committee of Inter-State Council (ISC). The meeting discussed the recommendations of the Punchhi Commission on Centre-State Relations.

The Punchhi Commission was set up by the Government under the leadership of Justice (Retd.) Madan Mohan Punchhi, former Chief Justice of Supreme Court of India, in 2005. The Punchhi Commission submitted its report in 2010 containing 273 recommendations in seven volumes.



94. Telecom Regulatory Authority of India upholds net neutrality

The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has upheld the basic principles of an open and free internet in its recommendations on net neutrality. Net neutrality means that telecom service providers must treat all internet traffic equally, without any regard to the type, origin or destination of the content or the means of its transmission.

TRAI recommended prohibiting Internet service providers from making any discrimination in traffic while providing web access by either blocking or throttling some apps, websites and services or by offering fast lanes to others.



95. Health Ministry and ICMR launched India Hypertension Management Initiative

Health Ministry department and ICMR launched the India Hypertension Management Initiative (IHMI). The IHMI aims to reduce disability and death related to cardiovascular disease (CVD), the leading cause of death in India, by improving the control of high blood pressure (hypertension), reducing salt consumption and eliminating artificial trans-fats, leading risk factors for CVD.

WHO India Representative highlighted the importance of awareness and detection of hypertension. This program will help with the management of hypertension in the country.



96. World's first 3D Sanskrit Film screened at 2017 IFFI Goa

Asokan PK-directed film 'Anurakhti' that is called as world's first Sanskrit 3D film was screened at the International Film Festival of India in Panaji in Goa. The movie is based on story of 'Vasudha', a Punjabi danseuse, who comes to Kerala to learn Koodiyattam from a practitioner called Paramesharwan Chakkir. Koodiyattam is a 2000-year-old dance form of Kerala.



The movie was made to create importance of Sanskrit language in today's world. The language has been used in movie in such a way that it became simplified for viewers to understand.

97. Russia to help India to set up national crisis response centre

Russia will help India to set up a national crisis management centre in the country to handle disaster and other emergencies.



Both sides agreed that EMERCOM of Russia would cooperate with India in the establishment of the National Crisis Management Centre (NCMC) in India. This was agreed during a meeting between Indian Home Minister Rajnath Singh and Russian Minister for Emergency Situations Vladimir Puchkov in Moscow. The two nations also reviewed the implementation of the agreement on information security signed in October 2016.

98. FSSAI issued detailed guidelines on recall of food products

The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) has issued detailed guidelines on recall of food products in order to put in place a proper plan to recall food products from markets if found unsafe and also inform the authority about the same.



Recall is an action to remove food products from market, which may pose a threat to the public health or food that violate the Act. "At the time of recall being carried out, the FBO shall submit their detailed recall plan to the CEO, FSSAI," the regulator said.

Persons in News

1. Mukesh Ambani becomes Richest Man in Asia

According to the Forbes' real-time billionaire's list, Mukesh Ambani, the chairman of Reliance Industries, became the richest person in Asia with a net worth of \$42.1 billion after his wealth grew by \$466 million owing to 1.22 per cent rise in the shares of Reliance Industries.

Mr. Ambani overtook Hui Ka Yan, the Chairman of China's Evergrande Group in the rankings. Globally, Ambani stood at the 14th spot on Forbes' list. Wipro's Azim Premji was ranked the second richest Indian with a net worth of \$19 billion.



2. Michael Jackson named top-earning dead celebrity for the fifth time

Michael Jackson has been named the top-earning dead celebrity for the fifth straight year with \$75 million (all figures in US). The list was published by Forbes. His earnings were boosted by a new greatest hits album, a Las Vegas Cirque du Soleil show and a stake in the EMI music-publishing catalogue.

The second in the list is Golf legend Arnold Palmer with \$40 million. Charles Schulz was third with \$38 million. Elvis Presley comes in fourth with \$35 million and Bob Marley ranks fifth with \$23 million.



3. Mary Kom selected as ambassador in Women's Youth World Championships

Veteran India boxer champion MC Mary Kom was announced as AIBA ambassador for 2017 AIBA Women's Youth World Championships. Mary Kom owns five Elite World titles and has two Olympic appearances in her name.

The 2017 AIBA Women's Youth World Championship is scheduled to happen at Nabin Chandra Bordoloi A.C Indoor Hall in Guwahati, northeastern India. Rhino was unveiled as mascot of the event. AIBA has been responsible for the rapid development of Women's Boxing since the first elite World Championships back in 2001.



4. Bharat Khandare became first Indian fighter to be signed for UFC

Ultimate Fighting Championship selected Bharat Khandare to fight in the UFC. With this, he becomes the first ever Indian born fighter to fight in the UFC. UFC is famous 'Mixed Martial Arts' (MMA) organization. Khandare will fight against the most skilled MMA athletes in the world. His first fight under UFC happened in Shanghai, China.

Bharat Khandare is an Indian mixed martial fighter. The Ultimate Fighting Championship (UFC) is an American mixed martial arts organization based in Las Vegas.



5. Kevin Lilliana of Indonesia won Miss International 2017

Miss International 2017 was crowned to Indonesia's Kevin Lilliana by the Philippines' Kylie Verzosa. Kevin Lilliana is a model and winner of Puteri Indonesia Lingkungan 2017. The other runner-up winners were Chanelle de Lau's Curacao and Venezuela's Diana Croce.

The title of 'Miss National Costume' was given to Japan's Natsuki Tsutsui. The title of Miss International Asia was honoured to Korea's Nam Seung Woo. With this win, Kevin became the first Indonesian to win the crown of Miss International, and made Indonesia the fourth Asian nation in history to achieve the crown of Miss International.



6. India's Manushi Chhillar crowned Miss World 2017

The 20 years old, India's Manushi Chhillar won title of Miss World 2017, held at China. India won this title after a gap of 17 years. The first and second runners up were England's Stephanie Hill and Mexico's Andrea Meza. With this win, Manushri became the sixth Indian to win the coveted crown. India's Reita Faria was the first Indian to be crowned as Miss World, in 1966.

Miss World 2017 was the 67th edition of the Miss World pageant, organized at Sanya, China.



7. Justice Dalveer Bhandari re-elected at the International Court of Justice (ICJ)

Justice Dalveer Bhandari has been re-elected as a judge at the International Court of Justice (ICJ). He received 183 of the 193 votes in the General Assembly and secured all 15 votes in the Security Council.



Bhandari is the fourth Indian judge to be elected to the ICJ after B.N. Rau, Nagendra Singh and R.S. Pathak. India's Neeru Chadha was elected to the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea (ITLOS), in Hamburg in June 2017. Soumya Swaminathan was appointed deputy director general for programs at the World Health Organization (WHO) in Geneva.

8. Forbes named Beyoncé as 2017's Highest-Paid Woman in Music

According to Forbes, American singer Beyoncé became the highest-paid woman in music in 2017, pulling in a whopping \$105 million pretax. She edged out Britain's Adele and pop star Taylor Swift.



Beyoncé's hit album "Lemonade" and world tour made her the highest-paid woman in music in 2017. Adele made second place with an estimated \$69 million while Swift, who topped the last year's list with \$170 million in estimated earnings, raked in \$44 million this time. Canadian superstar Celine Dion took the No. 4 spot, earning some \$42 million.

9. Aung San Suu Kyi removed from honor of Freedom of Oxford award

Myanmar's de facto leader Aung San Suu Kyi was removed of the Freedom of Oxford award over her "inaction" in handling the raging Rohingya refugee crisis and ignoring violence in the country that forced over 600,000 people to flee to Bangladesh.



Oxford City Council in London voted unanimously last night to remove the honour given to 72-year-old Suu Kyi in 1997. The Rohingya Muslims have fled to neighboring country following a military crackdown in Myanmar's Rakhine state, creating one of the world's most dire refugee crisis.

10. Miss South Africa crowned Miss Universe 2017

Miss South Africa Demi-Leigh Nel-Peters was crowned Miss Universe 2017, at a beauty pageant held in Las Vegas. The two other runner up were Miss Colombia Laura González and Miss Jamaica Davina Bennett. Demi-Leigh Nel-Peters is trainer by profession who trains women on self-defense techniques. India's Shraddha Shashidhar represented India at Miss Universe 2017.



