

CURRENT AFFAIRS



SEPTEMBER 2017

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Current Affairs – September 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 **September 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 – September 2017	i
Audience.....	i
Copyright and Disclaimer	i
Table of Contents.....	ii
APPOINTMENTS.....	1
AWARDS	11
BOOKS & AUTHORS.....	19
COMMITTEES.....	22
DEATHS.....	24
DEFENCE	29
ECONOMIC	36
ENVIRONMENT	47
FINANCE.....	50
IMPORTANT DAYS.....	62
INTERNATIONAL.....	67
MISCELLANEOUS.....	86
NATIONAL.....	89
PERSONS IN NEWS.....	124
PLACES IN NEWS.....	127

REGIONAL	131
REPORTS	142
RESIGNATIONS & RETIREMENTS	148
SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY	150
SPORTS	153

Appointments

1. Shri Rajiv Gauba took over as the Union Home Secretary

Shri Rajiv Gauba, IAS (Jharkhand cadre-1982 batch) took over as Secretary to the Government of India in the Ministry of Home Affairs.

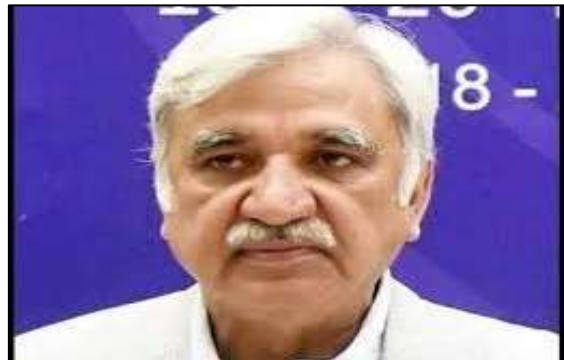
Shri Gauba joined the Ministry of Home Affairs as Officer on Special Duty on June 27, 2017 and took charge as the Union Home Secretary upon the superannuation of Shri Rajiv Mehrishi. Prior to this, Shri Gauba was Secretary in the Ministry of Urban Development. He also served in the International Monetary Fund representing the country for four years on the Board of IMF.



2. Shri Sunil Arora took over as the new Election Commissioner

Shri Sunil Arora assumed charge as the new Election Commissioner of India. He is a 1980 batch IAS officer from Rajasthan cadre. Prior to joining as Election Commissioner, Shri Arora was serving as Director General (DG), M/o Corporate Affairs since 15 December 2016 after his superannuation.

Mr. Arora served in several key positions namely Secretary in the M/o Skill Development & Entrepreneurship and M/o Information & Broadcasting in Government of India, Chairman & Managing Director of the then Indian Airlines between 2002 to 2005 etc.



3. Rajiv Kumar took over as the New Vice Chairman of NITI Aayog

Dr. Rajiv Kumar has taken charge as the new Vice Chairman of NITI Aayog. He replaces Shri Arvind Panagariya.

Mr. Kumar was a senior fellow at the Centre for Policy Research (CPR). He holds a DPhil in economics from Oxford and a PhD from Lucknow University.

He was a member of the National Security Advisory Board between 2006 and 2008. He also had held senior positions in the Asian Development Bank.



4. BSE Board approved another 5-year Term for Ashish Chauhan as the CEO

The Board of Bombay Stock Exchange has approved another five-year term for Ashish Chauhan as Chief Executive Officer. Ashish has been instrumental for a strong turnaround and a highly- successful initial public offering (IPO) of the bourse with strong business expansion.

Under his leadership, the BSE also set up the country's first international exchange, India International Exchange at Gandhinagar, GIFT City. Chauhan had joined BSE as deputy chief executive officer (CEO) in 2009.



5. Indian Hotels Company appointed Puneet Chhatwal as their MD and CEO

The Indian Hotels Company Ltd (IHCL) has appointed Puneet Chhatwal as its Managing Director and CEO. He will take over from incumbent Rakesh Sarna. IHCL is a part of TATA Group.

Chhatwal is currently Chief Executive and Member of Executive Board of Duetsche Hospitality/Steinberger Hotels AG, a large European hotel chain. He has over two decades of leadership experience in the global hospitality industry. He has worked with some of the leading hotel groups in Europe and North America.



6. Dr. R.K. Raghavan appointed as the next High Commissioner of India to Cyprus

Dr. R.K. Raghavan has been appointed as the next High Commissioner of India to the Republic of Cyprus.

Dr. Raghavan, a retired IPS officer of the Tamil Nadu cadre, is the former CBI Director from January 1999 to April 2001. He was the director-general of Tamil Nadu's State Vigilance Directorate from 1993 to 1999.

He is a recipient of the Indian Police Medal for Meritorious Service and the President's Police Medal for Distinguished Service.



7. Vedanta Resources names ex-CEO Kuldip Kaura as their interim Chief Executive

The Board of Vedanta Limited ("Vedanta") has announced the appointment of Mr. Kuldip Kaura as Interim Chief Executive Officer (CEO). Mr. Thomas Albanese steps down as CEO and from the Board of the company.

Kaura was the CEO of Vedanta from 2005 to 2008 and has been president of the office of the group's chairperson since 2016.

Vedanta Ltd is a diversified natural resources company whose business primarily involves producing oil and gas, zinc, lead, silver, copper, iron ore, aluminium and commercial power.



8. Rajiv Mehrishi appointed as the new CAG of India

The Union Government has appointed Rajiv Mehrishi as the new Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG). He was the former Union Home secretary and was replaced by Rajiv Gauba. He will replace current incumbent Shashi Kant Sharma.

Mr Rajiv Mehrishi is a 1978-batch IAS officer of the Rajasthan cadre. Prior to his appointment as the Home Secretary, he was the Finance Secretary. He has also served as the Chief Secretary, Government of Rajasthan. He holds a degree in business administration from Strathclyde Business School, Glasgow.



9. Anita Karwal appointed as the CBSE Chairman

According to an order issued by the Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT), Anita Karwal has been appointed as the Chairperson of the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE).

She replaced Rajesh Kumar Chaturvedi, who has been transferred to the National Skill Development Agency.

Mrs. Karwal is a 1988-batch Gujarat cadre officer. She is currently posted as additional secretary in the HRD Ministry. She was the Gujarat Chief Electoral officer during the Lok Sabha election in 2014.



10. Rajiv Kumar appointed as the new DFS Secretary

According to an order issued by the Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT), senior bureaucrat Rajiv Kumar was appointed secretary in the Department of Financial Services (DFS). He was appointed in place of Anjuly Chib Duggal.



Kumar is a 1984 batch IAS officer of Jharkhand cadre. He was special secretary and establishment officer in the Ministry of Personnel. The DFS looks after the functioning of banks, financial institutions, insurance companies and the national pension system.

11. U. Kamachi Mudali appointed as the Chief Executive of Heavy Water Board

Nuclear scientist U. Kamachi Mudali has been appointed as the Chief Executive of the Heavy Water Board. HWB is one of the industrial units under the Department of Atomic Energy.



Prior to his appointment, Mudali was Group Director at the Indira Gandhi Centre for Atomic Research (IGCAR) at Kalpakkam.

He is an M.Tech from the Indian Institute of Technology, Bombay. The Heavy Water Board produce heavy water required for pressurised heavy water reactors operating in India.

12. Nine new Ministers inducted into Union Council of Ministers; Four ministers promoted to Cabinet rank

Four ministers - Piyush Goyal, Nirmala Sitharaman, Dharmendra Pradhan and Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi - were elevated to cabinet level. Arun Jaitley will keep Finance, and Piyush Goyal has been assigned Railways. Nirmala Sitharaman has been given Defence.



The other seven to join Narendra Modi's council of ministers are Uttara Kannada MP Anantkumar Hegde, former home secretary and Arrah MP R K Singh, Jodhpur MP Gajendra Singh, former Mumbai police commissioner and Baghpat MP Satya Pal Singh, Rajya Sabha MP from Uttar Pradesh Shiv Pratap Shukla, Buxar MP Ashwini Chaubey and Tikamgarh MP Virendra Kumar.

For details: <http://pib.nic.in/newsite/erelease.aspx?relid=0>

13. R. A. Sankara Narayanan took charge as the MD & CEO of Vijaya Bank

Mr. R. A. Sankara Narayanan took charge as MD & CEO of Vijaya Bank. He replaced Kishore Sansi, who reached superannuation on August 31.

Prior to joining Vijaya Bank, Narayanan was Executive Director of Bank of India responsible for treasury, corporate credit, recovery, risk management, compliance apart from international banking, retail, HR, IT, planning and finance. He joined Bank of India as a direct recruit officer in 1983.



Mr. Narayanan have also had overseas assignments in Tokyo and Singapore.

14. Rama Moorthy joined Tamilnad Mercantile Bank as the MD & CEO

K V Rama Moorthy has taken over as the Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of Tamilnad Mercantile Bank Ltd. He has been appointed for a period of three years from the date of assuming the charge. He succeeds HS Upendra Kamath.

Prior to joining TMB, Mr. Moorthy was working as Executive Director with United Bank of India. He also worked with Bank of Baroda before joining UBI.

He has over three decades of experience in various phases of banking across operations, new products and services, retail lending, corporate banking, marketing and business expansion.



15. N. Bajendra Kumar appointed as the National Mineral Development Corporation Chief

A 1985 batch IAS officer N Bajendra Kumar was appointed as Chairman and Managing Director of National Mineral Development Corporation Ltd. Prior to this, he was performing duties of Additional Chief Secretary to the Chief Minister, Chhattisgarh as well as Commerce & Industries and Energy Departments in the Chhattisgarh government.



He has served for about 32 years in various roles such as Administration of AIIMS New Delhi, Chairman of Naya Raipur Development Authority (NRDA) and Chhattisgarh Housing Board (CGHB).

16. Viveck Goenka elected as the New PTI Chairman

The Press Trust of India has elected Viveck Goenka as the Chairman of the nation's largest news agency. Mr. Goenka is currently the Chairman and Managing Director of the Express group. The agency has also elected former editor-in-chief of 'The Hindu', Mr N Ravi, as the Vice-Chairman.



Mr. Goenka replaces Riyad Mathew while Mr Ravi replaces Goenka as the vice-chairman. Mr. Goenka is also a director of Indian Newspaper Society and a member of Advertising Association's India chapter. Ravi is a director of Kasturi & Sons Ltd, which owns The Hindu and The Hindu Business line newspapers.

17. Inderjit Singh appointed as the Chairperson of the NACWC

According to a release issued by Ministry of Personnel, the Appointment Committee of Cabinet has approved the appointment of Dr. Inderjit Singh as the Chairperson of National Authority Chemical Weapons Convention, NACWC with immediate effect. He is currently Additional Secretary in Cabinet Secretariat.



National Authority for Chemical Weapons Convention or NACWC is an office in Cabinet Secretariat, Government of India. It serves as the primary liaison to the OPCW from the Indian government, manages routine inspections, oversee the destruction of India's chemical weapons.

18. Sushmita Dev appointed as the President of All India Mahila Congress

Sushmita Dev has been appointed as the President of All India Mahila Congress in place of Ms. Shobha Oza, who has been in the post since August 2013. Ms. Dev is a lawyer by profession.

According to a release issued by AICC, Congress President Sonia has approved the name of Ms. Sushmita Dev who is member of Lok Sabha from Silchar in Assam. The Party appreciated the work and contribution of the outgoing President of Mahila Congress Ms. Oza.



19. Professor Sadanand Gupta appointed as the working President of UP Hindi Sansthan

Former head of the Hindi department in the Gorakhpur University, Sadanand Gupta, has been appointed as the working President of the Uttar Pradesh Hindi Sansthan.

The post was vacant since the Yogi Adityanath government came to power in March 2017. The working president of the Sansthan Uday Pratap Singh had resigned.

Professor Gupta has been honoured with Birla, Vyas and Saraswati awards for his literary contributions.



20. Mahendra Pratap Mall appointed as the CMD of IRCTC

According to an order issued by the Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT), the Appointments Committee of the Union Cabinet has appointed Mahendra Pratap Mall as the Chairman and Managing Director of Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) Ltd.

Mr. Mall is presently serving as the Director (Finance) in IRCTC. He has been its Whole-Time Director since January 21, 2013. IRCTC is a subsidiary of the Indian Railways that handles the catering, tourism and online ticketing operations of the Indian railways.

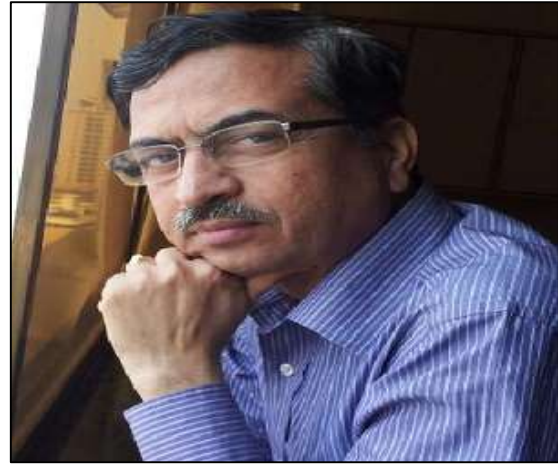


21. United India Insurance Co. Ltd. appointed M Nagaraja Sarma as its new CMD

According to an order issued by the Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT), the Appointments Committee of the Union Cabinet, has appointed M. Nagaraja Sarma as the new Chairman-cum-Managing Director (CMD) of the United India Insurance Co. Ltd for a period of five years.

Prior to his new appointment, Mr. Sarma was working as the General Manager, Oriental Insurance Co. Ltd.

The United India Insurance Company Ltd is the second largest general insurance company in India. It is wholly owned by the Government of India.



22. Appointments of DG, NIA and DG, SSB

The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet has approved the following:

The appointment of Shri Y. C. Modi, IPS, Additional Director, CBI as Director General, National Investigation Agency (NIA). The ACC has also approved the appointment of Shri Y. C. Modi as OSD in NIA with immediate effect, to ensure smooth takeover of responsibilities in NIA.

The appointment of Shri Rajni Kant Misra, IPS, Additional DG, BSF as Director General, Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB).



23. Ajay Bisaria appointed as New High Commissioner of India to Pakistan

India has appointed Ajay Bisaria as the new Indian High Commissioner to Pakistan replacing Gautam Bambawale. Bisaria is currently an ambassador to Poland while Bambawale will be given the role of ambassador to China.



India's ambassador to China Vijay Gokhale was appointed economic relations secretary at the Indian Ministry of External Affairs. Bisaria has served as private secretary and aide to then PM Atal Bihari Vajpayee from 1999 to 2004.