Miss Universe 2017 was the 66th Miss Universe pageant, held at Las Vegas. 2017 Miss Universe Top 10 were Miss Venezuela, Miss USA, Miss Philippines, Miss Canada, Miss South Africa, Miss Spain, Miss Brazil, Miss Colombia, Miss Thailand and Miss Jamaica.

Places in News

1. Delhi to host the ninth global green film festival

The ninth edition of CMS Vatavaran - an international film festival on environment and wildlife, was held in New Delhi at Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti. Around 113 films were showcased in the festival. Four films from Kashmir were also nominated.

The theme of the event was "Conservation 4 Water". The event is supported and partnered by Ministry of Environment Forest and Climate Change, National Geographic, UNESCO, UNDP and WWF.



2. Three-Day International Conference – ‘FIPSPHYCIOCON 2017’ held in Delhi

"FIPSPHYCIOCON 2017", Conference on Human Physiology - VII Congress of Federation of Indian Physiological Societies (FIPS) along with XXIX Annual Conference of the Physiological Society of India (PSI) organized by Defence Institute of Physiology and Allied Science (DIPAS) of DRDO was held at Delhi.

The objective of the conference was to update the scientific community about most recent advances in human Physiology in extreme environments, Neuroscience, Yoga, Sport Physiology and translational research.



3. Surat honored with Best City Bus Services Award of Government of India

Surat Municipal Corporation has been chosen for the 'Best City Bus Services Award' by the Union Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs for succeeding in attracting 87% of the private vehicle and auto rickshaw users to use city buses. Mysuru's Public Bicycle Sharing has won the 'Best Non-Motorized Transport' Award while Kochi (Kerala) has been chosen for the 'Best Urban Transport Initiative' Award for completing its Metro Rail Project in a quick time.



Surat city with a population of about 45 lakhs was heavily dependent on private vehicles until 2014, which now shifted to city buses.

4. Balijatra festival celebrations began in Cuttack

The annual 'Balijatra' festival celebrations started in Cuttack. Various cultural events were organized. Festival beginning was inaugurated by Odisha Health and Law minister Pratap Jena along with Culture minister Ashok Panda and Sports minister Chandra Sarathi Behera.

'Balijatra' festival is conducted every year in such a way that twin fair grounds display more than 300 stalls. Stalls display wearing apparels, decorative stuffs, household items etc. Around one lakh people witnessed fair on its first day. Festival was held, after permission obtained from east zone bench of National Green Tribunal.



5. Goa scheduled to host 2018 Nobel Prize

A trilateral MoU was signed between the Department of Bio-Technology, Ministry of Science and Technology, Government of India (GoI) and Nobel Media, Sweden regarding 'Nobel Prize Series – India 2018 (Science Impacts Life)'. According to MoU, Nobel Prize Series – India 2018 (Science Impacts Life)' will be held from February 1-28, 2018 in Goa.

Nobel Prize Series – India 2018 will display the world about how the possibilities have changed the world by using science as a tool. Various events and exhibitions will be conducted where Nobel laureates will interact with schoolchildren and teachers.



6. Chennai became part of UNESCO's Creative Cities Network list

UNESCO Creative Cities Network included India's Chennai in its list for its rich music heritage. With this, UNESCO Creative Cities Network include 180 cities from 72 countries. UNESCO Creative Cities Network includes cities that fall under the seven creative fields category, which are Gastronomy, music, crafts and folk art, media arts, design, film and literature.

Jaipur and Varanasi are the other Indian cities that form part of this list. Some famous cities from other countries inducted in the list are Auckland (New Zealand), Cairo (Egypt), Cape Town (South Africa), Istanbul (Turkey) and Yamagata City (Japan).



7. India hosted first Nordic-Baltic Youth Film Festival

First ever youth film festival of the European nations was organized in Delhi. The youth film festival displayed movies from the region from November 13-18. The Nordic-Baltic countries comprise of Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Iceland, Latvia, Lithuania, Norway and Sweden, or NB8. They are united together geographically and historically through common trade and culture.

This festival was organized in collaboration with India Habitat Centre. Various movies were screened such as Denmark's – Land of Mine (Oscar nominated), Iceland's – Face to Face, Norway's – 'The Wave', etc.



8. PM Modi inaugurate Global Entrepreneurship Summit in Hyderabad

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and US President's adviser Ivanka Trump inaugurated Global entrepreneurship summit in Hyderabad. Around 1500 women entrepreneurs attended the 3-day mega event. US President's Advisor, Ivanka Trump led the U.S. contingent.

This was the eighth edition of the Global Entrepreneurship Summit. The theme of the summit was "Women First, Prosperity for All". More than 10 countries were represented by an all-female delegation. GES was held for the first time in South Asia.



9. First edition of INSPIRE 2017 kicked off in Jaipur

The first edition of the International Symposium to Promote Innovation & Research in Energy Efficiency (INSPIRE 2017) was kicked off in Jaipur. The five-day symposium is being organized by Energy Efficiency Services Limited (EESL) in partnership with The World Bank, and Alliance for an Energy Efficient Economy (AEEE).

INSPIRE 2017 is an International Conference that brings together various stakeholders such as policy makers, innovators, financiers, influencers to display best practices in the sector. It provides a platform for energy efficiency community to discuss energy efficiency policies, market transformation strategies, emerging technologies, delivery and business-model driven transformations.



Regional

1. Assam signed MoUs with Singapore for Skilling State's Youth

The Assam state government has inked Memorandum of Understanding (MoUs) and Terms of Reference (ToR) with Singapore for skilling youth of the state. These include:

- MoU and ToR was signed for North East Skills Centre (NESC).
- MoU for Guwahati City Greening

The NESC will train up to 400 students each year. The state government has initiated an innovative project for beautification of Guwahati city through a Project called 'Guwahati Open Space and Park Integrator (GOPI) Network'.



2. Shivaji statue in Maharashtra to be the world's tallest statue

The Maharashtra Coastal Zone Management Authority (MCZMA) has approved the state government's application to build a 210-metre-high statue of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj in the sea off the Mumbai coast. Once built, it would be the world's tallest statue.

Currently, the Spring Temple Buddha statue, which stands at 208 meters in China, is the world's tallest statue. The project is expected to cost Rs. 4,000 crore. The equestrian statue of the warrior king has been planned on a rocky outcrop of 15.96 hectares.



3. AIIB grants a Rs. 13,000 crore loan granted to Andhra Pradesh

Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) approved USD 2 billion loan (Rs. 13,000 crores) for five projects in Andhra Pradesh. The five projects include two roads and buildings department, one each for rural safe drinking water department, municipal and urban development department and Panchayat Raj department.

AIIB was opened with an authorized capital of USD 100 Billion. China is the largest shareholder with 26.06% voting shares while India is the second largest with 7.5% voting shares.



4. Assam launched 647 Schemes for development of Majuli

The Assam State Government announced an investment of Rs. 24.57 crore for the improvement and renovation of the world's largest river island Majuli. This investment will be made in various 647 schemes. Out of these 647 schemes, 448 schemes require investment of Rs. 21.90 crore and 199 schemes require investment of Rs. 2.67 crore. Majuli is the world's largest river island in the Brahmaputra River, Assam and it is the first island district of the country.



Various schemes will protect villages from threat of flood and erosion. Implementation of these schemes will be monitored through gaon sabhas.

5. Haryana signed MoU of Rs. 2,000 crores at World Food India

The Haryana government signed initial pacts worth Rs. 2,069 crore with 44 agro-based and food processing enterprises and establishments that will provide employment to 5,012 persons.



The state government would soon implement the Agri-Business and Food Processing Policy, 2017 to double the income of farmers by making agriculture profitable. New drivers of growth such as agro-marketing reforms, development of mega-food parks, registration of more FPOs, establishment of start-ups in agri-business and providing conducive business climate have been given due emphasis in the policy.