He also worked on India's policy for multilateral entities like SCO and the Russia-India-China trilateral dialogue.

24. B Sambamurthy appointed as Interim Chairman of NPCI

National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) has appointed B Sambamurthy as Interim Chairman of the board. He will replace M Balachandran.



Mr. Sambamurthy has been the nominee director from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on the board of NPCI since December 5, 2013.

Prior to joining NPCI, he was Director and CEO of the Institute for Development and Research in Banking Technology (IDRBT). He was also the Chairman and Managing Director of Corporation Bank.

25. Shashi Shanker appointed as the CMD of ONGC

According to an order issued by Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT), the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet has approved the appointment of Shashi Shanker as the Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) of ONGC, until the date of his superannuation.



Mr. Shanker will replace Dinesh K Sarraf. He is currently Director (Technical and Field Services) at ONGC. He will have a three-and-a-half-year term until March 31, 2021.

Sarraf, who took over as the Chairman of ONGC on March 1, 2014, has been shortlisted to head the downstream oil regulator, the Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board (PNGRB).

26. Royana Singh appointed as the first woman Chief Proctor of BHU

The Banaras Hindu University has appointed Royana Singh as its chief proctor. She became the first woman to hold the post in BHU. The chief proctor's appointment was approved by Vice Chancellor Girish Chandra Tripathi following the resignation of O N Singh.

Professor Royana Singh is a professor in the Anatomy Department of the Institute of Medical Sciences. She is also the chairperson of the Women's Grievance Cell of the BHU.



Ms. Singh was born in France, where she also received her primary education. She then shifted to India along with her parents, who are originally from Senapur village in Jaunpur district.

Awards

1. NITI Aayog announced Winners of the Women Transforming India Awards 2017

NITI Aayog, in partnership with MyGov and the United Nations, announced the winners of the Women Transforming India Awards, 2017.

The Top six contestants are – Laxmi Agarwal – a champion of violence against women. Safeena Husain – working for girls’ education in India’s most backward districts. Kamal Kumbhar – enabling women like herself to realize their dreams of a brighter tomorrow. Subasini Mistry – working for two decades to build a hospital for the needy. Arunima Sinha – Is the first female amputee to scale the highest mountain in the world. Jamuna Tudu – has conserved 50 hectares of forestland around her village in Jharkhand.



The other six runner-ups are – Rajlakshmi Borthakur, Harshini Kanhekar, Sunita Kamble, Kiran Kanojia, Shima Modak and Kanika Tekriwal.

2. Konkani writer Mahabaleshwar Sail awarded the Saraswati Samman for 2016

Popular Konkani writer Mahabaleshwar Sail has been awarded the Saraswati Samman 2016 for his novel Hawthian that captures the lives of the potter community in Goa. He was presented with a plaque and a cash prize of ₹15 lakh.

Mr. Sail has four Marathi dramas and seven Konkani novels to his credit. The Saraswati Samman is an annual award for outstanding prose or poetry literary works in any 22 Indian language listed in Schedule VIII of the Constitution of India. It was instituted in 1991 by the K. K. Birla Foundation.



3. Reliance Foundation awarded Rashtriya Khel Protsahan Puraskar

The Reliance Foundation was rewarded with the prestigious Rashtriya Khel Protsahan Award for its contribution to the promotion of sports. President Ram Nath Kovind presented the award to Chairperson of the foundation, Nita Ambani. Reliance Foundation helps in spreading sportsmanship among the youth of the country.



Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan (KVS) also received the Rashtriya Khel Protsahana Purushkar this year for its 'Identification and Nurturing of Budding and Young Talent' (IDCO) program.

4. Hyderabad Airport won the Energy Efficiency Award

Hyderabad International Airport Ltd has bagged the National Award for 'Excellence' in Energy Management at a conference hosted by the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII).



The conference focused on recognising companies that are engaged in energy efficiency initiatives and displaying commitment towards energy conservation. GMR Hyderabad International Airport Limited (GHIAL) is a company promoted as a joint venture comprising the GMR Group (63%) in partnership with Government of India (13%), Government of Telangana (13%) and Malaysia Airports Holdings Berhad (11%).

5. UNESCO announces winners of International Literacy prizes 2017

The UNESCO has announced the winners of the 2017 International Literacy Prizes. Currently there are two UNESCO International Literacy Prizes:



The UNESCO King Sejong Literacy Prize (two awards): Shared by the Centre for the Study of Learning and Performance from Canada and the We Love Reading programme from Jordan. The UNESCO Confucius Prize for Literacy (three awards): AdulTICo Program from Columbia, The Citizens Foundation from Pakistan, and the FunDza project from South Africa.

Each of the five prizewinners receives a medal, a diploma and US\$20,000.

6. Vice President gave 319 National awards to teachers

Vice President Venkaiah Naidu conferred 319 National Award to Teachers on Teacher's Day in a function at New Delhi. National Teachers Award was given as public recognition to meritorious teachers working in primary, middle and secondary schools. The awards, which were instituted in 1958, carry a medal, certificate, and award money of 50 thousand rupees.



The Vice President also launched DIKSHA portal, a National Digital Infrastructure for Teachers. It is a unique initiative, which leverages existing highly scalable and flexible digital infrastructures, while keeping teachers at the centre.

7. Narayana Murthy conferred with the PLuS Alliance Prize

Infosys co-founder N R Narayana Murthy and Mumbai-born scientist Veena Sahajwalla have been conferred the PLuS Alliance Prize for Global Leadership and for Research Innovation respectively.



The PLuS Alliance is an international collaboration between Arizona State University, King's College London, and UNSW Sydney and is awarded in two categories; Education Innovation and Research Innovation. It recognises Research Innovation, Education Innovation, Global Leadership and Global Innovation. The award carries prize money of USD 50,000.

8. GIFT City bagged ASSOCHAM Services Excellence Awards

Gujarat International Finance-Tec City (GIFT City) was honoured with Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India (ASSOCHAM) Services Excellence Award, held in New Delhi, for its immense contribution to the development of the International Financial Services and Technology Hub in India. It is an honour given to cities having great capability in attracting foreign investment flows, contribute to export of services as well as provide large-scale employment, thus contributing to GDP.



GIFT City, India's first International Financial Services Centre, is not only operational with 10 leading banks, 2 international exchanges, but also developing India's first global financial hub.

9. Tahir Mahmood won N R Madhava Menon Best Law Teacher award

Eminent jurist Tahir Mahmood was awarded with the Prof N R Madhava Menon Best Law Teacher Award 2017. Professor Dr Tahir Mahmood is currently the Distinguished Jurist Chair, Professor of Eminence & Chairman of Amity University. Mar Gregorios College of Law, Trivandrum received the SILF-MILAT Institutional Excellence Award – 2017. Prof V.C. Vivekanandan received the SILF-MILAT Legal Education Innovation Award – 2017.



Society of Indian Law Firms (SILF) and Menon Institute of Legal Advocacy Training (MILAT) has been honouring law teachers and law schools in India since September 2009.

10. Two US scientists and an Indian Economist among 2017 Balzan awardees

Two U.S. Scientists, James Allison of the University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center and Robert Schreiber of the Washington University School of Medicine, are among the winners of this year's Balzan Prizes for their contribution to creating immunological treatments for cancer.



An Indian Economist, Bina Agarwal, a professor at the University of Manchester, was also selected for the award for her work studying women's contributions to agriculture in India. The Balzan Foundation awards two prizes in the sciences and two in the humanities each year with an award money of 750,000 Swiss francs.

11. Marine Products Export Development Authority bagged Rajbhasha Keerti Award

It has been for the third time that Rajbhasha Keerti Award was honoured to Marine Products Export Development Authority. Award was given to appreciate implementation of Official language in the organization. Various other organizations who were awarded with this award were Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust and Vijaya Bank who bagged the first prize under the Rajbhasha Kirti Puraskar (Region C) for the year 2016-17.



Rajbhasha Keerti Award is every year given by Department of Official Language to honor organizations contributing their best in implementing official language.

12. Global Diversity Award was given to Indian actor Salman Khan

Britain's House of Commons honoured Bollywood actor Salman Khan with Global Diversity Award. This award is honoured to people who have done something for diversity in the world. Salmaan Khan was appreciated by longest-serving Asian MP Keith Vaz for his immense contribution in humanitarian causes and his work as a philanthropist and as an actor.



Other recipients of this award were Bollywood superstar Amitabh Bachchan, actor Aishwarya Rai, Chinese actor Jackie Chan, Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, American Civil Rights leader Jesse Jackson and Formula 1 driver Lewis Hamilton.

13. Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust wins "Rajbhasha Kirti Award" for 11th consecutive time

Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust (JNPT) was awarded the "Rajbhasha Kirti Puraskar" for the year 2016-17 in the category of 'B' region for autonomous bodies and boards, for its excellent implementation of the Official Language.



The award (second prize) was presented at an elegant ceremony at Vigyan Bhavan, New Delhi on Hindi Divas celebration on September 14, 2017. This is the 11th consecutive year that Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust has won this award.

14. The 69th Emmy awardees list announced

The 69th Annual Primetime Emmy award winners were announced at an event held in Los Angeles, California, U.S. the ceremony was hosted by Stephen Colbert. The award winners were as follows-

Outstanding Drama Series – “The Handmaid's Tale”

Outstanding Lead Actor in a Drama Series
Sterling K. Brown – “This Is Us”

Outstanding Lead Actress in a Drama Series
Elisabeth Moss – “The Handmaid's Tale”

Outstanding Directing for a Drama Series –
Offred (Pilot)

Outstanding Television Movie – “Black Mirror: San Junipero”

Outstanding Variety Talk Series – “Last Week Tonight with John Oliver”



15. Former DIG D Roopa was honoured with the President's Medal

Governor Vajubhai Vala honoured former DIG (Prisons) D Roopa with the President's Medal for her outstanding service, at a ceremony held at Raj Bhawan in Bengaluru. With this, she became the only woman to have been awarded the prize.

She was the one reported to the Director General of Prisons, about alleged irregularities at the central jail of Karnataka, including preferential treatment to AIADMK leader V K Sasikala. She has been working as Deputy Inspector General of Police and Commissioner for Traffic and Road Safety.



16. Bahubali Director S S Rajamouli received ANR award

S S Rajamouli, Director of Bahubali, was felicitated with the prestigious ANR National Award by Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu for his contribution to the Telugu film industry.

The ANR National Award was instituted by the Akkineni International foundation in the honor of Akkineni Nageswara Rao.

The award was given annually to recognize people for their lifetime achievements and contributions to the Indian film industry.



17. BCCI nominated MS Dhoni for Padma Bhushan award

The Indian Cricket Board has nominated Mahendra Singh Dhoni for the country's third highest civilian award, the Padma Bhushan, for his contribution to the game.

According to the BCCI, it was a unanimous decision to nominate India's most successful captain, Dhoni.

Dhoni is already a recipient of the prestigious Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna and the Padma Shri award. The Padma Bhushan is the third-highest civilian award of the country.



18. Zannah Mustapha, Visionary Nigerian teacher won the UNHCR Nansen Refugee Award

Zannah Mustapha of Nigeria has been named the 2017 winner of UNHCR's Nansen Refugee Award for his inspirational work helping Nigerian Children access Education and for negotiating the release of the Chibok schoolchildren abducted by Boko Haram.

Mustapha founded a school in 2007 in Maiduguri – the capital of Borno State and the epicentre of the Boko Haram insurgency. The school has stayed open throughout the conflict with Boko Haram. The school provides a free education, as well as free meals, uniforms and health care, to children affected by violence.



19. C.N.R. Rao chosen for International Honour for Materials Research

Professor C.N.R Rao has become the first Asian to be chosen for the prestigious Von Hippel Award for his immense contribution in materials research.

The award is the US-based Materials Research Society's (MRS) highest honour. The award includes a cash prize, trophy and a diploma.

Professor C.N.R Rao is Bharat Ratna awardee. He currently serves as the Head of the Scientific Advisory Council to the Prime Minister of India. He is one of the world's foremost solid state and materials chemists.



20. Rajkummar Rao won the GQ Actor of the Year Award

National Award-winning actor Rajkummar Rao bagged the GQ Actor of the Year Award. List of other winners:

- Woman of the Year: Anushka Sharma
- Excellence in Direction and Acting: Konkona Sen Sharma
- Excellence in Acting: Sridevi Kapoor
- Entertainer of the Year: Ranveer Singh
- Agent of Social Change: Rahul Bose
- Most Stylish: Sidharth Malhotra
- Designer of the Year: Manish Malhotra
- Outstanding Achievement: Irrfan Khan
- Legend: Bhaichung Bhutia
- Creative Maverick: Aamir Khan



21. AAI's Srinagar and Raipur Airports awarded as Best Airports under National Tourism Awards 2015-16

The Airports Authority of India's Srinagar International Airport, Jammu & Kashmir and Swami Vivekananda Airport, Raipur, Chhattisgarh were jointly conferred with the prestigious National Tourism Awards 2015-16 by the President of India Shri Ram Nath Kovind for Best Airport under 'rest of India' category, on World Tourism Day.

It is the first time that two airports jointly have been selected as best airports for their innovative style of functioning, pro-environment initiatives and passenger friendly approach.



Books & Authors

1. Former Foreign Secretary Shyam Saran's Book 'How India Sees the World' launched

Former Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh launched book written by former Foreign Secretary Shyam Saran, named as "How India Sees the World: Kautilya to the 21st Century". The book details about the three crucial meeting of the CCS (Cabinet Committee on Security) on the eve of India-Pakistan Defence Secretary-level talks held in in 1989, 1992 and 2006 for demilitarizing the Siachen Glacier.



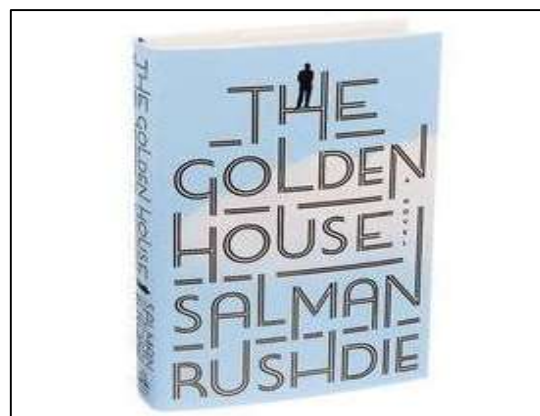
The book also describes about a "missed opportunity" to solve the Sir Creek dispute in Kutch, with the solution crafted by the Navy to divide the creek between India and Pakistan.

2. Salman Rushdie's – The Golden House launched

The Golden House, a novel written by renowned author Salman Rushdie, was published by Penguin. The novel is a modern American epic set against the panorama of contemporary politics and culture.

Salman Rushdie is a British Indian novelist and essayist. He won the Booker Prize in 1981 for his second novel, Midnight's Children.

Rushdie was elected a fellow of the Royal Society of Literature, the UK's senior literary organisation. Queen Elizabeth II knighted him for his services to literature.

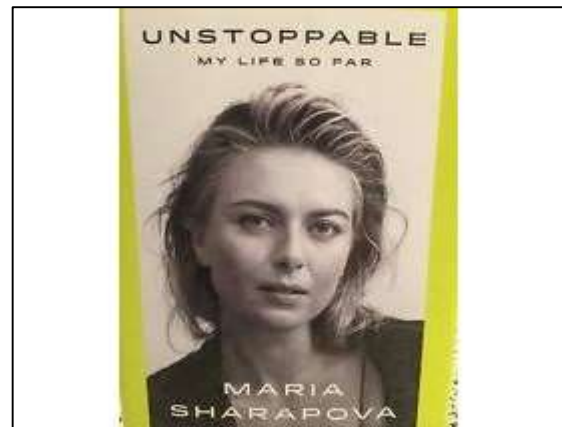


3. Unstoppable: My Life So far

"Unstoppable: My Life So Far," a memoir of tennis star Maria Sharapova was released. The book is a candid, captivating story of Sharapova's rise to tennis stardom.

Sharapova had become an overnight sensation in 2004 Wimbledon final in a stunning upset win against the two-time defending champion Serena Williams.

She held on to the number-one WTA ranking multiple times, won four more Grand Slam tournaments and became one of the highest-grossing female athletes in the world.



4. Dr. Mahesh Sharma released the book "Bhartiya Kala Mein Salil Kridayen Evam Sadyahsnata Nayika"

Dr. Mahesh Sharma, Minister of State (Independent charge) for Culture released the book entitled "Bhartiya Kala Mein Salil Kridayen Evam Sadyahsnata Nayika" authored by Dr. Kshetrapal Gangwar and Shri Sanjib Kumar Singh.

This is an Art Book based on original research, written in Hindi and published by National Museum after few decades.

This is a book written to highlight the Indian Art and describes the Water Sports (Salil Kridayen). This form of art has been the part of Indian Art from time immemorial.

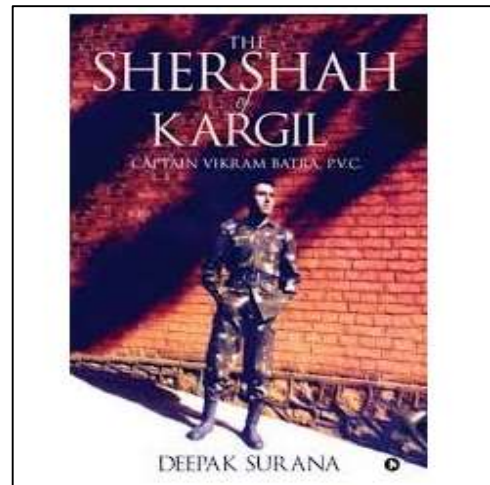


5. The Shersah of Kargil – The biography of Captain Vikram Batra unveiled

The biography of Captain Vikram Batra, "The Shersah of Kargil", was unveiled. It has been written by Deepak Surana. According to Deepak, this is the first book that is based entirely on primary sources.

Captain Vikram Batra, was an officer of the Indian Army, posthumously awarded with the Param Vir Chakra, India's highest and most prestigious award for valor, for his actions during the 1999 Kargil War in Kashmir between India and Pakistan.

Batra was known in his regiment for his courage and valour. He was often referred to as "Sher Shah" in the intercepted messages of the Pakistan Army.



Committees

1. Sports Ministry approved constitution of 13 – ESC

The Sports Ministry has approved constitution of a 13-member Empowered Steering Committee (ESC). It will shape and influence India's preparation for multi-disciplinary events, including 2020 Tokyo Olympic Games.

The Steering Committee will have the mandate to work until December 31, 2020 with clearly defined terms and references. These include review of the core probable list of each High Priority and Priority disciplines for the Commonwealth Games, Asian Games and Olympic Games. The Committee will also have power to recommend specific plans or packages for beneficiaries of Target Olympic Podium Scheme.



2. NITI Aayog constitutes Expert Task Force to provide major thrust to job creation

NITI Aayog constituted an Expert Task Force to provide a major thrust to job creation by enhancing India's exports. It will be headed by NITI Aayog Vice Chairman Dr Rajiv Kumar.

The task force has outlined many steps to address the challenge of creating well-paid, formal sector jobs. These include, proposing a comprehensive plan of action to generate employment and alleviate under-employment in both goods and services sectors and low wages by boosting India's exports in key labour-intensive industries.



3. Expert committee formed to identify key data protection issues in the country

The Centre has formed an expert committee under the Chairmanship of former apex court judge Justice BN Srikrishna to identify key data protection issues in India and recommend methods to address them.

After the committee's report is submitted, there is a possibility that the law shall be passed regulating data protection.

The committee will study various issues and make specific suggestions for consideration of the government on the principles to be considered for data protection.



4. Joint Committee on the Financial Resolution and Deposit Insurance Bill, 2017

The Financial Resolution and Deposit Insurance Bill, 2017 has been referred to a Joint Parliamentary Committee of both the Houses, under the Chairpersonship of Shri Bhupender Yadav, M.P for examination and presenting a Report to the Parliament.

The Bill seeks to provide for the resolution of certain categories of financial service providers in distress; the deposit insurance to consumers of certain categories of financial services; designation of systemically important financial institutions; and establishment of a Resolution Corporation for protection of consumers of specified service providers and of public funds.



5. Government forms committee for 5G rollout by 2020

The Union Government has constituted a high level 5G India 2020 forum to lay down a roadmap for the rollout of 5G mobile networks in India by 2020.

The committee consists of high ranked officials of Ministry, renowned experts and CEOs from the IT Industry, professors from IITs and stakeholders from Industry associations.

The Centre has created a support fund of about ₹500 crore to facilitate research and development for 5G.



Deaths

1. TMC MP & former Central Minister Sultan Ahmed passed away

Trinamool Congress Member of Parliament and former Central Minister Sultan Ahmed passed away in Kolkata at the age of 64 years following a cardiac arrest.

Ahmed had served as the Union Minister of State for Tourism in the UPA regime. He was Member of Parliament from Uluberia constituency.

He was also elected to West Bengal Assembly twice.



2. Pulitzer-Prize winning Poet John Ashbery passed away

John Ashbery, winner of the Pulitzer Prize, passed away at the age of 90 years. His 1975 collection, "Self-Portrait in a Convex Mirror," was the rare winner of the book world's unofficial Triple Crown: the Pulitzer Prize, the National Book Award and the National Book Critics Circle prize.

John received a National Humanities Medal in 2011. He was a teacher for many years, including at Brooklyn College, Harvard University and Bard College.



3. Arunachal Pradesh Health Minister Jonde Kena, passed away

Arunachal Pradesh health and family welfare minister Jomde Kena passed away at the age of 52 years.

Kena was first elected to the legislative assembly in 2004 and re-elected to the House in 2009 and 2014. He represented Likabali constituency.

Mr. Kena was elected as the deputy speaker during the Nabam Tuki government and served as a parliamentary secretary under the Dorjee Khandu and Jarbom Gamlin ministries.



4. LGBT activist Edith Windsor passed away

The gay-rights activist, Edith Windsor, passed away at the age of 88 years. Her 2013 Supreme Court win paved the way for same-sex marriage and led to grant same-sex married couples federal recognition for the first time and rights to a host of federal benefits.

Windsor earned a master's degree in applied mathematics from New York University. She was hired by I.B.M. as a computer programmer in 1958.



Windsor is survived by her second wife Judith Kasen-Windsor.

5. Eminent Jurist P. P. Rao passed away

Eminent jurist P.P. Rao passed away at the age of 84 years. He was a senior Supreme Court lawyer and was considered one of the foremost Constitutional law experts in the country.

He started his career teaching law in the University of Delhi. Mr Rao was enrolled as an advocate by the Bar Council of Delhi in 1967.

He was honoured with the Padma Bhushan. He was named as a member of the selection committee for the Lokpal in 2014 by the UPA government.



6. Marshal of IAF Arjan Singh passed away in New Delhi

Marshal of Indian Air Force Arjan Singh passed away in New Delhi at the age of 98, following cardiac attack. He was the only officer of the Indian Air Force who was promoted to five-star rank as Marshal. He has served as Chief of the Air Staff from 1964 to 1969 and led the force in 1965 war. Indian Air Force named its Panagarh (West Bengal) air base after Arjan Singh on his 97th birth anniversary, in 2016.

He served as the Ambassador to Switzerland and Vatican. He was awarded the Padma Vibhushan as well.



7. The Oldest Person in the world, Jamaica's Violet Mosse-Brown died at 117

Jamaica's Violet Mosse-Brown died at the age of 117. She was honoured with the title 'World's oldest person' in April 2017, when Italy's Emma Morano died. She was born on March 10, 1900.

After Violet Mosse-Brown's death, Japan's Nabi Tajima is oldest surviving person, born on Aug 4, 1900.

It was also recorded by Guinness World Book of Records that among the less than 10 persons in history who have reached age 117, Ms. Brown was probably among the two in best condition.



8. 'Father of Nephrology in India' Dr KS Chugh passed away

Dr. KS Chugh, the "father of Nephrology in India", passed away at the age of 85 years due to blood cancer.

Dr. Chugh was emeritus professor and former head of department of nephrology at the Postgraduate Institute of Medical Education and Research (PGIMER), Chandigarh.

He was awarded the Padma Shri, the fourth-highest civilian award, in 2000. The International Society of Nephrology had included him amongst 50 legends in nephrology.



9. Bollywood actor Shakila passed away

Bollywood actor Shakila passed away at the age of 82 years. She is remembered for her songs Baar Baar Dekho and Babuji Dheere Chalna among others.

Shakila was best known for her roles in 'Aar Par' and 'CID'. She was last seen in 1963 film 'Ustadon Ke Ustad'. She also starred with Shammi Kapoor in Shakti Samanta's hit China Town.

She also featured opposite Raj Kapoor in the 1960 social drama Shriman Satyawadi.



10. Legendary Raging Bull Boxer, Jake LaMotta, passed away

Former middleweight champion Jake LaMotta passed away at the age of 95 years. The legendary boxer was portrayed by Robert De Niro in the 1980 film "Raging Bull". He held the middleweight championship from 1949 to 1951.

LaMotta was inducted into the International Boxing Hall of Fame in 1990. He best known for a brutal six-fight rivalry with Sugar Ray Robinson. He held a record of 83 victories, 30 of them knockouts, against 19 defeats.



11. Eminent Actor, Director & Writer Abdul Majid passed away

Eminent actor, director and writer Abdul Majid passed away in Guwahati at the age of 86 years.

In 1975, Mr. Majid had directed an award-winning movie Chameli Memsaab. Over the years, he acted in several movies, TV serials and Theatre. He was awarded the 'Bishnu Prasad Rabha' award by the Assam Government.

He was felicitated by the Assam Sahitya Sabha and the Sadin-Pratidin group had conferred 'Lifetime Achievement' award to the actor in 2015.



12. Veteran Marathi Writer & Journalist Arun Sadhu passed away

Veteran Marathi writer and journalist Arun Sadhu passed away in Mumbai at the age of 75 years. He is known for his work Mumbai Dinank, Kakasaheb Gadgil, Simhasan and many more novels in Hindi, English and Marathi, has also won the Sahitya Academy award.

Sadhu has written on rise of Shiv Sena, Vietnam War and Chinese revolution. He has also written several short stories. As a journalist, he has won several awards including Bharatiya Bhasha Parishad, NC Kelkar and Acharya Atre award.



13. Former 'heaviest woman' Eman Ahmed Abd El Aty passed away

Eman Ahmed Abd El Aty, once believed to be the world's heaviest woman, passed away at the age of 37 years. She had lost more than 300kg (660lb) of her 500kg after a bariatric weight loss surgery done in India.

Ms Ahmed had a rare thyroid condition, which drastically affected her metabolism. She was being treated in Burjee Hospital at Abu Dhabi since May.

Ms. Ahmed weighed about 5kgs when she was born and started to put on weight by the age of 11.



14. Congress veteran Makhan Lal Fotedar passed away

Veteran Congress leader, Makhan Lal Fotedar, passed away at the age of 85 years. He was known as the Chanakya of Indian politics.

Mr. Fotedar was the political secretary to Indira Gandhi as well as Rajiv Gandhi. He was a former member of the Jammu and Kashmir assembly and represented the Pahalgam constituency from 1967 to 1977. He was a two-time Rajya Sabha member and a former union minister. He also was a member of the powerful Congress Working Committee (CW). Fotedar also authored a book called 'The Chinar Leaves'.



15. Playboy Founder Hugh Hefner passed away

Hugh Hefner, the founder of Playboy magazine, passed away at the age of 91 years. He founded the sexually explicit men's lifestyle magazine in 1953.

Hefner served in the US army in the Second World War. The first issue of the magazine sold more than 50,000 copies. The magazine featured nude images of famous women, as well as emerging models, actors and singers.

Currently, the magazine is published in more than 20 countries, with Playboy Enterprises claiming over \$1bn in annual sales from its trademarked assets.



Defence

1. SAAB, Adani join hands for defence manufacturing

Swedish defence giant SAAB and Indian conglomerate Adani group have announced a collaboration in defence manufacturing entailing billions of dollars of investment, mainly eyeing a contract for single-engine fighter jets for the Indian Air Force.

The partnership is aimed at producing single engine fighter jets and other defence products for India under the country's recently unveiled strategic partnership model. SAAB plans to set up a world-class design and manufacturing facility for Gripen jets in India and it would like to export the aircraft to various markets globally if the Indian government allows it to do so.



2. ICG Ship Varuna handed over to Sri Lanka Coast Guard at Kochi

Varuna, formerly an Indian Coast Guard Ship was formally handed over to Sri Lanka Coast Guard at Kochi.

The ship was decommissioned in Aug 23, 2017 and was part of India Coast Guard for the last thirty years. Initially the ship was operated from the base port Mumbai and then re-based to Kochi.

It was also part of a number of successful missions. The Sri Lanka Coast Guard has named it SLCG-60.