6. President of India launched Bihar Krishi road map 2017-2022

The President of India, Shri Ram Nath Kovind, launched the Bihar Krishi Road Map 2017-2022 in Patna. The President stated that the centenary year of the Champaran Satyagraha is being commemorated from April 2017. As such, this was the best time to introduce the new 'Agricultural Road Map' in the interests of farmers.



It provides comprehensive and coordinated plans for the development of agriculture. The President expressed confidence that the third 'Agricultural Road Map' released will further energize the agricultural sector's performance in Bihar and empower the farming community.

7. Kerala government inked pact with Intel, UST Global

In order to bring in digital economy and make Kerala, an electronic hardware-manufacturing hub, state government of Kerala inked MoU with Intel and UST Global. Kerala Electronics and Hardware Mission will also be established by Kerala government.



Intel and UST Global will help in designing road map for electronics system's manufacturing, marketing and promotion of the Kerala's startup ecosystem. Prior to this initiative, Kerala state announced in its budget regarding promotion of electronics hardware manufacturing in the state via policy initiatives and setting up hardware parks.

8. Kerala became first state to launch 'She Pad' scheme

A scheme named as 'She Pad' was launched by the Kerala government. Under this scheme, free sanitary napkins are being distributed to the girls of various government and (aided) private schools, which are affiliated to the State Board. This scheme aims to cover 300 schools in 114 panchayats by the Kerala Women Development Corporation. Kerala is the first such state to introduce such a scheme.



Under this scheme, an awareness about the need for menstrual hygiene will be created among girls. 'She Pad' scheme also includes a storage space for napkins and an incinerator to dispose used pads.

9. Delhi inked twin city agreement with Seoul

A twin city agreement was inked between Seoul Metropolitan Government and state government Delhi to boost cooperation in the fields of e-governance, transportation, climate change and smart city.



However, agreement is awaited for Union government approval. Other areas covered in the agreement are environment, culture & tourism, education, wastewater, solid waste management, public health and youth exchange among others. The agreement is signed to establish Friendship City Relationship between Seoul and Delhi.

10. Telangana state announced Urdu language as its second official language

Urdu language is to be accepted as the second official language in Telangana. Telangana's Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao made the announcement. With this move, all government offices of Telangana state will accept petitions in Urdu as well and all state level competitive examinations will be conducted in Urdu language as well.



Telangana state has taken various initiatives for the minority community and Muslim community in the past, such as development of exclusive IT Corridor for Muslims and 12% quota reservation announcement for minorities.

11. Haryana became the first state to cure Hepatitis-C patients with Oral Medicine

Haryana state became first state to introduce free of cost oral medicine to cure Hepatitis-C patients. State government will provide free of cost oral medicine to permanent residents of all categories at district level. A team of nodal officers will be appointed by state government to ensure that Hepatitis-C patients would not suffer at any cost. At present, Hepatitis-C medicine costs Rs 28,000 to Rs 30,000 in the market.



Haryana became first to introduce health screening of all residents, by visiting their home and conducting 35 to 40 necessary tests for record-keeping of decline observed in Hepatitis-C patients.

12. Gujarat to have India's first cartoon network theme park

Amaazia, a cartoon network theme park, will be established in Surat, Gujarat. It will be considered as India's first cartoon network theme park. Gujarat's entertainment group Rajgreen will set up Amaazia Park, in partnership with Turner International India, which owns the Cartoon Network brand. Amaazia will be set up in 2019, at the cost of Rs. 450 crore.



Turner International India Pvt. Ltd. is the Indian subsidiary of Turner Broadcasting System, which entered the Indian marketplace in 2007. It does not have their own theme parks but work on similar business model, as that of Walt Disney.

13. Delhi launched doorstep facility of 40 public services

The Delhi government rolled out a scheme within three to four months to enable citizens to get 40 public services, including caste certificates and driving license, at their doorstep. The scheme will be implemented through a private agency, which will hire facilitators to set up call centers.

Various certificates will be covered under the scheme in the first phase and 30 more services will be added to the scheme in the second phase. With this, Delhi became first state to launch doorstep facility of 40 public services.



14. Uttar Pradesh to establish 10 new Krishi Vigyan Kendra

Uttar Pradesh government plans to establish 10 new Krishi Vigyan Kendra in different districts. Krishi Vigyan Kendras are proposed to set up in Sambhal, Amroha, Amethi, Kasganj, Hardoi, Baharaich, Shamali, Gonda, Jaunpur, and Badaun districts. Uttar Pradesh government will provide land free of cost for setting up these Kendras.

These Kendras will be set up under supervision of concerned Agriculture Universities and Indian Council of Agricultural Research, to enhance agro production and promote modern farming technology among farmers. Farmers will be made aware to adopt modern technology of farming, proper use of fertilizers and high productive seeds.



15. Uttar Pradesh state topped 'Jan Dhan Accounts mobilization activity'

Uttar Pradesh has topped in opening new PMJDY accounts after demonetization and mobilizing more than four crores in Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana accounts. Uttar Pradesh was followed by Bihar with three crores mobilization. Other states such as Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh and West Bengal opened 2.2 crore new accounts. Around one-sixth of the total deposits in PMJDY accounts was mobilized by state Uttar Pradesh.

Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY) was launched in 2014 to increase the financial-inclusion process in India.



16. Chennai to have India's first wave-powered navigational buoy

Chennai's Ennore Kamarajar Port will have India's first wave-powered navigational buoy. The buoy is powered by wave energy and stores energy generated by waves in a battery. Buoy is developed by National Institute of Ocean Technology. The buoy will guide ships in and out of ports.



The other benefits associated with buoy is that it can record data on wind speed and direction various other aspects, which would be relayed to port authorities. A buoy is a floating device that can drift with ocean currents.

17. AP AgTech Summit 2017 held in Vizag

The AP AgTech Summit 2017 was organized in Vizag, as combine 'Agricultural Technology with Information Technology is important to improve Agricultural Sector in the country. The AP AgTech Summit 2017 is an excellent opportunity for global leaders, start-up founders and technology experts to discuss innovative ideas for agricultural transformation in Andhra Pradesh as well as in the rest of India.



Technology can help improve farmers' to know the health of the soil and help him choose from a variety of crops that can be grown on the land; forecasting the seasonal conditions in advance etc.

18. Nagaland launched POS facility for Paying Electricity Bills

Nagaland became the first northeastern state to launch Point of Sale facility to make electricity payments. It is done in an effort to ease digital payments and reduce use of cash. This will improve collection efficiency of delayed payments.



The Point of sale is a machine that customer makes a payment to the merchant in exchange for goods or after provision of a service. After receiving payment, the merchant may issue a receipt for the transaction, which is usually printed but is increasingly being dispensed with or sent electronically.

19. President launched various schemes in Jharkhand

Various schemes involving cost of Rs. 3455 crores were launched in Jharkhand such as 'Mukhyamantri Health Insurance Scheme', '108 Ambulance', JOHAR schemes etc. Two flyovers will be constructed at the cost of Rs. 490 crores. '108 Ambulance' service will be launched at the cost of Rs 290-crore. 'Mukhyamantri Health Insurance Scheme' is a scheme that facilitates 68 lakh families to avail Rs. 2 lakh treatment insurance benefit. The said scheme costs Rs 636-crore.



Jharkhand's Opportunities for Harnessing Rural Development scheme (JOHAR) will help in doubling income of tribal and Dalit families. It costs Rs. 1,500 crores.

20. Centre gave nod to 107 Maharashtra irrigation projects

Centre gave nod to 107 irrigation projects of worth Rs. 10,000 crores. With this approval, state will receive 10,000 crore in the next 2 years. These irrigation projects will ease water scarcity issues of the districts of Vidarbha and Marathwada, known for suicides by farmers.



The Centre and NABARD will unanimously provide funding to projects in the ratio of 25% and 75% respectively. NABARD will provide this funding by giving loans. Out of these 107 projects, around 86 minor and medium irrigation projects are aimed to be finished by 2018-end.

21. Maharashtra to have India's first mega coastal economic zone

India's first mega coastal economic zone will be established at Jawaharlal Nehru Port in Maharashtra. It is done with an aim to enhance manufacturing, employment opportunities and create industrial clusters. The coastal economic zone will have around 45 companies in 200 hectares of land, at an investment cost of Rs 15,000 crore in the first phase.