3. Indo-Lanka Joint Naval Exercise SLINEX 2017

The seventh edition of India-Sri Lanka joint maritime naval exercise with the Indian navy, SLINEX 2017, was held near Vishakhapatnam from 7th to 14th September.

Sri Lanka Navy's offshore patrol vessels, SLNS Sayura and Sagara joined at Port of Visakhapatnam to participate in the joint maritime naval exercise. A complement of 368 Sri Lanka Navy personnel comprising 43 naval officers and 60 mid-shipmen took part in the exercise. SLINEX 2017 focussed on fleet work, seamanship, communication, replenishment at sea as well as helicopter operations. SLINEX is biennial bilateral maritime exercise.



4. India-Nepal joint military exercise, Surya Kiran

The 12th edition of Nepal-India joint military exercise 'Surya Kiran' was conducted in Rupandehi district of Nepal. This is a battalion level joint exercise between the two armies. Around 300 troops of both countries participated in this exercise. The exercise focused on counter-terror operations in mountainous terrain by facilitating interoperability.



The Surya Kiran series of Exercises are being conducted annually, alternatively in Nepal and India. The Surya Kiran is the largest joint exercise in terms of troop participation.

5. India and Japan agree to collaborate in defence production

India and Japan have agreed to collaborate closely in defence production, including on dual-use technologies. The two countries resolved to ramp up overall military engagement under the bilateral special strategic framework. The two sides also agreed to commence technical discussions for research collaboration in the areas of Unmanned Ground Vehicles and Robotics.



The two sides also agreed to ramp up counter-terror cooperation, besides deepening engagement among navies, air forces and ground forces of the two countries.

6. India and the US conducted joint military exercise 'YUDH ABHYAS 2017'

A joint military training exercise Yudh Abhyas - 2017 was conducted at Joint Base Lewis McChord, which is in Washington, USA. The exercise is one of the largest joint running military training and defence corporation endeavours between India and USA. This will be the 13th edition of the joint exercise hosted alternately between the two countries.



Yudh Abhyas provided an opportunity to the armed forces of both countries to train in an integrated manner at Battalion level with joint planning at Brigade level and learn from each-other's experiences of planning and execution of operations.

7. Indian Army to induct women in military police

The Indian Army will induct 800 women in the military police, with a yearly intake of 52 personnel per year, with a yearly intake of 52 personnel per year. Currently, women are allowed only in select areas such as medical, legal, educational, signals and engineering wings of the Army.

The women will be inducted as junior commissioned officers and jawans. They would help investigate gender-specific allegations and crime. The armed forces account for around 3,500 women officers, all of whom are in non-combat roles.



8. ATGM Nag successfully flight tested twice by DRDO in Rajasthan

India has indigenously developed a 3rd generation Anti-Tank Guided Missile (ATGM) called as Nag, which has been successfully flight-tested twice by DRDO in Rajasthan.

The ATGM Nag missile has successfully hit both the targets under different ranges and conditions with very high accuracy. With these two successful trials and the test, which was conducted in June, the complete functionality of Nag ATGM along with the launcher system NAMICA has been established.



This also marked the successful completion of development trials of the Nag Missile.

9. Defence minister flagged off women's circumnavigation expedition

Defence Minister Nirmala Sitharaman flagged off the Navika Sagar Parikrama by an all-women crew of Indian Navy aboard Indian Naval Sailing Vessel (INSV) Tarini. INSV Tarini is skippered by Lieutenant Commander Vartika Joshi and the crew comprises Lieutenant Commanders Pratibha Jamwal, P. Swathi and Lieutenants S. Vijaya Devi, B. Aishwarya and Payal Gupta.



The expedition will be covered in five legs, with stopovers at Fremantle, Australia; Lyttleton, New Zealand; Port Stanley, Falklands; and Cape Town, South Africa. It is expected to be complete in around 160 days. The crew will collate meteorological, ocean and wave data for accurate forecast by the Indian Meteorological Department and subsequent research and analysis by research and development organisations.

10. India-Russia to conduct first tri-services military exercise, INDRA 2017

India and Russia will hold a major tri-Service 'Indra' combat exercise for first time in October 2017. The exercise will be held in Russia. It will include assets and work force from the Army, Navy and IAF.

Around 350 Indian Army personnel will participate at the mega exercise. This is for the first time both the countries will carry out a tri-services exercise. It also India's first tri-services exercise with a foreign country.

Russia has been a long-standing defence partner of India and both the countries are now eyeing to further deepen the ties.



11. DRDO announces development of indigenous Trawl system for clearing landmines

R&DE (Engrs), a premier system-engineering laboratory under Armament & Combat Engineering (ACE) cluster of Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has recently undertaken the design and development of Trawl System for the minefield area in the battle zone to meet the operational requirements of Indian Army.

Trawl System is employed for breaching of land mines and creating a vehicle safe lane. It is capable of breaching a variety of land mines including passive and active influence mines.



12. Development trials of Astra air-to-air missile successful

The final Development Flight Trials of Astra - Beyond Visual Range Air to Air Missile (BVRAAM) were successfully conducted over the Bay of Bengal, Off the Coast of Chandipur in Odisha. Seven trials were conducted against the Pilotless Target Aircrafts (PTA) successfully.

The missile has been designed to be capable of engaging high-speed targets at short range, up to 20 km in tail chase mode and long range, up to 80 km in head-on chase mode as per DRDO.



13. Indigenous Artillery Gun sets a new record in range

Defence Research and Development Organisation in union with the Bharat Forge Limited of Kalyani Group, Tata Power Strategic Engineering Division and Mahindra Defence Naval System, has developed indigenous artillery gun, Advanced Towed Artillery Gun System to set a new world record in range by hitting targets at a distance of 48 km.



This newly developed gun system has better mobility, better auxiliary power mode, 52 calibre towed artillery gun, more-advanced communication system and has registered the longest ever distance of 48.074 kms.

14. First Scorpene Submarine INS Kalvari Handed Over to Navy

INS Kalvari, the first of the six Scorpene-class submarines, being built in India as part of technology transfer from France, was delivered to the Navy. INS Kalvari is the first indigenously built submarine in 22 years. It has a range of 12,000 km. It is named after the dreaded Tiger Shark, a deadly deep-sea predator of the Indian Ocean.



These six Scorpene-class submarines are being built under Project-75 by the Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Ltd at a project cost of Rs. 23,652 crores. The other two Scorpenes are INS Khanderi and INS Karanj.

15. Indian Coast Guard's interceptor boat launched

A new interceptor boat (V-409) built by Bharathi Defence and Infrastructure Limited (BDIL) was launched to give a boost to coastal security.



The 28-metre long, V-409 interceptor boat has aluminium hull and fitted with new generation of Arneson Surface Drive (ASD), which is propelled by two powerful diesel engines of 1650 KW each.

The Rs. 18 crore vessel can operate in shallow waters. The vessel has the capability of attaining very high speed in a very short duration and can operate in shallow waters.

16. Indian Navy commissions Water Jet Fast Attack Craft

INS Tarasa, a Water Jet Fast Attack Craft was commissioned into the Indian Navy at the Naval Dockyard, Mumbai. INS Tarasa is the fourth and last of the follow-on Water Jet FAC's built by GRSE, Kolkata. The other three are INS Tarmugli, Tihayu and Tillanchang.



INS Tarasa is 50 m long and powered by three waterjets with a speed of over 35 knots. It is armed with a 30 mm main gun and a number of light, medium and heavy machine guns. It is ideal for missions like coastal surveillance, EEZ Patrol, law enforcement as well as non-military missions.

17. BDL signs contract for supply of Medium Range Surface-to-Air Missile to the Indian Army

Bharat Dynamics Limited (BDL) has signed contract with Research Centre Imarat (RCI) for supply of Medium Range Surface-to-Air Missiles to the Indian Army. The contract was signed for production, deliveries and product support of MRSAM system for the Indian Army.



Bharat Dynamics Limited (BDL) is one of India's manufacturer of ammunitions and missile systems. It was founded in 1970 in Hyderabad, Telangana. BDL is the nodal agency for the production of Missiles developed by India.

18. Indian Air Force signed a MoU with Jamia Millia Islamia University

Jamia Millia Islamia (JMI) University has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Indian Air Force (IAF) to provide vertical and academic mobility to its personnel and officers.



The MoU records mutual intent for academic collaboration between JMI and IAF for academic and technical advancement and progression of IAF personnel and officers. It would facilitate admission of defence personnel in second or third year Graduation/Post Graduation/Doctorate programme through the medium of distance learning.

19. Indo-US commenced joint exercise Yudh Abhyas 2017 at Washington

Exercise Yudh Abhyas - 2017, a joint military exercise between Indian and US armies commenced at Joint Base Lewis McChord, which is in Washington, USA. During the two-week long exercise, soldiers from both countries will have to show their tactical skills in counter insurgency and counter terrorist operations under a joint brigade headquarter.



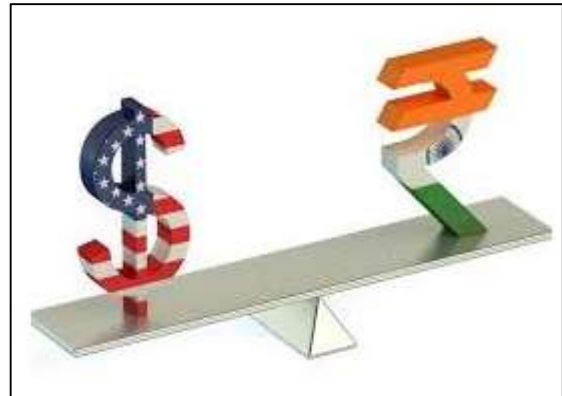
Both sides will jointly train, plan and execute a series of well-developed tactical drills for neutralization of likely threats that may be encountered in UN Peacekeeping Operations. Experts from both sides will hold detailed discussions to share their experience and expertise on varied operational topics.

Economic

1. Country's foreign exchange reserves reached a lifetime high of USD 394.55 Billion

The country's foreign exchange reserves swelled by USD 1.148 Billion to a new lifetime high of USD 394.55 billion for the week ended August 25 on the back of a healthy rise in core currency assets.

RBI data showed the foreign currency assets (FCAs), a major component of the overall reserves, increased by USD 1.142 Billion to USD 370.833 Billion for the week under review. Gold reserves remained unchanged at USD 19.943 Billion. The special drawing rights with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) increased by USD 2.3 Million to USD 1.499 Billion. The country's reserve position with the IMF also rose by USD 3.6 Million to USD 2.273 Billion.



2. Estimates of Gross Domestic Product for the First Quarter (April-June) of 2017-18

The Central Statistics Office (CSO) has released the estimates of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) for the first quarter (April-June) Q1, of 2017-18. It is as follows:

1. GDP at constant (2011-12) prices in Q1 of 2017-18 is estimated at Rs. 31.10 lakh crore, as against Rs. 29.42 lakh crore in Q1 of 2016-17, showing a growth rate of 5.7%.

2. GDP at current prices in Q1 of 2017-18 is estimated at Rs. 38.84 lakh crore, as against Rs. 35.55 lakh crore in Q1 of 2016-17, showing a growth rate of 9.3%.



(For Details: <http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=170409>, Dated: 31st August 2017)

3. GST Collections hit Rs 92,283 Crore in July

The Goods and Services Tax collections has exceeded the revenue target for the first month after taxes worth Rs 92,283 crore was collected in July from just 64.42% of the total taxpayer base. The collections so far are in excess of the finance ministry's internal estimate of Rs. 91,000 crores.



Around Rs. 14,894 crores have come in from the Central GST (CGST), Rs. 22,722 crores from State GST (SGST), Rs. 47,469 crores from Integrated GST (IGST) and Rs. 7,198 crores from compensation cess levied on demerit and luxury goods.

4. Growth of eight core sectors slips to 2.4% in July

The country's eight infrastructure sectors grew 2.4% in July this year. The infrastructure sector had expanded 3.1% in July 2016, and had grown 0.8% in June 2017. According to official data, coal production increased 0.7% in July this year, natural gas output grew 6.6%, steel production rose 9.2%, and electricity generation climbed 5.4%.



However, crude oil output decreased 0.5% in July, petroleum refinery output declined 2.7%, fertilizer production fell 0.3%, and cement production dropped 2% during the month.

5. Fiscal deficit touches 92.4% of budget estimates at July-end

The government's fiscal deficit at the end of July this year touched 92.4% of the budget estimate. This was mainly because of front loading of expenditure by government departments.



The fiscal deficit is the difference between the government's expenditure and revenue. The government aims to bring down the fiscal deficit to 3.2% of GDP in the current fiscal. The government's revenue receipts improved to 2.91 lakh crore rupees during the April to July 2017 period, which is 19.2% of the target for the whole year. Revenue expenditure widened to 131.2% of the budget estimate, from 93% in the corresponding period last year.

6. Punj Llyod JV won NHAI project in Myanmar

The National Highway Authority of India has awarded its first international project in Myanmar to a joint venture of Punj Llyod-Varaha.

Punj Llyod and Varaha Infrastructure Ltd has won the bid to construct the Yagyi-Kalewa road section in Myanmar at a cost of Rs 1,177 crore. The project will be based on engineering, procurement and construction (EPC) model.

The project is 120 km long and is to be completed within 36 months.



7. Indian Government allowed import of 3-lakh tonne sugar at 25% duty

The government allowed import of three lakh tonnes of raw sugar at concessional duty of 25% to augment domestic supplies ahead of the festive season. It had hiked import duty on sugar to 50% from 40% to curb dumping of the commodity in India as international prices fell.

Sugar production in the country is estimated to decline to around 21 million tonnes in 2016-17 from 25 MT in the previous year. The annual demand is 24 to 25 Million tonne. The government had previously allowed duty free import of five lakh tonnes of raw sugar to boost domestic supply.



8. Ashok Leyland entered into pact with Rosoboronexport, ELCOM

A MoU regarding supply of tracked vehicle solutions to the armed forces was signed between Hinduja Group Flagship Company Ashok Leyland and Rosoboronexport, Russia. Ashok Leyland will receive different range of military products and technologies. Rosoboronexport is expert in manufacturing of main battle tanks, infantry fighting vehicles with new technology.

MoU was inked at the International Military Technical Forum Army 2017 held at Kubinka near Moscow. It will address the tracked vehicle upgrade programs of the Indian Armed Forces and issues pertaining to availability of service and parts.



9. BSNL and US-based networking solutions provider Coriant scaled up to Chart 5G

In order to design a path for 5G and Internet of Things (IoT) in India, US-based networking solutions provider Coriant entered into an agreement with BSNL. Various issues were discussed such as network architectures and services leveraging 5G, IoT, Software Defined Networking/Network Functions Virtualization (SDN/NFV), and mobile edge computing technologies.



Since 5G is going to be next future, BSNL aims to keep a fast track development toward a 5G and IoT future and welcome these new technologies to India. Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited is an Indian state-owned telecommunications company headquartered in New Delhi.

10. India slapped countervailing duty for period of 5 years on some Chinese steel products

India has slapped countervailing duty (CVD) for a period of five years on certain Chinese flat steel products to guard domestic players from imports that are subsidised by the exporting nation. The government has prescribed 18.95% CVD on imports of Stainless steel flat products from China for the next five years.



The commerce ministry's investigation arm, Directorate General of Anti-Dumping and Allied Duties (DGAD) in its probe had concluded that despite sufficient demand in India and capacities, the domestic industry has lost sales opportunities, which is a direct consequence of subsidised imports from China.

11. Pradhan Mantri MUDRA Yojana generates 5.5 crore jobs

According to a report by SKOCH, the Pradhan Mantri MUDRA Yojana (PMMY), which provides access to institutional finance to small business units, has helped in creating 5.5 crore jobs. The industrialised states like Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Maharashtra have been the biggest beneficiaries of the PMMY.



Around Rs. 3.42 lakh crore loan has been disbursed to over eight crore people under the scheme, mostly small entrepreneurs. The MUDRA scheme was launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on April 8, 2015 with an objective to fund the unfunded.

12. Airtel Arm launched 'GST Advantage' for SMEs

Airtel Business has launched Airtel GST Advantage — a solution designed to enable small businesses and start-ups to file their GST returns “accurately, securely and seamlessly.” It has been launched in partnership with ClearTax. It is being offered free to all existing Airtel Business customers.

Customers can get free and secure access to the GST Network via Clear Tax, and all Airtel customers will have access to its newly launched GST Advantage Helpdesk between 8 am and 8 pm on all weekdays. Airtel Business is the B2B arm of telecom major Bharti Airtel.



13. Amazon opened India's largest fulfilment centre in Hyderabad

Amazon has opened its largest fulfilment centre in India at Hyderabad, near the Rajiv Gandhi International Airport, Shamshabad.

The 400,000 Sq. feet centre is the fifth such centre in Telangana. The centre has 2.1 million cubic feet of storage space. The total storage capacity of Amazon has reached to 3.2 million cubic feet in the State alone.

This new centre will help increase speed of delivery. It will help serve customers with one day and two-day delivery.



14. BPCL set to get Maharatna status

State-run oil marketing company, Bharat Petroleum Corporation (BPCL), is all set to become a Maharatna company. It is currently a Navratna firm.

A company is eligible for Maharatna status, if it is already a listed Navratna firm, has an average turnover, net worth and annual net profit after tax of at least Rs. 25,000 crores, Rs. 15,000 crores and Rs. 5,000 crores, respectively, in the last three years. Presently there are seven Maharatna companies – Bharat Heavy Electricals, Coal India, GAIL (India), Indian Oil Corporation, NTPC, Oil and Natural Gas Corporation and Steel Authority of India.



15. SC directs Jaypee associates to deposit Rs. 2000 crores by Oct 27 to protect interest of homebuyers

The Supreme Court revived the insolvency proceedings against real estate major Jaypee Infratech Ltd and gave its management control to the Interim Resolution Professional (IRP), appointed by the National Company Law Tribunal, with immediate effect.



The apex court restrained the Managing Director and Directors of the company from travelling abroad without its permission and asked its parent company, Jaypee Associates, to deposit 2000 crore rupees with the registry to safeguard the interest of the home buyers.

16. Direct tax revenue grows 17.5% to Rs. 2.24 lakh crores in Apr-Aug

Direct Tax Collections has shown a growth of 17.5% up to August 2017, standing at 2.24 lakh crore rupees, which is 17.5% higher than net collections for same period last year.



This collection is 22.9% of the total Budget Estimates of Direct Taxes for the Financial Year 2017-18.

The growth rate for Corporate Income Tax (CIT) during the period is 5%, while that for Personal Income Tax, it is 16%. However, after adjusting for refunds, the net growth in CIT collections is 18.1% while that in PIT collections, it is 16.5%.

17. BSNL mobile tower assets to be hived off into separate company

The Union Cabinet has given its approval for hiving off mobile tower assets of Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) into a separate company, fully owned by BSNL. It will help BSNL monetize its telecom tower infrastructure with the formation of a separate subsidiary company.



There are around 4,42,000 mobile towers in the country out of which more than 66,000 mobile tower are of BSNL. The Department of Telecommunications (DoT) policy allows sharing of passive infrastructure i.e. the tower structure, Diesel Generator sets, battery units, power interface unit, air-conditioning etc.

18. India's industrial production grows 1.2% in July

The country's industrial production grew 1.2% in July 2017. Industrial output had grown 4.5% in July 2016, and contracted 0.2% in June 2017.

According to data released by the Central Statistics Office, manufacturing output grew 0.1% in July, and electricity generation increased 6.5% during the month.

Capital goods output contracted 1% in July. Consumer durables output shrank 1.3%, but production of consumer non-durables rose 3.4% in July.



19. Retail inflation rises to a five-month high of 3.36% in August

Retail inflation rose to a five-month high of 3.36% in August 2017, due to some food items turning costlier. Consumer price index based inflation had stood at 2.36% in July 2017.

Overall food inflation in August reversed its deflationary trend, and rose to 1.52% in August. This has reduced the chances of another rate cut by the Reserve Bank of India, which has a central inflation target of 4%.

Last month, the RBI cut its main policy rate by 25 basis points to 6%, the lowest since 2010.



20. Government imposed anti-dumping duty on chemical from four countries

Government has imposed an anti-dumping duty of up to 60.35 dollar per tonne for five years on a chemical used in fertiliser industry imported from Russia, Indonesia, Georgia and Iran. The move will help guard domestic players from below-cost imports of ammonium nitrate.

The Finance Ministry imposed the duty after the Directorate General of Anti-dumping and Allied Duties (DGAD) in its finding concluded that the product has been exported to India from these countries below its normal value, resulting in dumping.



21. Bharti Airtel teams up with SK Telecom for 5G network

Bharti Airtel has joined hands with SK Telecom of South Korea as a part of a strategic partnership to build the most advanced telecom network in India. They will collaborate to evolve standards for 5G as well as advanced technologies like network functions virtualisation (NFV), software-defined networking (SDN) and Internet of Things (IoT).



SK Telecom is Korea's largest telecommunications company and has led the launch of CDMA (2G), WCDMA (3G) and LTE-A (4G) for the first time in the world.

22. 'Made in India' phones poised to touch 50 crore mark by 2019-20

'Made in India' phones have seen significant growth, with the number of such devices poised to touch the 50 crore mark by 2019-20.

Also, according to a report titled 'Indian Mobile Phone market: Emerging Opportunities for fulfilling India's Digital Economy Dream', released by Enixta, by 2020, almost 96% of mobile phones sold in India will be locally manufactured.



In 2016, two out of every three mobile phones sold in India were domestically produced.

23. Force Motors Tied Up With Rolls-Royce Power Systems

Force Motors has tied up with Rolls-Royce Power Systems in India to set up a joint venture for producing engines for railway application as well as power generation.

Force Motors will build a manufacturing facility as a part of the JV at a cost of about Rs 300 crore at its site in Chakan near Pune.

Rolls Royce Power Systems portfolio includes high-speed engines and propulsion systems for ships, power generation and defence vehicles.



24. India's exports rose to 10.29% in August

India's exports have recorded a double-digit growth of 10.29% during August 2017, mainly because of the rise in shipments of chemicals, petroleum and engineering products. According to the data released by the commerce ministry, India exported goods worth 23.81 billion US\$ against 21.59 billion dollars in 2016. Exports grew 8% in May and 4.39% in June.



The growth came even as exporters complained over the refund mechanism under GST, saying it is affecting outbound shipments. Imports also rose by 21.02% to 35.46 billion dollars from 29.3 billion dollars.

25. M&M joined hands with Ford

Mahindra Group signed a memorandum of understanding with Ford Motor Company to explore a strategic alliance, designed to leverage the benefits of Ford's global reach and expertise and Mahindra's scale in India and successful operating model. The areas of potential cooperation include:

- Mobility programs
- Connected vehicle projects
- Electrification
- Product development
- Sourcing and commercial efficiencies
- Distribution within India; improving Ford's reach within India
- Global emerging markets; improving Mahindra's reach outside of India.



26. Tata Steel and Thyssenkrupp sign MOU to create a leading European steel enterprise

Tata Steel Limited and Thyssenkrupp AG have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to create a leading European steel enterprise by combining the flat steel businesses of the two companies in Europe and the steel mill services of the Thyssenkrupp group.



The proposed 50:50 joint venture will be called Thyssenkrupp Tata Steel and would be focused on quality and technology leadership, and on the supply of premium and differentiated products to customers. It would be headquartered in Amsterdam, Netherlands.

27. India replaced China as the top Retail Destination in 2017

According to industry experts, India has replaced China as the top retail destination in 2017 as part of the global retail development index.



India's movement up the ladder was driven mainly by four factors including increased consumer spending beyond essentials, rising mobile and internet penetration, favourable foreign investment climate and bold action on cashless transaction and GST. Many international food and retail brands are expected to invest about \$300-500 million cumulatively to open roughly 2,500-3,000 stores.

28. Mineral Production during July 2017 (Provisional)

The index of mineral production of mining and quarrying sector for the month of July (new Series 2011-12=100) 2017 at 92.6, was 4.8% higher as compared to the level in the month of July 2016. The cumulative growth for the period April- July 2017-18 over the corresponding period of previous year has been (+) 2.1 percent.



The total value of mineral production (excluding atomic & minor minerals) in the country during July 2017 was Rs. 18037 crore. The contribution of Coal was the highest at Rs. 5924 crore (33%).

29. GST revenue collections in August at Rs 90,669 cr

Goods and Services Tax (GST) revenue collections in August stood at 90,669 crore rupees. Out of this, CGST revenue is Rs. 14,402 crore rupees, SGST Rs. 21,067 crore, IGST Rs. 47,377 crore and Compensation Cess is Rs. 7,823 crore rupees.

According to an official release, the figure, however, do not include the GST to be paid by 10.24 lakh assesseees, who have opted for the composition scheme. The Finance Ministry also released the revised data of GST collection for July which is to the tune of 94,063 crore rupees.



30. ADB lowers India growth outlook to 7% for 2017-18

Asian Development Bank, in its Asian Development Outlook, has downgraded India's growth projection to 7% for the current fiscal while lowering its forecast for the next financial year as well. In financial year 2018-19, the forecast is adjusted down to 7.4%, from 7.6%.

However, according to ADB, India continues its strong showing although demonetization and implementation of the new goods and services tax regime have dented consumer spending and business investment. These short-term disruptions are expected to dissipate allowing these initiatives to generate growth dividends over the medium term.



Environment

1. 'Prakriti Khoj'- An Environment Quiz on Teachers' Day

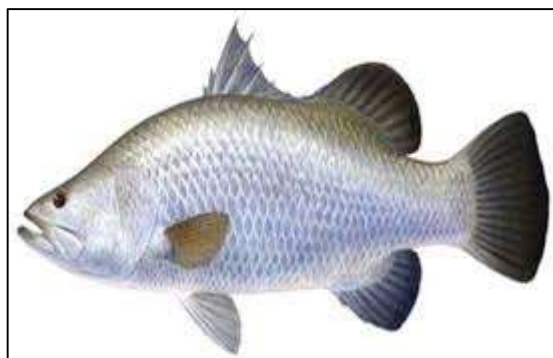
The Environment Ministry launched an environment awareness initiative, under which an online environmental quiz competition named "Prakriti Khoj" – an Environment Quiz to be conducted at the national level. The quiz was launched on September 5 on Teachers' Day.



The objective of the quiz is to generate interest among schoolchildren about the science related to environment. The mode of quiz will be online through multiple-choice questions. A separate web portal – 'www.ngc.nic.in' containing information on the quiz has been developed by Ministry.

2. New species of edible fish found in Kerala

A team of researchers has discovered a new species of edible freshwater fish while exploring the waters of the Pampa River in Pathanamthitta in Kerala. This new species is from the Labeo genus family and is named as *Labeo filiferus*. The fish could possibly be farmed on a commercial scale.



The new species were 20 to 40 cm long and weighed four to five kg. They are distinct from the other species of the genus in its features including black coloured body and fins, prominent barbels, smaller eyes, longer snout and elongated dorsal and anal fins.

3. Endangered species of mouse deer released into the jungle in Telangana

The Telangana State Forest Department has re-introduced the 'mouse deer' into the forests of Nallamalla in Amrabad Tiger Reserve. The mouse deer is an endangered species. It is also called as the 'spotted Chevrotain'.

Two males and six females were released into a specially made 'reintroduction' enclosure of over 2.14 hectares in the Mannunur range.

The Nehru Zoological Park in Hyderabad had collaborated with Laboratory for Conservation of Endangered Species (LaCONES) of Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology (CCMB) to take up conservation of mouse deer.



4. Long-Endangered Snow Leopard categorized to 'Vulnerable' Status

International Union for Conservation of Nature upgraded the status of Snow Leopard from an endangered species to 'vulnerable'. Nevertheless, the animals still face serious threats including poaching and loss of prey in their high Himalayan habitat. Snow leopards were categorized as endangered since 1972.

Since 3 years, a survey and an assessment concluded that numbers of snow leopards are not fewer than 2,500. The survey was carried out by researchers in an area covering some 1.8 million square kilometres across 12 countries in Asia.



5. World's smallest squirrel discovered in Indonesian forest

Indonesian scientists have discovered the world's smallest squirrel in Borneo rain forest of Indonesia. The squirrel has been named as Bornean pigmy squirrel or *exilisciurus exilis*. It was found in Meratus mountain of South Kalimantan province.

The squirrel has a size of 73 mm long with weight of about 17 gram. Its body fur is mainly olive brown, grading to orange brown on the back of the neck and on top of the head. Its tail is grizzled brown and orange brown and its underside is pinkish brown.



6. New species of Aquatic Snake discovered in the Western Ghats

Researchers have discovered a new species of non-venomous aquatic snake - Aquatic Rhabdops, from the north of Western Ghats in Maharashtra, Goa and northern Karnataka. The snake was earlier wrongly identified as the Olive Forest Snake, which is found in the Wayand district of Kerala.