CEZ will create job opportunities for 1.5 lakh people. CEZs invite large firms to serve export markets, while small and medium firms to grow.

22. Maharashtra announced setting up of Gender Budget Cell

Maharashtra Finance Minister Sudhir Mungantiwar has announced setting up of a Gender Budget Cell for better implementation of various schemes of the Women and Child Development (WCD) by other government departments.

The Budget Cell will be responsible for coordination between various departments for effective implementation of the schemes. A nodal officer will be appointed in each administrative department to monitor the implementation of the schemes of WCD.



23. Nagaland gears up for Hornbill Festival 2017

The people of Nagaland are gearing up for the upcoming Hornbill Festival 2017 to be held from first of December until 10 December. The Hornbill Festival is a collaborative celebration of all Naga tribes at one venue and has been coined as "Festival of Festivals."

The festival is a tribute to the great "Hornbill", which is the most admired and revered bird for the Nagas, for its qualities of alertness and grandeur. The Festival displays a mélange of cultural displays under one roof at a model village built at Kisama, 12 kilometers away from the State Capital Kohima.



24. Odisha announced scheme to boost fresh water aquaculture

Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik launched 'Fish Pond Yojana' scheme to boost fish production in the state with a budgetary provision of 96 crore rupees.

The scheme aims to create additional 2,200 hectares of fresh water aquaculture farming with 50% financial assistance to farmers. Fish production in the state has grown from 2.60 lakh tonnes to over 6 lakh tonnes in 17 years while per day milk production grew from 24 lakh liters to 54 lakh liters. Egg production growth also went up by more than 2.5 times.



25. Punjab government notified ban on truckers' cartelization

The Punjab state government has notified the 'Punjab Goods Carriages (Regulation and Prevention of Cartelization Rules), 2017', barring goods carriage operators from forming cartels in the state.

With this, operators and permit holders of goods carriages cannot form cartel.

This notification also provides for police recourse and penalty in the form of suspension or cancellation of the permit in case of violation.



26. Korea Tourism Festival 2017 celebrated in Haryana

Korea Tourism Organisation organized a two-day festival at Haryana to promote Korea's rich art, music, culture and heritage. Korean performances such as Nanta (non-verbal performance) and B-boying (by Gambler Crew) performed at the event. A MoU was also inked at the event between Korean companies regarding tourism. Korean cuisine was also displayed at the event by Korea Agro Fisheries and Food Trade Cooperation.



The festival was organized with an aim to increase number of Indian travelers to Korea.

Reports

1. India's rank rises to 100 in World Bank's doing Business Report, 2018

The World Bank has released the Doing Business (DB) Report, 2018. India ranks 100 among 190 countries assessed by the Doing Business Team. India has leapt 30 ranks over its rank of 130 in the Doing Business Report 2017.

The DB Report is an assessment of 190 economies and covers 10 indicators, which span the lifecycle of a business. India has improved its rank in 6 out of 10 indicators. India is the only country in South Asia and BRICS economies to feature among most improved economies of the DB Report.



2. Goa topped Gender Vulnerability Index

According to the Gender Vulnerability Index (GVI) released by Child development NGO Plan India, Goa topped the rank. Bihar featured lowest in the rankings.

This index was calculated by analyzing four issues pertinent to the situation of girls — child safety/protection, poverty, health and education.

The other states in the top three are Kerala and Mizoram. Bihar was ranked 30, Delhi at 29 and Uttar Pradesh at 28.



3. India slipped 21 slots on WEF Gender Gap Index 2017

According to the World Economic Forum's (WEF) Global Gender Gap Index 2017, India has been ranked at 108th position, 21 places behind previous ranking, primarily due to less participation of women in the economy and low wages.

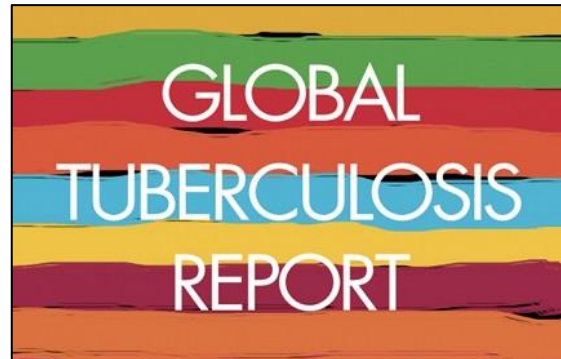
Bangladesh ranked 47th while China was placed at 100th. Iceland was ranked at the top followed by Norway (2nd), Finland (3rd), Rwanda (4) and Sweden (5) in the top five.



4. Global TB Report 2017

According to the Global TB Report 2017 published by the World Health Organisation (WHO), India topped the list with 27.9 lakh TB cases in 2016. Global efforts to combat tuberculosis (TB) have saved an estimated 53 million lives since 2000 and reduced the TB mortality rate by 37%.

In 2016, there were an estimated 10.4 million new TB cases worldwide, 10% of which were people living with HIV. Seven countries accounted for 64% of the total burden. India was followed by Indonesia, China, Philippines, Pakistan, Nigeria and South Africa.



5. Global University Employability Ranking 2017

According to a report published by Times Higher Education, Indian Institute of Science (IISc) has ranked 29th among the top 150 universities on Global University Employability Ranking. It was ranked 38th position in 2016. Indian Institute of Technology Delhi (IITD) and Indian Institute of Technology Bombay (IITB) were ranked at 145th and 148th position.

The top five in the list are:

- California Institute of Technology
- Harvard University
- Columbia University
- Massachusetts Institute of Technology
- University of Cambridge



6. Economic Intelligence Unit reported Bengaluru as best host to do digital transformations

The Economist Intelligence Unit ranked India's Bangalore as best city to do 'Go digital' transformations. Bangalore was placed ahead of 45 cities. The other cities were San Francisco at 2nd place, Mumbai at 3rd place, New Delhi at 4th place and Beijing at 5th place. The cities found as the least digital were Berlin, Yokohama, Tokyo, Taipei and Rotterdam.



According to report, Bangalore businesses are at ease in confidence while having digital transformation in their immediate business environment. Bengaluru showed the highest confidence in their digital environment based on innovation and entrepreneurship, people and skills and start up.

7. India placed at 7th rank in business optimism index

Grant Thornton's International Business Report unveiled business optimism index among various countries. The list was topped by Indonesia followed by Finland at 2nd place, Netherlands at 3rd place, Philippines at 4th place, and Austria at 5th place. India was placed at 7th position, downgraded from its previous rating of 2nd position.



According to a survey, Indian businesses have shown less confidence over revenue expectations in the upcoming 12 months and less confidence for profitability. Index rating calculation is based upon optimism regarding sale, exports, revenue returns, investment in plant and machinery and Research & Development.

8. Central Pollution Control Board reported Varanasi as most polluted city of India

Central Pollution Control Board surveyed the air quality of all 42 cities, and reported Varanasi city as most polluted city of India. The top five most polluted cities were Varanasi, Gurugram (2nd), Delhi (3rd), Lucknow (4th) and Kanpur (5th). India has been taking several measures to control pollution such as banned construction, odd even scheme etc.



Air quality of cities was measured on basis of Air Quality Index (AQI). When AQI ranges between 401 and 500, it shows air quality as 'severe' and presence of toxic smog. Varanasi's AQI was reported 491.

9. India ranked at 6th place on climate risk index by Germanwatch environmental organisation

Berlin-based development and environmental organisation 'Germanwatch' unveiled list of countries facing most vulnerable climate risks. The latest global climate risk index was topped by Haiti followed by Zimbabwe at 2nd place, Fiji at 3rd place, Sri Lanka at 4th and Vietnam at 5th place. India was ranked at 6th place on climate risk index.



Index is measured on the basis of analyzing number of deaths per 1,00,000 inhabitants, extent of financial losses and loss per unit of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of countries. Index does not includes geological incidents like earthquakes, volcanic eruptions or tsunamis.