The nocturnal snake hunts for prey underwater. The new species is named after its aquatic nature. The young ones and adults are different in color. The largest known specimen is 950mm in length.



1. ICEX launched World's First Diamond Futures Contracts

The Indian Commodity Exchange (ICEX) launched the world's first diamond futures contracts to provide exporters with a hedging tool. ICEX has launched 1-carat diamond futures contract for delivery in November and followed by contracts with monthly settlements. It has over 103 registered members.

India is a global diamond-polishing hub where 14 out of every 15 rough diamonds in the world are polished. The Managing Director (MD) and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of ICEX is Sanjit Prasad.



2. Axis Bank offers 12 EMIs off on 'affordable housing' loan bouquet

Axis Bank has announced the addition of a unique home loans to their already strong 'affordable housing' segment. Shubh Aarambh Home Loans will enable borrowers applying for loans up to Rs. 30 lakhs to avail additional benefit of 12 EMIs waiver.

The customer with regular repayment gets 12 EMIs waived – four EMIs each after 4th, 8th and 12th year from the date of first disbursement.

The effect of EMI waiver shall be given in the form of reduction in tenure.



3. Freyr Energy tied up with Axis Bank

Solar energy services company Freyr Energy has tied up with Axis Bank to offer term loans ranging from ₹5 lakh to ₹50 lakh for tenures up to five years. These will be given for solar rooftop installations in Telangana and Andhra Pradesh.

The loans will be given to MSMEs and self-employed individuals to install Freyr rooftop solar plants for industrial and commercial purposes.

Freyr has installed over 800 solar systems across 14 States in India and Ghana.



4. NTPC inked Rs 3,000-cr Term Loan Agreement with ICICI Bank

NTPC signed a term loan agreement for Rs.3000 Crore with ICICI Bank Ltd. The loan has a door-to-door tenure of 15 years and will be utilised to part finance the capital expenditure of NTPC.

NTPC commissioned 3,845-mw capacity and added 2,190 mw to its commercial capacity during 2016-17.

The installed capacity of the group is 51,671 mw as on 31 July and has over 28,000 mw of capacity under construction. The CMD of NTPC is Gurdeep Singh.



5. Ujjivan SFB Received Scheduled Bank Status from RBI

Ujjivan Small Finance Bank Limited has been included in the Second Schedule to the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934 and thus has attained the status of a Scheduled Bank. It has 65 full-fledged brick and mortar branches.

Ujjivan SFB had commenced its operations as a Small Finance Bank (SFB) from February 2017.

It is a wholly owned subsidiary of Ujjivan Financial Services Limited. The MD and CEO of Ujjivan SFB is Samit Ghosh.



6. Fincare Small Finance Bank commenced Banking Operations

Karnataka-based Fincare Small Finance Bank commenced its operations with about 25 operational branches across Gujarat, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh.

The bank had received final small finance bank (SFB) licence from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) in May 2017. The Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of the bank is Rajeev Yadav.



The bank had a loan portfolio of Rs. 1,314 crore at the end of March and 9 lakh clients.

7. Karnataka Bank bagged IDRBT Banking Technology Excellence Awards 2016-17

Karnataka Bank has bagged "Best Bank Award among Small Banks for use of Technology for Financial Inclusion" in the 13th IDRBT Banking Technology Excellence Awards 2016-17.

The Karnataka Bank Limited is a major banking institution based in the coastal city of Mangaluru in Karnataka. It currently has a network of 770 branches, 1380 ATM's and 110 e-lobbies/mini e-lobbies.

The tag line of the bank is "Your Family Bank across India". The MD & CEO is Shri Mahabaleshwara M. S.



8. RBI included HDFC Bank in 'too big to fail' List

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has designated HDFC Bank Ltd as Domestic Systemically Important Banks (D-SIBs). The 'too big to fail' lenders are referred to as D-SIB. RBI had classified State Bank of India and ICICI Bank Ltd as D-SIBs in August 2015.

The RBI has adopted a system by which banks are plotted into four buckets based on a lender's systemic importance scores in ascending order. The banking regulator prescribes higher capital requirements in terms of additional Common Equity Tier 1 (CET 1) capital for such entities. Banks with assets that exceed 2% of GDP will be considered part of this class of lenders.



9. RBI gives nod to DBS Bank to operate as wholly owned subsidiary in India

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has approved DBS Bank Ltd to offer banking services in India through the wholly owned subsidiary (WOS) model.

DBS became the second foreign bank to operate through the WOS model in India after State Bank of Mauritius. Foreign banks operating through a WOS will be treated at par with local banks and will be allowed to acquire private lenders in India. The model will also allow the banks to open branches more freely, subject to some regulations.



10. IRDAI approves IPO of Reliance General Insurance

Reliance General Insurance Co Ltd has received in-principle approval from the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) for its initial public offering (IPO).

RGI is a 100% subsidiary of Reliance Capital, which plans to dilute about 25% of its holding in the insurer. The valuation of the company is expected to be about Rs. 7,000 crore. The company's gross direct premium stood at Rs. 3,935 crore in the year ended March, 2017, while profit before tax stood at Rs. 130 crore.



11. RBI released 2017 list of Domestic Systemically Important Banks

In addition to the SBI and ICICI Bank, which continue to be identified as Domestic Systemically Important Banks (DSIBs), the Reserve Bank of India has also identified HDFC Bank as a D-SIB, under the same bucketing structure as last year.

The additional Common Equity Tier 1 (CET1) requirement for D-SIBs has already been phased-in from April 1, 2016. It will become fully effective from April 1, 2019. The additional CET1 requirement will be in addition to the capital conservation buffer. (For further details – https://rbi.org.in/Scripts/BS_PressReleaseDisplay.aspx?prid=41556)



12. Exide Life Insurance joined Punjab & Maharashtra Co-operative Bank

Exide Life Insurance announced a partnership with Punjab & Maharashtra Co-operative Bank Ltd (PMC Bank) to offer its protection and savings products to the customers of PMC bank. With this tie up, Exide Life Insurance consolidates its leadership in the co-operative bank segment.

In a span of 32 years, the Bank expanded its network to 127 branches across six states. Its wide network will facilitate greater brand awareness for Exide Life Insurance and the latter's stronghold in insurance portfolios will aid PMC Bank with higher customer engagement.



13. SEBI gave nod to SBI Life Insurance for launching IPO

SBI Life Insurance has been given approval from Securities and Exchange Board of India for an IPO (Initial Public Offering) of up to Rs 8,400 crore (\$1.3 billion). Nevertheless, the final nod for the launch period of the IPO is subjected to an approval from the Registrar of Companies. State Bank of India will sell off 8 crore shares and BNP Paribas Cardif will sell off 4 crore shares, because IPO will include 12% of the insurer's equity capital summing up to 120 million secondary shares.



SBI Life Insurance is a joint venture life insurance company between State Bank of India and BNP Paribas Cardif.

14. PNB and BSNL join hands to roll out open mobile wallet Speedpay

Punjab National Bank and state-run owned BSNL joined hands to roll out open mobile wallet Speedpay across 10 states in the country.

Under the agreement, BSNL will expand Speedpay services in Punjab, Chandigarh (UT), Haryana, Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, West Bengal, Jharkhand and Uttarakhand. PNB's Speedway wallet will operate like any other mobile wallet for paying bills; recharging phone besides its users will be able to deposit and withdraw money from authorised retail outlets. In addition, Speedway users will be able to operate Internet banking services from the application.



15. ICICI Lombard received SEBI approval for IPO

ICICI Lombard General Insurance Co Ltd has received approval from the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) for its initial public offering (IPO).

ICICI Lombard General Insurance Co. plans to raise Rs 6000 crore through the initial public offer. The general insurer has appointed Bank of America Merrill Lynch, ICICI Securities Ltd,

IIFL Holdings Ltd as lead merchant bankers. SEBI has approved proposals of IPOs from 24 different companies so far this year.



16. Bharat Financial Inclusion inked exclusivity agreement for merger with IndusInd Bank

Bharat Financial Inclusion signed an exclusivity contract with IndusInd bank for a possible merger of the two companies.

The agreement is considered to have been made for an all-stock deal. The swap ratio is likely to be set at 1.5 shares of Bharat Financial Inclusions for every one share of IndusInd bank.

The implied price is likely be set at 10-12% premium over the prevailing market price of Bharat Financial Inclusion. Bharat Financial has 1,408 branches and a loan book of Rs. 10,971 crore.



17. SEBI Advisory Committee to discuss Trading Hours Extension

The Secondary Market Advisory Committee set up by the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) is likely to discuss a proposal for extending stock market trading hours.

The stock market in India currently opens at 9 am and closes at 3.30 pm.

It is being planned to extend the trading hours up to 7.30 pm in order to align domestic trading with global markets. The 19-member committee is led by Jayanth R. Varma, who is a Professor at IIM Ahmedabad.



18. RBI to introduce Rs. 100 Coin to mark MG Ramachandrans birth centenary

The Reserve Bank of India, RBI, will introduce 100 rupees coin to mark the birth centenary of AIADMK founder Late Dr. M G Ramachandran.

The face of the coin will bear Lion Capital of Ashoka Pillar in the centre with Satyamev Jayate inscribed below on it in Devnagari script. It will also bear the rupee symbol and denominational value of 100.

On the reverse side, the portrait of Dr MG Ramachandran will be in the centre. The standard weight of the coin will be 35 grams.



19. Paytm Payments Bank collaborates with NPCI for RuPay digital card

Paytm Payments Bank (PPB) has collaborated with the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) to launch a RuPay-powered digital debit card.

Customers can use the debit card to transact at all merchants who accept credit and debit cards. It will provide a free insurance cover of up to Rs. 2 lakh in the case of death or permanent total disability. As a payments bank, PPB can take a demand deposit of up to Rs. 1 lakh per customer, but it cannot undertake lending activities.



20. ADB, IndusInd Bank Partner to Provide Up to \$200 Million for Women in Less Developed States of India

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has signed a loan of up to \$200 million with IndusInd Bank to provide finance to low income women borrowers in rural India. The 7-year senior loan will go toward IndusInd Bank's microfinance activities.

At least 95% of ADB's funding for the project will be used to provide credit to women borrowers, and at least 70% of the number of loans will be deployed in India's less developed states. A capacity building technical assistance of \$1 million is expected to be part of the package.



21. India's Forex Reserves surpassed historic \$400 billion for the first time

RBI data reported that India's foreign exchange reserves surpassed historical \$400 billion reserve for the first time. This has mainly happened due to huge inflows through foreign direct investments in projects and portfolio investment in the capital market.

In 2008, India reached \$300 billion mark and now after 9 years, reserves have reached \$400 billion.

This has also elevated India's ranking in the forex reserve to sixth position ahead of Taiwan, Brazil and euro zone.



22. FM launched Google's UPI-based digital payment service Tez

Finance Minister Arun Jaitley launched Google's Unified Payments Interface, UPI-based digital payment service Tez in New Delhi. Tez will help in turning compulsion for digitisation post-demonetisation into convenience.



Tez by Google and other service providers will make a major change in the digital payments landscape in India. Google Tez supports several local languages including Hindi, Bengali, Gujarati, Kannada, Marathi, Tamil and Telugu. It is an initiation towards 'Digital India'.

23. BrandZ Top 50 brands Report topped by HDFC Bank

WPP Plc and Kantar Millward Brown released top 50 brands of India, where HDFC Bank topped the list followed by Airtel at 2nd spot and State Bank of India at 3rd place. HDFC Bank retained the topmost position for the consecutive second year. According to research agency Kantar Millward Brown, HDFC bank improved its brand value from USD 9.4 Billion to USD 18 Billion since 2014.



According to report, India's brand values increased by 21%, financial services category increased its value by 26% and auto sector increased by 23%.

24. Amazon in union with Bank of Baroda to offer micro-loans to its clients

Indian arm of the US e-commerce player Amazon in union with Bank of Baroda will offer micro loans of up to Rs. 25 lakh to its marketplace sellers. The loans will be offered on invite-only basis at an annual interest rates varying between 10.45% and 30% for 3-5 days.



Bank of Baroda targets to involve 15 to 20% of Amazon sellers on this programme in the next one year. This deal will help Bank of Baroda in its PSL targets under SME category and help to meet specific needs of SMEs for e-commerce business.

25. Airtel Payments Bank to Integrate UPI digitally

Airtel Payments Bank became first payments bank in India to integrate the Unified Payments Interface (UPI) on its digital platform, to enable transactions on digital platforms. This will ease instant money transfers irrespective of the fact that merchants are in online or offline mode.



Airtel payments bank customers can easily link their bank accounts on BHIM app and make UPI payments or link their Airtel Payments Bank savings accounts to any of their UPI handles. Airtel Payments bank was the first in India to receive a payments bank license from the RBI.

26. SEBI permits Realty, Infra Trusts to issue Bonds

The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) permitted Infrastructure Investment Trusts (InvITs) and Real Estate investment Trusts (REITs) to raise capital by issuing bonds. Earlier, these trusts could only raise funds through equity. SEBI also allowed strategic investors to participate in REITs, in line with InvITs.



Real estate investments trusts are listed entities that primarily invest in leased office and retail properties, allowing developers to raise funds by selling completed buildings to investors.

27. World's Biggest Wealth Fund touched \$1 Trillion Value for first time

Norway's sovereign wealth fund, the largest in the world, officially hit the value of \$1 trillion for the first time. The fund is managed by Norwegian central bank, Norges Bank.

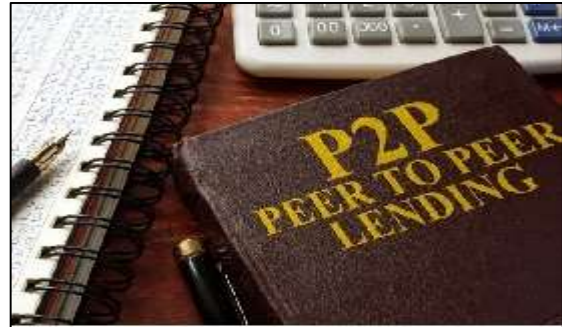


The fund was launched in 1990 to manage the Norwegian state's oil revenues. The growth in the value of the fund was mainly driven by the appreciation of the world's major currencies against the dollar and a good stock market health. It has stakes in nearly 9,000 companies with 1.3% of the world's market capitalisation and 2.3% in Europe.

28. Peer-to-peer lenders to be treated as NBFCs

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has said that peer-to-peer lenders (P2P) will be treated as non-banking financial companies (NBFCs). These P2P companies provide loan facilitation services through online platform.

The P2P companies provide a platform or market for borrowers and lenders. Lenders as well as the borrowers have to register to use the platform. The popular P2P lending platforms in India are LenDen Club, Faircent, Qbera, Lendbox, Rupaiya Exchange and Monexo.



29. FTSE SBI Bond Index Series launched

State Bank of India (SBI), in partnership with FTSE Russell, has launched a new index series at the London Stock Exchange called as FTSE SBI Bond Index series.

It aims to enable investors and market participants to track Indian bond movement.

The index will act as a key benchmark for Indian debt for foreign investors looking to invest in Indian debt market. FTSE Russell is a global data and analytics provider.



30. Masala Bonds to be treated as ECB: RBI

The Reserve Bank of India has relaxed norms for issuance of rupee-denominated overseas bonds, popularly known as masala bonds. The bonds, henceforth, would be treated as external commercial borrowings (ECBs).

It will help to free up more investments by foreign portfolio investors (FPIs).

The masala bonds will no longer form part of the limit for FPI investments in corporate bonds. FPI investment limit for corporate bonds will increase to Rs. 2,44,323 crore from January 1.



31. SBI launched Chatbot

State Bank of India (SBI) has launched a chatbot to handle queries on the bank's retail products from visitors to its website. The Artificial Intelligence-powered chat assistant was launched in association with Artificial intelligence (AI) banking platform Payjo.

The chat assistant, known as SBI Intelligent Assistant, or SIA, will help customers with everyday banking tasks just like a bank representative. The offering is to handle nearly 10,000 enquiries per second, or 864 million in a day — about 25% of the queries processed by Google every day.



32. IBBI registered National E-Governance Services Ltd as Information Utility

The Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI) registered National E-Governance Services Limited (NeSL) as an Information Utility (IU) under the IBBI (Information Utilities) Regulations, 2017. With this NeSL has become the first IU registered by the IBBI and the registration is valid for five years from the date of registration.

Information Utility stores financial information that helps to establish defaults as well as verify claims expeditiously and facilitates completion of transactions under the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code in a time bound manner.



33. P-notes investment hits over 7-year low of Rs 1.25 lakh crores

Investments in the domestic capital market through participatory notes, P-notes, hit a seven-and-a-half year low of 1.25 lakh crore rupees at August-end this year. This was because of stringent norms put in place by capital market regulator, SEBI.

Of the total investments in August, P-note holdings in equities stood at 88,911 crore rupees, while the rest were in debt and derivatives markets. P-notes are issued by registered foreign portfolio investors to overseas players who wish to invest in the Indian markets without registering themselves directly. Nevertheless, they do need to go through proper due diligence.



34. 700 new FPIs registered with SEBI in 1st 4 months of 2017-18

More than 700 new foreign portfolio investors (FPIs), registered with SEBI in the first four months of 2017-18. This follows nearly 3,500 new FPIs registering with SEBI in the previous financial year. The figures indicate that India remains an attractive destination.

According to data from capital market regulator, SEBI, the number of FPIs with the regulator's approval rose to 8,511 at the end of July 2017, from 7,807 at March-end.



Recently, Sebi raised FPIs' investment limit for government debt, permitted them to invest in unlisted corporate debt as well as securitized debt instruments and allowed direct entry to well-regulated foreign investors to invest in corporate bonds.

Important Days

1. National Nutrition Week observed between 1st to 7th September

The National Nutrition Week was observed throughout the country from 1st to 7th September. The theme of the National Nutrition Week for 2017 was "Optimal Infant & Young Child Feeding Practices: Better Child Health".

The basic objective of this annual event is to intensify awareness generation on the importance of nutrition for health, which has an impact on development, productivity, economic growth and ultimately National development.



2. National Teachers' Day

The National Teacher's Day is celebrated annually on 5th September to commemorate birthday of Dr Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan. The first Teachers' Day was celebrated in India in 1962. The day highlights the importance of teachers in our lives.

Dr Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan became the first Vice President of India in 1952 and then the nation's second President in 1962 until 1967. He was awarded India's highest civilian honour, the Bharat Ratna, in 1984 and the British Order of Merit in 1963. He remained a teacher throughout his life.



3. International Day of Charity

The International Day of Charity is observed annually on 5 September to raise awareness and provide a common platform for charity related activities all over the world to alleviate poverty worldwide.

The International Day of Charity was declared officially by the UN General Assembly in 2012. 5th September is the selected date as it commemorates the anniversary of the passing away of Mother Teresa who worked tirelessly to overcome poverty, distress and suffering of the poorest in the world.



4. Himalaya Day being observed across Uttarakhand

The Himalaya Day was observed across Uttarakhand. People from different occupations participated in awareness rally, seminars and took pledge to save Himalaya.

On this occasion, Chief Minister Trivendra Singh Rawat announced to set up two companies of eco task force for tree plantation and environment conservation in the state. Around 200 ex-servicemen will be enrolled to serve in these two eco task force companies. He appealed the environmentalists and scientists to work together for reviving the Rispana river of Dehradun.



5. National Hindi Divas observed on 14th September

National Hindi Diwas was celebrated all over India on 14th September. The day is observed annually to promote and propagate the Hindi language. Its importance is demonstrated by feasts, events, competitions and other services held on this day.

The event also serves as a patriotic reminder to Hindi-speaking populations of their common roots and unity.

Hindi is spoken as a mother tongue by around 258 million people and is known as the 4th largest language of the world.



6. International Day for preservation of Ozone Layer observed

The United Nations' (UN) International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer is celebrated annually on 16th September to commemorate the date of the signing of the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer in 1987.

The theme for this year was "Caring for all life under the sun". To celebrate the 30th anniversary of the Montreal Protocol, the Ozone Secretariat also launched a communication campaign ahead of World Ozone Day - the #OzoneHeroes.



7. International Day of Democracy observed

The United Nations' (UN) International Day of Democracy is observed annually on 15th September to raise public awareness about democracy. The theme for 2017 is "Democracy and Conflict prevention" which focuses on the critical need to strengthen democratic institutions to promote peace and stability.

The day was created by the UN General Assembly through a resolution in 2007 to strengthen national programmes devoted to the promotion and consolidation of democracy.



8. 23rd World Ozone Day observed nationwide on 16th September

Union Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Dr. Harsh Vardhan highlighted the importance of individual awareness and the strength of collective action in the implementation of Ozone Depleting Substances (ODS) phase-out programme in the country, at the celebrations of the 30th anniversary of the Montreal Protocol and 23rd World Ozone Day.

The theme was "Caring for all life under the Sun". Environment Ministry on the occasion launched the pan-India awareness campaign. The awareness campaign saw a participation of about 28 lakh students in more than 13,000 schools and reached out to 214 districts.



9. International Day of Peace

The International Day of Peace is observed annually all around the world on 21 September. The General Assembly has declared this as a day devoted to strengthening the ideals of peace, both within and among all nations and peoples.

The Day's theme for 2017 is "Together for Peace: Respect, Safety and Dignity for All."

The day is sometimes unofficially known as World Peace Day. To inaugurate the day, the United Nations Peace Bell is rung at UN Headquarters (in New York City).



10. International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear weapons 2017

The 26th September 2017 was observed as the International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons across the globe. The day is celebrated in voice of global nuclear disarmament as a high priority.

There are growing variations on the future of multilateral nuclear disarmament. There are at least 17,000 nuclear weapons in the world today.

The day also provides an opportunity to educate the public—and their leaders—about the real benefits of eliminating such weapons, and the social and economic costs of perpetuating them.



11. World Tourism Day

World Tourism Day is commemorated each year on 27 September. Its purpose is to foster awareness among the international community of the importance of tourism and its social, cultural, political and economic value. The theme for World Tourism Day 2017 is 'Sustainable Tourism – a Tool for Development'.

The United Nations General Assembly designated 2017 as the International Year of Sustainable Tourism for Development through its resolution A/RES/70/193.



12. World Rabies Day

The World Rabies Day is celebrated annually on 28 September to raise awareness about rabies prevention and to highlight progress in defeating this horrifying disease. This day (28 September) also marks the anniversary of Louis Pasteur's death, the French chemist and microbiologist, who developed the first rabies vaccine.

The theme for 2017 is Rabies: Zero by 30. The World Health Organization, World Organisation for Animal Health, UN Food and Agriculture Organization and GARC have agreed for a common goal of zero human deaths from canine rabies by 2030.



13. World Maritime Day

Every year, 29 September is celebrated as the World Maritime Day across the world. "Connecting Ships, Ports and People" has been selected as the World Maritime Day theme for 2017.

The theme was chosen to provide an opportunity to focus on the many diverse actors involved in the shipping and logistics areas.

The aim of the 2017 theme is to build on the World Maritime Day theme for 2016, "Shipping: indispensable to the world".



International

1. US President Trump names James Bridenstine to head NASA

US President Donald Trump has announced to appoint James Bridenstine, a former navy pilot and Republican congressional representative, to head the US space agency NASA.

The space agency is involved in all aspects of space exploration, as well as in Earth observation missions from space and in the development of new aerospace concepts.

NASA is currently developing a heavy launcher and capsule capable of taking astronauts to Mars in 2030 and beyond.



2. Donald Trump nominates Kenneth Juster as US ambassador to India

President Donald Trump announced to nominate Kenneth I Juster, a top economic aide and an expert on India, as the US Ambassador to India. Juster, who is the Deputy Assistant to the US President for International Economic Affairs and Deputy Director of his National Economic Council, would replace Richard Verma if nominated and confirmed by the Senate.

Juster has previously served as Under Secretary of Commerce from 2001-2005, Counsellor of the State Department from 1992-1993 and Deputy and senior Adviser to the Deputy Secretary of State from 1989-1992.



3. 9th BRICS Summit in China

The 9th annual BRICS summit (Sep 3-9) was held in Xiamen, China, the second time the China has hosted the summit after the 2011 summit.

The conference was attended by the heads of state of the five member states Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa.

The theme of the summit was "Stronger Partnership for brighter Future". At the end of summit, BRICS leaders adopted Xiamen declaration.



4. IAEA Opens Atomic Fuel Reserve in Kazakhstan

The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) decided to open a low enriched Uranium bank in Kazakhstan to ensure the supply of nuclear fuel in the event of disruption due to political or market problems.

The bank has been established at the Ulba metallurgical plant in northern Kazakhstan. The reserve, will store 90 tons of low-enriched uranium (LEU), the essential ingredient needed to make the fuel for light-water nuclear reactors, which generate electricity.



5. YouTube changed its Logo for the First Time

YouTube has changed its iconic logo and introduced some major design changes to its desktop and mobile apps.

The logo ditches the red colour inside the "Tube" part of the name and places the now familiar play icon to the left side of the YouTube name.

Google said the change allows the YouTube logo to work better "across a variety of devices, even on smallest of screens". The CEO of YouTube is Susan D. Wojcicki.



6. The 10th India-European Union Counter Terrorism Dialogue

The 10th India-European Union Counter Terrorism Dialogue was held at New Delhi.

During the Dialogue, both sides strongly condemned terrorism in all its forms and manifestations and underscored the need for deepening cooperation to combat terrorism in a long term, sustained and comprehensive manner. Both sides also agreed to identify relevant training programmes for capacity building of individuals on both sides working in the sphere of countering terrorism and violent extremism. The next India-European Union Counter Terrorism Dialogue will take place in Brussels in 2018.



7. Indian-origin Yuvaraj Pillay appointed as Interim President of Singapore

An Indian-origin veteran civil servant, Joseph Yuvaraj Pillay, was appointed as Singapore's interim President. He took over from Tony Tan Keng Yam who completed a six-year term.

Mr Pillay is the Chairman of the Council of Presidential Advisers (CPA). When the office of the President of Singapore is vacant, the first in line to exercise its powers is the CPA chairperson, followed by the Speaker of Parliament.

The nomination day for the Presidential election is September 13, followed by polling day on September 23.



8. Five banks of BRICS nations sign pact for credit lines

Five banks of the BRICS Bank Cooperation Mechanism have agreed to establish credit lines in the national currencies and cooperate on credit ratings. Brazilian Development Bank, Vnesheconom bank, Export-Import Bank of India, China Development Bank and Development Bank of South Africa signed the agreement in Beijing.

The agreement on credit ratings enables them to share information about internal credit ratings and rating assessment. Ahead of the BRICS summit, the New Development Bank (NDB) of the BRICS countries has approved 1.4 billion US dollar loans for sustainable development projects in India, Russia and China.



9. Iran tests homegrown air defence system

Iran has tested its homegrown air defence system, designed to match the Russian S-300. Bavar-373 system is made completely in Iran and some of its parts are different from the S-300. All of its sub-systems have been completed and its missile tests have been conducted.

Bavar (which means "belief") is Tehran's first long-range missile defence system, and is set to be operational by March 2018. In 2010, Iran began manufacturing Bavar-373 after the purchase of the S-300 from Russia was suspended due to international sanctions.



10. BRICS Summit adopted documents on cooperation in areas of Economy and Trade, Innovation and Customs

BRICS leaders signed four documents during the summit on Action Agenda on Economic and Trade Cooperation, which are – Innovation, Customs Cooperation and MOU with Development Bank on Strategic Cooperation.

The documents signed by the BRICS leaders are aimed at improving and broadening cooperation mechanism and promoting industrial and technical upgradation to enhance economic complementarities. The blocs also named Pakistan-based terror groups like Lashkar-e-Taiba and Jaish-e-Mohammad as terrorist organizations and called for a comprehensive approach to combat terrorism.



11. Documents signed in the presence of BRICS Leaders during BRICS Summit - 2017

The following documents were signed in the presence of BRICS leaders during the 9th BRICS Summit – 2017 held in Xiamen City of China:

- BRICS Action Agenda on Economic and Trade Cooperation
- BRICS Action Plan for Innovation Cooperation (2017-2020)
- Strategic Framework of BRICS Customs Cooperation
- Memorandum of Understanding between the BRICS Business Council and the New Development Bank on Strategic Cooperation



12. China to give \$80 Million Funding Plan for BRICS

Chinese President Xi Jinping announced 500 million yuan (\$76.4 million) for a BRICS economic and technology cooperation plan, and another \$4 million for projects at the BRICS countries' New Development Bank.

The Chinese President urged the BRICS countries to increase cooperation in sectors such as trade and investment, monetary and finance, and sustainable development. The heads of state from the BRICS group of emerging economies - Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa gathered in Xiamen to attend the BRICS Summit 2017.