10. IMF reported 'Qatar' as the richest country in the world per capita

According to International Monetary Fund's (IMF's) report, Qatar was named the world's richest country in terms of per capita GDP (gross domestic product). Since Qatar's economy is highly dependable on oil, its per capita GDP was calculated at \$124930, followed by Luxembourg at 2nd place with \$109190 GDP per capita, Singapore at 3rd place with \$90530 income, Brunei at 4th place with \$76740 GDP per capita and Ireland at 5th place \$72630 GDP per capita income.



The report analysis summarize that most of the top richest countries have immigrant work population who immensely contribute to the economy of country.

11. India climbed three steps to 51 on IMD World talent rankings

India has improved its ranking by three notches to 51 globally in terms of ability to attract, develop and retain talent while Switzerland topped the list compiled by leading global business school IMD. Switzerland, Denmark, Belgium, Austria, Finland, the Netherlands, Norway, Germany, Sweden and Luxembourg made up the top 10 respectively.



The annual IMD World Talent Ranking covered 63 countries and assessed the methods the countries adopted to attract and retain talent. China was ranked 40th, followed by Russia at 43 and South Africa at 48. Brazil was ranked just after India at the 52nd slot.

Resignations & Retirements

1. UK Defence Secretary Michael Fallon resigned

UK Defence Secretary Sir Michael Fallon has resigned admitting that his behavior towards women in the past has “fallen short”. Spokesperson for Sir Michael confirmed that he was once rebuked by a journalist for putting his hand on her knee during a dinner in 2002.

Sir Michael Fallon had an interrupted parliamentary career that spanned four decades and two constituencies. He was previously Deputy Chairman of the Conservative Party (2010-12).



2. Martina Hingis announced retirement from professional tennis

Swiss great Martina Hingis has announced her retirement from professional tennis. She is the winner of 43 career singles titles and 64 career doubles titles (including 25 career Grand Slam titles across singles, doubles and mixed doubles).

Martina Hingis was inducted into the International Tennis Hall of Fame in 2013. She turned professional in 1994. She had earlier announced retirements in 2003 and 2006, but very soon, she made a comeback. She was named the 1997 BBC Overseas Sports Personality of the Year.



3. Lebanese Prime Minister announced his resignation

Saad al-Hariri, Prime minister of Lebanon, announced his resignation; due to fear for his life from Iran and its Lebanese associate Hezbollah. Saad al-Hariri's father faced assassination in 2005. Hezbollah is a political leader, who supports Syrian President Bashar al-Assad and Iran and the same has angered some Lebanese, in the past.

Saad al-Hariri also stated in his resignation speech that Iran is interfering in Arab affairs. Saad al-Hariri joined as prime minister in late 2016 and headed a 30-member coalition government.



4. Sujoy Ghosh resigned as the Jury Head of the 48th International Film Festival of India

Famous director and filmmaker Sujoy Ghosh resigned as Jury Head of the Indian Panorama of 48th International Film Festival of India. The resignation was submitted by the jury head for the reason that the two films selected by jury members were eliminated from final list of screening of films by the Information and Broadcasting Ministry at the 48th IITF.



Sujoy Ghosh is an Indian filmmaker and scriptwriter. He has been associated with movies such as Jhankaar Beats, Kahaani, Aladin, etc. Sujoy Ghosh was the writer of the tagline "Korbo Lorbo Jeetbo Re" for the IPL Team Kolkata Knight Riders.

5. Bangladesh Chief Justice Surendra Kumar Sinha stepped down

Bangladesh Chief Justice Surendra Kumar Sinha submitted his resignation to President Abdul Hamid. The Supreme Court had recently announced verdict, which scrapped Parliament's powers to remove judges on grounds of misconduct and incapacity. Since the verdict was criticized by the government, Bangladesh Chief Justice Surendra Kumar Sinha stepped down from his duties.



According to the verdict, 16th constitutional amendment invalidates Parliamentary powers to remove judges instead empower the Supreme Judicial Council.

6. Pakistan's Saeed Ajmal announced retirement from all forms of cricket

Pakistan's off spinner Saeed Ajmal retired from all forms of cricket. Saeed Ajmal has always achieved many titles during his career. Once upon a time, during his career, he was known as the world's number one bowler in one-day internationals (ODIs) and Twenty20 cricket. Ajmal took 178 wickets in 35 Tests, 184 wickets in 113 ODIs, and 85 in 64 Twenty20 internationals.



He has been winner of 2005 ABN-AMRO Twenty-20 Cup and Sitara-e-Imtiaz by President of Pakistan. He holds record of leading wicket taker.

7. Janet Yellen to step down from Federal Reserve Board

Janet L. Yellen submitted her resignation as a Member of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, effective upon the swearing in of her successor as Chair.

Prior to her appointment as Chair, Dr. Yellen served as Vice Chair of the Board of Governors, from October 2010 to February 2014, and as President of the Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco, from June 2004 to October 2010. Dr. Yellen is Professor Emerita at the University of California at Berkeley, where she has been a member of the faculty since 1980.



8. Robert Mugabe resigned as the President of Zimbabwe

Robert Mugabe, who ruled Zimbabwe since independence in 1980 resigned as president. Mr. Mugabe, 93, was the world's oldest head of state and one of Africa's longest-serving leaders.

Mugabe led Zimbabwe's fight for independence in the 1970s. His 37-year rule was criticized for repression of dissent, election rigging, and for causing the country's economic collapse. Mnangagwa, 75, the war veteran, Zanu-PF stalwart and former spy chief, will be sworn in to replace Mugabe as the President.



9. Pakistan's Law minister Zahid Hamid resigned after anti-blasphemy protests

Pakistan's Law Minister Zahid Hamid has resigned following widespread protests over a perceived softening of the state's position on blasphemy.

Protesters had staged sit-in in Pakistan's capital for about three weeks demanding removal of Law Minister Zahid Hamid for changes in a law related to the Khatm-i-Nabuwat (finality of prophet hood) oath in the Elections Act 2017. The protesters had blocked the highway connecting the capital Islamabad with Rawalpindi, since the eighth of this month demanding the resignation.



Science & Technology

1. China launched two BeiDou-3 navigation satellites on single carrier rocket

China, which is building its own navigation system to rival United States' GPS, launched two BeiDou-3 satellites into space through a single carrier rocket. The satellites were launched aboard a Long March-3B carrier rocket from Xichang Satellite Launch Center in the southwestern province of Sichuan.



The two newly launched satellites represent the third phase of the BeiDou Navigation Satellite System. This system will provide services for countries involved in the Belt and Road Initiative, and form a complete global satellite navigation system by 2020 -- by which time China plans to have more than 30 satellites.

2. Scientists discover universe's most ancient spiral galaxy

11 billion years old spiral galaxy was discovered by scientists of Australian National University (ANU) and Swinburne University of Technology. It is believed to provide details regarding early cosmos.

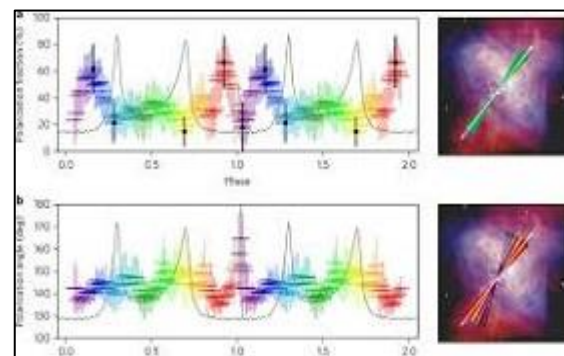


According to scientists, a powerful technique was used to verify vintage and spiral nature of the galaxy.

Oldest spiral galaxy will help in studying galaxies transition, emergence of Hubble sequence etc. This newly discovered galaxy has ability to form stars 20 times faster than the present galaxies.

3. CZT Imager of AstroSat measured first phase resolved X-ray polarisation

AstroSat, India's multi-wavelength space telescope, has successfully accomplished the extremely difficult task of measuring X-ray polarization. In a paper published in 'Nature Astronomy', the team has documented the results of their eighteen-month study of the Crab pulsar in the Taurus Constellation and measured the variations of polarization as this highly magnetized object spins around 30 times every second.



This landmark measurement puts up a strong challenge to prevailing theories of high-energy X-ray emission from pulsars.

4. Morocco launched earth observation satellite Mohammed VI-A

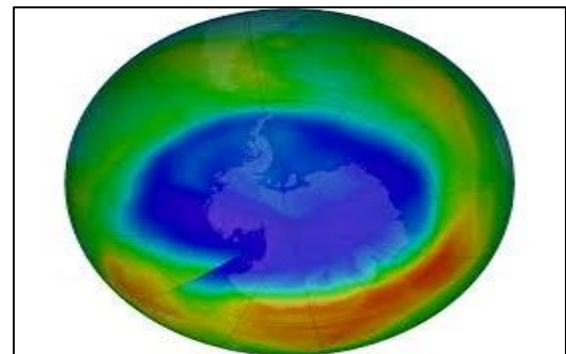
Mohammed VI-A, an earth observation satellite was launched by Morocco from French Guyana Space Centre. 1,110 kg weight Mohammed VI-A satellite will be used for mapping and land examine activities, regional renovation, agricultural surveillance, the natural calamities management, monitoring environment turbulences, and border and coastal tracking.



Mohammed VI-A is called as 150th satellite built by Thales Alenia Space to be launched by Arianespace. The satellite will additionally help in land management, slum eradication transparency maintenance etc.

5. NASA reported the smallest ozone hole over Antarctica

NASA reported that the ozone hole became two and a half times the size of the United States – 7.6 million square miles in previous years and then declined. NOAA and NASA collaborated to monitor the growth and recovery of the ozone hole every year.



The smaller ozone hole in 2017 was strongly influenced by an unstable and warmer Antarctic vortex – the stratospheric low-pressure system that rotates clockwise in the atmosphere above Antarctica. The smaller ozone-hole extent in 2016 and 2017 is due to natural variability and not a signal of rapid healing.

6. Space kingdom Asgardia launched its first satellite 'Asgardia-1' into space

Virtual nation 'Space Kingdom of Asgardia' launched 'Asgardia-1' satellite. It was part of a project Russian scientist Igor Ashurbeyli and its team. Asgardia-1 satellite was launched from NASA's Wallops Flight Facility in Virginia aboard a Cygnus spacecraft on an Orbital ATK Antares rocket. Asgardia-1 satellite is of size of a loaf of bread.



Asgardia is a virtual nation, which has its own flag and a coat of arms. Asgardia nation is a project under which, this new nation allows access to outer space free of the control of existing nations.

7. International Seminar on Indian space program inaugurated

The International Seminar on Indian Space Program: 'Trends and Opportunities for Industry' was organized by Indian Space Research Organisation. The objective of this two-day conference was to deliberate on the best practices and to support further work of India's Space Sector.



The two-day seminar included sessions on Space Industry Ecosystem: Role and Opportunities for Industry, Leveraging Public-Private Partnership for Indian Space Programs, Capacity building and talent management and panel discussion on role of industry in Indian Space Program. The conference helped in gaining the latest insight on the key thrust areas of Indian Space sector.

8. NASA launched advanced satellite to improve weather forecast

NASA has successfully launched for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) the first in a series of four highly advanced polar-orbiting satellites, equipped with next-generation technology and designed to improve the accuracy of U.S. weather forecasts out to seven days.



The Joint Polar Satellite System-1 has five instruments, each of which is significantly upgraded from the instruments on NOAA's previous polar-orbiting satellites. The more-detailed observations from JPSS will allow forecasters to make predictions that are more accurate. JPSS-1 data will also improve recognition of climate patterns that influence the weather.

9. NASA tests Supersonic Parachute for Mars 2020 mission

NASA has successfully tested a supersonic landing parachute that will be deployed in its Mars rover mission set to launch in 2020.

The mission will rely on a special parachute to slow the spacecraft down as it enters the Martian atmosphere at over 5.4 kilometer per second.



The Mars 2020 mission will seek signs of ancient Martian life by investigating evidence in place and by caching drilled samples of Martian rocks for potential future return to Earth.

10. World's First AI Politician Developed

Scientists have developed the world's first artificial intelligence politician called SAM. It was created by Nick Gerritsen of New Zealand. It can answer a person's queries regarding local issues such as policies around housing, education and immigration.

Gerritsen believes SAM will be advanced enough to run as a candidate for New Zealand's next general election by late 2020. It is constantly learning to respond to people through Facebook Messenger as well as a survey on its homepage.



11. China launched remote sensing satellites

China has successfully launched remote sensing satellites designed to conduct electromagnetic probes and other experiments on a Long March-2C rocket from Xichang Satellite Launch Center in southwestern Sichuan province.

The satellites will conduct electromagnetic probes and other experiments. The launch is the 256th mission of the Long March rocket family. China also had earlier launched three remote sensing satellites designed to improve observation capability to promote commercial use for the remote sensing industry.



1. India's K Srikanth achieved career-best World No 2 ranking

India's ace shuttler Kidambi Srikanth has achieved career-best World Number 2 ranking. Srikanth has been rewarded for his sensational run this season. He reached five finals and clinched four titles in 2017 and now has 73,403 points, 4527 points away from World Champion Viktor Axelsen of Denmark, who heads the ranking list.



The US Open Grand Prix Gold winner HS Prannoy achieved a career-best ranking of World No. 11. In women's singles, P V Sindhu was at World No. 2, while former World No. 1 Saina Nehwal was also steady at the 11th spot.

2. Indian junior team win bronze medal in Johor Cup hockey

Indian Junior Men's Hockey team defeated hosts Malaysia 4-0 to win the Bronze medal of the 7th Sultan of Johor Cup 2017.



The 2017 Sultan of Johor Cup is the seventh edition of the Sultan of Johor Cup, a field hockey tournament. Australia won the Gold medal while Great Britain won the Silver medal of the tournament. Vivek Prasad of India was awarded the Best Player of the tournament award.

Dilpreet Singh of India and Nathan Euphraums of Australia were the top scorer with nine goals each.

3. Federer wins eighth Basel Title, 95th Overall

Roger Federer won his eighth Basel title after he defeated Juan Martin Del Potro, 6-7(5), 6-4, 6-3 to clinch his ATP World Tour-leading seventh title of the year.



Federer is now behind only Jimmy Connors in the list of open era title leaders. Jimmy has 109 trophies while Federer has 95.

Federer moved ahead of Ivan Lendl who has 94 trophies. Federer now owns eight or more trophies at three different events: Halle (9), Wimbledon (8) and Basel (8).

4. Mithali Raj and Virat Kohli topped ICC Ranking

Indian women's cricket team skipper Mithali Raj has been ranked No 1 among batters in the latest ICC ODI Player rankings. She is followed by Ellyse Perry of Australia and Amy Satterthwaite of New Zealand respectively.



Captain of the Men's cricket team, Virat Kohli, also re-gained the No 1 position after he hit two hundreds in the series against New Zealand. He overtook AB de Villiers of South Africa. The ODI bowling rankings are led by Pakistan pace bowler Hasan Ali. Jasprit Bumrah of India is ranked third. South African leg-spinner Imran Tahir is ranked second.

5. Kidambi Srikanth won French Open Super Series 2017

Kidambi Srikanth of India won the men's singles title at Yonex French Open 2017 Badminton tournament held in Paris after he defeated Kento Nishimoto of Japan by 21-14, 21-13 in the finals. He became the first Indian French Open champion. This was Srikanth's fourth title of the season. He also became only fourth men's singles player to win four or more Super Series titles in a calendar year.



Tai Tzu Ying of Chinese Taipei has won women's singles title by defeating Akane Yamaguchi of Japan.

6. Jasprit Bumrah secured Top Spot in ICC T20 Rankings

Indian fast bowler Jasprit Bumrah has been ranked at the top in the latest ICC T20 bowler's rankings. Imad Wasim of Pakistan is ranked second while Rashid Khan of Afghanistan is ranked third.



The batters list is topped by Indian captain Virat Kohli while Aaron Finch of Australia and Evin Lewis of West Indies are second and third in the list respectively.

The team ranking is topped by Pakistan followed by New Zealand and West Indies. India is ranked fifth in the list.

7. India finished with 20 medals at Commonwealth Shooting Championships

India ended the Commonwealth Shooting Championships with a rich haul of 20 medals after Satyendra Singh won a gold and Sanjeev Rajput a silver in the men's 50m rifle 3 positions event. The Indian squad won a total of six gold, seven silver and seven bronze medals during the competition.



In the men's Trap event at the Shotgun ranges, Birendeev Sodhi was the lone Indian to qualify for the six-man final round. He shot 118 out of 125 to qualify in fifth place and finished fourth eventually.

8. Indian women's hockey team lifted Asia Cup title

The India women's hockey team qualified for next year's World Cup by winning the Asia Cup hockey title. In a nail-biting final at Kakamigahara in Japan, they overcame China 5-4 via a shootout. At full time, both teams were level One-One.



India took the lead through Navjot Kaur in the 25th minute. However, China found a late equaliser through Tiantian Luo, who converted a penalty corner in the 47th minute. South Korea secured third place with a 1-0 win over Japan.

9. Aditi Ashok bagged Ladies European Tour

India's tremendous golf player Aditi Ashok bagged Ladies European Tour title by winning Fatima Bint Mubarak Ladies Open, held in Abu Dhabi. It was her third title in 12 months. She was honoured with prize money of €70,788 and trophy by the UAE's Minister of State for Happiness, Ohood bint Khalfan Al Roumi. Swede Sophie Gustafson secured second position, followed by Camilla Lennarth at third, Cheyenne Woods at fourth and Linda Wessberg at 5th position.



Prior to this victory, Aditi won Hero Women's Indian Open and Qatar Ladies Open in her rookie season in 2016.

10. Senegal qualified for 2018 Football World Cup

Senegal qualified for the 2018 Football World Cup after defeating South Africa 2-0 in Polokwane. The victory gave Senegal an uncatchable five-point lead over Burkina Faso and Cape Verde in Group D with one round left.

The only previous World Cup appearance by Senegal was in 2002 when current coach Aliou Cisse captained a team that reached the quarterfinals, hosted by South Korea and Japan. Senegal is the third African qualifiers for the World Cup in Russia after Nigeria and Egypt, who secured places during the penultimate qualifying round last month.



11. IOC banned five more Russians for life over Sochi Doping

The International Olympic Committee has banned five more Russian competitors from the 2014 Sochi Olympics for life over anti-doping rule violations. IOC is re-testing all Russian athletes' samples from those Games following revelations by Grigory Rodchenkov, Russia's former anti-doping chief.

The banned athletes are:

- Dmitrii Trunenkov
- Aleksei Negodailo
- Yana Romanova
- Olga Vilukhina
- Sergei Chudinov



12. Shiv Kapur won Panasonic Open Title

Indian Golfer Shiv Kapur won Panasonic Open title held at Delhi. It was his first Asian tour victory. The Panasonic Open is a golf tournament on the Asian Tour. It was first played in 2011. Veteran golf players such as Anirban Lahiri, Mukesh Kumar, Australian Wade Ormsby and Chiragh Kumar has been winners of this tour title in the past.

Other players who performed well at the tournament were Ajeetesh Sandhu, Sudhir Sharma and Chirag Kumar. Shiv Kapur had previously won Gujarat Kensville Challenge, Dubai Festival City Challenge and Yeangder Heritage.



13. Mary Kom won gold medal at Asian Women's Boxing Championships

India's M.C. Mary Kom defeated North Korea's five-time world champion Kim Hyang Mi to win 5th gold medal at the Asian Women's Boxing Championships held in Vietnam.

The Asian Amateur Boxing Championships is the biggest competition for boxing amateurs in Asia.

This gold medal victory was Mary Kom's second gold medal after her 2014 Asian Games victory. Prior to this, she had bagged gold medals in 2003, 2005, 2010 and 2012.



14. Prannoy won men's single title at 82nd Senior National Championship

H.S Prannoy won Men's single title at 82nd Senior National Championship, held in Nagpur, Maharashtra. He defeated Kidambi Srikanth. With this win, he secured best ranking of World No. 11. Thiruvananthapuram's Prannoy has been winner of Youth Olympic Games, BWF Grand Prix and BWF International Challenge.



The Indian National Badminton Championships is a tournament organized and played to crown the best badminton players in India. Sourabh Verma was winner of 81st Senior National Badminton Championship in men's single title. Sameer Verma was winner of 80th Senior National Badminton Championship in men's single title.

15. Rhino unveiled as mascot for AIBA Youth Women's World Boxing Championship

The 2017 AIBA Women's Youth World Championship is scheduled to happen at Nabin Chandra Bordoloi A.C Indoor Hall in Guwahati, northeastern India. Assam's famous one horned Rhino, was unveiled as mascot of the event. The female rhino — Guppy was selected as mascot to symbolize strength and permanence.



AIBA has been responsible for the rapid development of Women's Boxing since the first elite World Championships back in 2001. Veteran India boxer champion MC Mary Kom was announced as AIBA ambassador for 2017 AIBA Women's Youth World Championships.

16. Saina Nehwal became National Champion for the third Time

Saina Nehwal won women's single title at 82nd Senior National Championship, held in Nagpur, Maharashtra. She defeated PV Sindhu. With this win, she lifted her third national title.

The Indian National Badminton Championships is a tournament organized and played to crown the best badminton players in India. Rituparna Das was winner of 81st Senior National Badminton Championship in women's single title. P. C. Thulasi was winner of 80th Senior National Badminton Championship in women's single title.



17. 2017 ATP world tour awards announced

Moët & Chandon revealed the names of the winners of 2017 ATP World Tour Awards. Roger Federer received three new trophies for titles 'Comeback Player of the Year', 'Stefan Edberg Sportsmanship Award' and 'ATPWorldTour.com Fans' Favorite award.

Shapovalov received 'Most Improved Player of the Year' award and 'ATP Star of Tomorrow' award. Tecau received 'Arthur Ashe Humanitarian Award' for his contribution in support of children's rights and education in Romania. Other recipients were Godwin as 'Coach of the Year' and Guillermo Salatino for Ron Bookman Media Excellence Award



18. Leander Paes and Purav Raja lifted Knoxville Challenger in men's doubles title

Leander Paes and Purav Raja lifted Knoxville Challenger men's doubles title at Tennessee in United States. Top seeded Indians defeated American-Australian duo of James Cerretani and John Patrick Smith 7-6, 7-6 in the final of the men's doubles ATP challenger at the indoor hard court of Goodfriend Tennis Center.

Paes and Raja won their first ever title of year 2017. Earlier, Leander Paes won three Challenger level titles this season pairing with Canadian Adil Shamasdin and American Scott Lipsky. Purav Raja and Paes had won Bordeaux Challenger with Divij Sharan and made the final of the Chennai Open.



19. India won AIBA World Women's Youth Boxing Championships

India finished with five gold medals and won AIBA World Women's Youth Boxing Championships, held in Guwahati. The five players who won gold medal were Nitu (48kg), Jyoti Gulia (51kg), Sakshi Choudhury (54kg), Shashi Chopra (57kg) and Ankushita Boro (64kg). With this victory, Jyoti Gulia (51kg) qualified for 2018 Youth Olympic Games in Argentina.



Two other players Neha Yadav (+81kg) and Anupama (81kg) won silver medals. This was for the first time that championship was hosted by India.

20. India bagged 10 Medals in Para-Badminton World Championships

India won 10 medals at the BWF Para-Badminton World Championships, held in Ulsan, South Korea. Parul Parmar won two gold medals defeating Thailand's Wannaphatdee Kamtam in the finals of the women's singles and Chinese pair of Cheng Hefang and MA Huihui in women's doubles.



Other players who bagged to have silver medal were Tarun Dhillon and Manoj Sarkar. The rest 6 players managed to bring bronze medal. The Para-Badminton World Championships is an individual bi-annual event in six sport classes, organized by the BWF.

21. ICC banned Hafeez from bowling in international matches

The International Cricket Council, ICC barred Pakistan off-spinner Mohammad Hafeez from bowling in international cricket, as his action was found illegal in the third ODI against Sri Lanka. His bowling action revealed that the majority of his deliveries exceeded the 15-degree level of tolerance permitted under the regulations. He has previously served a 12-month ban in July 2015.



Mohammad Hafeez is a Pakistani free-flowing batsman and an off-spinner in bowling style. It was third time that he was banned from bowling illegally.

22. Shagun Chowdhary crowned National Women's Trap champion

The first Indian woman trap shooter to win an Olympic berth, Shagun Chowdhary bagged a national champion crown at the 61st National Shooting Championship in New Delhi. In the final, she overcame the challenge from Punjab's Rajeshwari Kumari to prevail 41-38. Defending champion Shreyasi Singh, representing Bihar, finished third with a final round score of 29 on day two of the competitions.



N Nivetha of Tamil Nadu won the Junior Women's title. Madhya Pradesh won medals both in the senior and junior women's team events.

23. Pankaj Advani won IBSF World Billiards Championship

Veteran cueist Pankaj Advani bagged the title of 17th IBSF World Billiards Championship by 6-2 in the final against England's Mike Russell, held at Doha. Pankaj Advani has won maximum number of world titles as compared to any other Indian sports person.



Pankaj won semifinals by 5-2 India's Rupesh Shah. Pankaj Advani will be facing off the upcoming competition 'Grand Double', the lengthier format at 17th IBSF World Billiards Championship. The IBSF World Billiards Championship is an international non-professional tournament for the game of English billiards.

24. Aditi Ashok became first Indian to qualify for LPGA Tour Championships

Bangalore's perfectionist golfer Aditi Ashok became first Indian to qualify for CME Group Tour Championship on the LPGA. Aditi's victory in two LET events in 2016 and one in 2017 has made her qualification to the event possible.



The CME Group Tour Championship brings the world's best players to Southwest Florida in a unique, season-long point based qualifying format. The grand finale of the 2017 LPGA Tour season the CME Group Tour Championship was played at Naples, Italy.

25. Sebastian Vettel won Brazilian Grand Prix

Ferrari's Sebastian Vettel lifted the title of winning Brazilian Grand Prix, ahead of Mercedes of Valtteri Bottas at second place, Kimi Raikkonen at third place and Lewis Hamilton at fourth place. The 2017 Brazilian Grand Prix was a Formula 1 motor race held at Brazil.

This race was noted historical, as it was penultimate round of the 2017 season and marked the forty-sixth running of the Brazilian Grand Prix. Vettel Ferrari association in 2017 has been rewarding with four victories and topping the standings for more than half the season.



26. Gopi Thonakal becomes first Indian to win Asian Marathon Championship gold

Gopi Thonakal became the first Indian man to win Asian Marathon Championship. Gopi clocked 2 hours 15 minutes and 48 seconds to clinch the gold in the 16th edition of the prestigious event. Andrey Petrov of Uzbekistan ranked second while Byambalev Tseveenravdan of Mongolia won bronze.

The Asian Marathon Championships is a biennial international competition in marathon road running for Asian athletes. This year it was organized in Dongguan, China.



27. France to host 2023 Rugby World Cup

The 2023 Rugby World Cup will be hosted by France. The venue of the event was selected by Council members whereas South Africa was the choice of event by World Rugby's Board. The 2023 Rugby World Cup is the tenth Rugby World Cup, which is taking place at the 200th anniversary of the legendary 'invention' of the sport by William Webb Ellis.

The 2007 Rugby World Cup was hosted by France. The other competitors for the selection of venue through voting were South Africa and Ireland.



28. Bulgaria's Grigor Dimitrov won ATP Finals

Grigor Dimitrov of Bulgaria has won the ATP Finals after three set victory over David Goffin of Belgium in a hard-fought battle in London. Grigor Dimitrov overcame David Goffin 7-5, 4-6, 6-3 to win the title.

It is his fourth title of the year 2017 and will lift him three places to No. 3 in the world, behind Rafael Nadal and Roger Federer.

The title clash, which lasted for almost two and a half hours, was the longest final since John McEnroe defeated Arthur Ashe at Madison Square Garden in 1978.



29. Yuki Bhambri won ATP Pune Challenger title

Yuki Bhambri won title of 2017 season on the ATP Challenger Tour defeating Ramkumar Ramanathan in the finals, at the KPIT-MSLTA Challenger held in Pune. It was Yuki's sixth Challenger victory. With this win, Yuki Bhambri received 80 ATP points and \$7200. Ramkumar Ramanathan received \$4,240 and 48 points. Yuki Bhambri had been ranked in the top 100 bracket, after this victory.

Yuki Bhambri is the first Indian to win junior Australian Open title. Saketh Myneni and Sanam Singh won ATP Pune Challenger title in the men's doubles title.



30. Ethiopians topped Delhi Half Marathon 2017

Ethiopians Birhanu Legese and Almaz Ayana won gold at the Delhi Half Marathon, 2017 in the men and women's category respectively. Birhanu Legese bagged gold medal by finishing it off in 59 minutes and 46 seconds followed by Anadamlak Belihu at second position in 59 minutes and 51 seconds.

Almaz Ayana finished off race in one hour, 7 minutes and 11 seconds to win gold, followed by Ababel and Netsanet at the second and third place, completing race in 1:07:19 and 1:07:24 respectively. Both the delhi half marathon winners received USD 27,000 as winners' prize money.



31. Afghanistan bagged maiden Under-19 Asia Cup

Afghanistan team bagged the maiden under-19 Asia Cup title held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, against the Pakistan team. Ikram Faizi performed outstanding and remained not out on 107 runs. Pakistan could compete with target runs of 249.

The 2017 Under-19 Asia Cup was an international cricket tournament, held in Malaysia. Under 19 Asia cup is organized by the Asian Cricket Council, for Under-19 teams from its member nations. It was first held in 2012 in Malaysia. The member nations of council are Sri Lanka, Nepal, India, Afghanistan, Malaysia, UAE, Bangladesh and Pakistan.



32. Ritu Phogat clinched silver medal in U-23 Senior World Wrestling Championship

Ritu Phogat clinched the silver medal in under-23 Senior World Wrestling Championship at Poland, against Turkish Wrestler Demirhan in the gold medal bout of women's 48-kilogram category. In Semifinal, Ritu defeated Chinese Wrestler Jiang Zhu 4-3 points to reach the finals.

Ritu had won the gold medal at the Commonwealth Wrestling Championship 2016. She had won the National championship, held in Indore She also won a bronze medal at the Asian Championships in May 2017.



33. Lionel Messi won fourth European Golden Shoe award

Barcelona's Lionel Messi received his career's fourth European Golden Shoe award. Prior to this, he was honoured with golden shoe in 2010, 2012 and 2013. Lionel scored 37 goals from La Liga season, 2016-17 UEFA Champions League and in various other championships.

The European Golden Shoe, also known as the European Golden Boot, is an association football award presented each season to the highest goal scorer in European league matches. The 2016 European Golden Shoe award was honoured to Luis Suarez.



34. Indian Sports Honours: Srikanth, Sindhu win top awards

Ace shuttler Kidambi Srikanth, who won four Super Series titles this year, bagged the Sportsman of the Year award at the inaugural edition of Indian Sports Honours held in Mumbai. Olympic silver medallist PV Sindhu won the Sportswoman of the Year award in the individual sport category.

In the team sports category, Ravichandran Ashwin was awarded Sportsman of the Year award while women's cricket team skipper Mithali Raj was awarded Sportswoman of the Year award.

- Team of the Year: Indian Women's Cricket Team
- Inspirational Honour by the jury: Sania Mirza
- Transformational Contribution to Sport award: Abhinav Bindra



35. Ravichandran Ashwin breaks Lillee's record of fastest 300 Test wickets

India off-spinner Ravichandran Ashwin became the fastest bowler to reach the milestone of 300 Test wickets in his 54th match, breaking Dennis Lillee's record during India's win over Sri Lanka in the second Test.

Australian fast bowling legend Lillee had reached the milestone in 56 Test matches way back in 1981. Ashwin is only the fifth Indian bowler to complete a career 300 wickets in Test cricket behind Anil Kumble (619), Kapil Dev (434), Harbhajan Singh (417) and Zaheer Khan (311).