13. Nepal inked UN Development Assistance Plan

Nepal has signed the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) for a \$635 million assistance package for 2018-2022 to lay out the country's development strategy for the next five years aimed at assisting in four broad areas:

- Inclusive economic growth
- Social development
- Resilience, climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction
- Governance, rule of law and human rights.



The package involves 26 individual UN agencies.

14. Kenneth I. Juster nominated as U.S Ambassador to India

The White House has nominated Kenneth I. Juster as the next U.S ambassador to India. The appointment will take effect once the U.S Senate confirms him. The post is vacant since January 20.

Prior to this, Juster is the Deputy Assistant to US President Donald Trump for International Economic Affairs and Deputy Director of his National Economic Council.

He would replace Richard Verma, if confirmed by the Senate.



15. North Korea claimed successful test of hydrogen bomb

North Korea claimed that it has again tested a hydrogen bomb underground that can be placed on an intercontinental ballistic missile. Geological agencies registered a manufactured quake in the northeast of the country.

Unlike the atomic bomb - the kind dropped on Japan by the US in the closing days of World War II - the hydrogen bomb can be 1,000 times more powerful. The hydrogen bomb, also called a thermonuclear bomb, uses fusion - or atomic nuclei coming together - to produce explosive energy.



16. Sushma Swaraj attended the 3rd Eastern Economic Forum in Russia

External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj participated in third Eastern Economic Forum (EEF) 2017 held in Vladivostok.

The forum deliberated on pressing issues relating to global trade. Delegates from at least 24 countries attended the forum.

The Eastern Economic Forum is considered as the biggest international communication platform for cooperation between businesses leaders and senior government representatives from Russia, the Pacific Region and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN).



17. China banned raising funds through Cryptocurrencies

China banned the practice of raising funds through cryptocurrencies. It also deemed the practice illegal. The regulators targeted the initial coin offerings (ICOs) — an industry worth hundreds of millions of dollars.

The regulator issued a statement to individuals and organizations who have completed ICO fundraisings to arrange to return funds. In total, \$2.32 billion has been raised through ICOs, with \$2.16 billion of that being raised since the start of 2017. UNESCO announces winners for Girls' and Women's Education Prize 2017



18. Donald Trump revokes Obama's amnesty program

US President Donald Trump scrapped the amnesty program of former President Barack Obama that granted work permits to immigrants who arrived in the country illegally as children. The program was known as DACA (Deferred Action for Children Arrival).

The decision is likely to affect 800,000 undocumented workers including more than 7,000 Indian-Americans. India ranks 11th among countries of origin for DACA students, according to the US Citizenship and Immigration Services statistics available till March 31, 2017.



22. China and Pakistan conduct Air Forces Joint Exercise

The air forces of China and Pakistan conducted a joint training exercise in China called as 'Shaheen VI'. The Shaheen series of exercises began in March 2011.

China deployed J-11 fighters, JH-7 fighter-bombers, KJ-200 AWACS aircraft and ground forces including surface-to-air missile and radar troops. The Chinese navy's aviation troops also participated in the training. The objective of the exercise was to build an excellent air force and improve capability to complete multiple tasks.



23. IAU named two Pluto Mountains after Tenzing Norgay and Edmund Hillary

The International Astronomical Union has announced that two mountain ranges on Pluto have been named after Tenzing Norgay and Edmund Hillary.

IAU is the internationally recognised authority for naming celestial bodies and their surface features.

The mountain ranges have been named as Tenzing Montes and Hillary Montes. Tenzing Norgay and Sir Edmund Hillary were the first to reach the summit of Mount Everest and return safely.



24. Jordan launched Shara Forest Project

The Sahara Forest Project Launch Station in Jordan was inaugurated on 7 September 2017 under the patronage of His Majesty King Abdullah II of Jordan and His Royal Highness Crown Prince Haakon of Norway.

The project is spread in a area of 3-hectar and located outside the Jordanian port city Aqaba. It is financially supported by the Norwegian government and the European Union as the two largest donors. The project uses sun, saltwater, desert areas and CO2 to produce food, freshwater and clean energy.



25. British Parliament passed EU Withdrawal Bill

The British Parliament has passed the EU Withdrawal Bill by 326 to 290 votes in a bid to extract the UK from EU law in time for Brexit.

The bill, which will end the supremacy of EU law in the UK, now moves onto its next Parliamentary stage. Previously referred to as the Great Repeal Bill, the EU Withdrawal Bill overturns the 1972 European Communities Act which took the UK into the then European Economic Community.



It will also convert all existing EU laws into UK law, to ensure there are no gaps in legislation on Brexit day.

26. Ruling Conservative Prime Minister Erna Solberg claim second term in Norway

Norway's Conservative Prime Minister Erna Solberg claimed a second term after claiming victory in the country's general election. Ms Solberg's ruling coalition with the Progress Party won 89 of 169 seats.



Ms. Solberg became the first centre-right leader in three decades to be re-elected Norway's prime minister. Solberg has won credit for the upturn of the country. Norway's economy has the cushion of a sovereign wealth fund worth almost \$1 trillion, the world's biggest.

27. UNSC unanimously adopted new sanctions against North Korea

The UN Security Council has voted unanimously to impose new sanctions on North Korea. The council imposed a ban on the country's textile exports and a ceiling on the country's imports of crude oil. The new sanctions were imposed over North Korea's nuclear and missile programme.



It was the ninth set of UN sanctions imposed on North Korea. This resolution reduced about 30% of oil provided to North Korea by cutting off over 55% of refined petroleum products going to North Korea.

28. London remains World's Top Financial Center

According to the latest Global Financial Centres Index published by Z/Yen and the China Development Institute, London retained its crown as the world's top financial centre. New York held on to second place followed by Hong Kong.



Mumbai has managed to get 60th rank in the list. Chinese financial Centres Shanghai is in sixth rank. This is the 22nd edition of Global Financial Centres Index. GFCI is updated twice a year in March and September.

29. Halimah Yacob became first female President of Singapore

Halimah Yacob became the first female President of Singapore and the first Malay head of state in 47 years.



Halimah was sworn in as country's eighth President. Yacob was certified by the Presidential Elections Commission as the only eligible candidate, and since she had no opponent, there was no election. This year's Presidential Election was reserved for Malay candidates. She meets the criteria set out for those in the public sector, having held office for at least three years as Speaker.

30. New Guinness World Record set in Germany for tallest sandcastle

A new Guinness World Record has been set in Germany for the tallest sandcastle, which measures a spectacular 16.68 metres and has broken the record held by celebrated Indian sand artist Sudarsan Pattnaik.



The enormous sandcastle is intricately decorated with images of tourist attractions from around the world, including Athens' Acropolis and the Leaning Tower of Pisa. Using approximately 3,500 tonnes of sand, it took a team of artists almost a month to complete.

31. Turkey inked deal to purchase Russian S-400 Missile Systems

Turkey has signed a deal with Russia to buy S-400 Missile Defence Systems. It is Turkey's first major arms purchase from Moscow. The deal has been valued at € 2.14bn. Turkey is a NATO member since 1952.

The S-400 Triumf has a range of 400km and can shoot down up to 80 targets simultaneously, aiming two missiles at each one. It can target aircraft, cruise missiles, medium-range missiles, drones and other airborne surveillance systems. It uses four missiles with different ranges from 400km to 40km.



32. Indian-American Raj Shah appointed as US President's spokesperson

US President Donald Trump has appointed Indian-American Raj Shah as the Deputy Assistant to the President and Principal Deputy Press Secretary. Mr Shah formerly served as Deputy Assistant to the President and Deputy Communications Director.

Hope Hicks will serve as Assistant to the President and Communications Director. Mercedes Schlapp will serve as Assistant to the President and Senior Advisor for Strategic Communications. Steven Cheung will serve as Special Assistant to the President and Director of Strategic Response.



33. Indo-Sri Lanka Hindi conference organized at Kelaniya University near Colombo

An Indo-Sri Lanka Hindi conference was organized at Kelaniya University near Colombo on eve of Hindi Divas celebrations. The theme of conference was 'Hindi E-learning: Identity and possibilities'. Kelaniya University is distinct as it has a full-fledged Hindi department, which offers courses ranging from degree to doctorate and research.

Hindi is quite popular among Sri Lankan youths and many of them are enrolled for special Hindi classes offered by Indian Cultural centre in Colombo.



34. Peter Thomson of Fiji appointed as Special Envoy for Ocean

United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres has appointed Peter Thomson of Fiji as his Special Envoy for the Ocean. He will lead the United Nations advocacy and public outreach efforts inside and outside of the United Nations system.

As a civil servant in the Government of Fiji, Mr Thomson devoted many years of his life to working in the fields of rural development and then foreign affairs. He was also a Permanent Representative of Fiji to the United Nations.



35. New plastic Jane Austen 10-pound note launched in Britain

In Britain, a new plastic 10-pound note featuring renowned author Jane Austen has gone into circulation. Austen is the first female writer to feature on a British banknote, replacing a paper 10-pound note, which featured a portrait of naturalist Charles Darwin.

The new 'tenner' is the first British banknote with a tactile feature involving a series of raised dots in the top left-hand corner to help blind and partially sighted users. The move coincides with the 200th anniversary of the author's death.



36. Former UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon elected as Chair of IOC Ethics Commission

Former United Nations secretary general Ban Ki-moon has been elected as Chair of the International Olympic Committee's ethics commission. Mr Ban replaces outgoing Chair Mr. Youssoupha Ndiaye (former President of the Constitutional Court of Senegal).

Mr. Ban was the eighth Secretary-General of the United Nations, from January 2007 to December 2016. The Commission includes four IOC Members, of whom one is a representative of the IOC Athletes' Commission, and five independent personalities, including the Chair.



37. External Affairs Minister attended UNGA Session in New York

External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj represented India at the annual UN General Assembly, UNGA session in New York, where she attended about 20 bilateral and trilateral meetings. She participated a high-level meeting regarding UN reforms, hosted by the US. India's stand on UN reforms was that UN reforms should be "broad-based" and the changes should not be restricted to its Secretariat only.



External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj discussed issues of climate change, terrorism, people centric migration and peacekeeping.

38. Russia and Iraq revived air relationship after 13-Year Freeze

Russia and Iraq resumed their air relationship after thirteen years freeze. Russia discontinued its airline services since 2004, after US-led invasion in 2003 plunged the Arab country into war. Russian nationals can safely visit Iraq.



Since the two countries were in discussions since 2014, which led to the conclusions that passengers will be able to travel twice a week, with flights to and from Baghdad operating on Wednesday, and flights to Basra on Sunday.

39. USA & UAE Joint Military Exercise named as Iron Union 5 held

A joint military exercise of US and UAE's ground forces, named as 'Iron Union 5' was held in Abu Dhabi. The exercise was conducted with an aim to update and make armies more strong. This will also enhance international co-operation in joint military operations. Military exercise will improve military expertise, exchange training, and improve skills according to the latest advanced military systems.



UAE has been already conducting series named as Iron Claw exercises, for expertise in training and military.

40. Mercedes Aroz Fernandez appointed as new Prime Minister of Peru

Former Economy Minister of Peru Mercedes Araoz Fernandez was appointed as new Prime Minister of Peru, by President of Peru, Pedro Pablo Kuczynski. She has experience of working as a Minister of Foreign Trade and Tourism.



Prior to this appointment, she was second Vice President of Peru. The position is vacant due to her incumbent as new Prime minister.

She has been an economist, a professor and a politician. She replaced Fernando Zavala as new Prime Minister of Peru.

41. The 13th Inter-Governmental Commission Meeting in Kazakhstan

The 13th meeting of the India-Kazakhstan Inter-Governmental Commission (IGC) was held at Astana, Kazakhstan from 19-20 September 2017. The Indian delegation was led by Union Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas & Skill Development & Entrepreneurship, Shri Dharmendra Pradhan.



The delegations discussed the possibilities of expanding cooperation in E&P of hydrocarbons and investments infrastructure projects in oil & gas sector. They explored possibility of expanding the International North-South Transport Corridor (INSTC) by linking it to the Kazakhstan-Turkmenistan-Iran rail link.

42. First US military base in Israel

The US Army has opened its first military base in Israel. The first permanent base of the American army was established at the School of Air Defence.



Israel has bought 50 F-35 stealth fighters from the United States. Israel has a sophisticated anti-missile defence system, including the Iron Dome, designed to shoot down short-range rockets.

Israel is continuously improving the technology behind its anti-missile systems.

43. India, Sri Lanka inked MoU to upgrade Thondaman Vocational Training Centre

India and Sri Lanka signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to upgrade Thondaman Vocational Training Centre at Hatton located in Nuwara Eliya district of the Island nation.

The upgradation of the center will be done using a grant of around nine crore rupees from the Government of India. The project includes construction of new infrastructure facilities as well as renovation of existing building. The project also includes supply of machinery, equipment & tools for the new courses, furniture and vehicles. Around 500 youth of Sri Lanka are going to be trained as skilled workers with suitable skills.



44. World Health Organization grants \$175,000 to Bangladesh

The World Health Organization has released the first tranche of emergency funding of \$175,000 to Bangladesh. World Health Organization, however, did not specifically mention the Rohingya refugees as the reason for the support. The WHO South-East Asia Regional Health Emergency Fund (SEARHEF) grant of \$175,000 will support 20 mobile medical teams to provide essential services for at least two months.



According to the WHO, the fund was given to provide lifesaving healthcare to the "vulnerable population" in Bangladesh's Cox Bazar. Over 410,000 Rohingya refugees have arrived in Cox's Bazar since August 25 after escaping Myanmar's military crackdown.

45. WTO upgrades forecast of world trade at 3.6% in 2017

The World Trade Organisation has raised the estimate for growth in World Merchandise Trade Volume in 2017 to 3.6% from the previous 2.4%. The stronger-than-expected growth is driven by Asia and North America, where import demand is recovering from weak results in 2016.



According to the estimates, the ratio of trade growth to GDP growth should rise to 1.3 in 2017. WTO also forecast moderation of trade growth in 2018 to around 3.2% (the full range of the estimate being from 1.4% to 4.4%).

46. China runs world's fastest commercial bullet train

China has launched the world's fastest commercially run bullet train after it restored the maximum speed of bullet trains on the Beijing-Shanghai high-speed railway line to 350 kilometres per hour. The speed of the train was reduced to 300 kilometres per hour following the deadly accident in July 2011 that killed 40 people. The Fuxing trains are capable of top speeds of 400 kilometres per hour.



China has laid more than 20,000 kilometres (12,400 miles) of high-speed rail, with a target of adding another 10,000 kilometres (6,214 miles) by 2020.

47. 50 countries sign UN Nuclear Ban Treaty

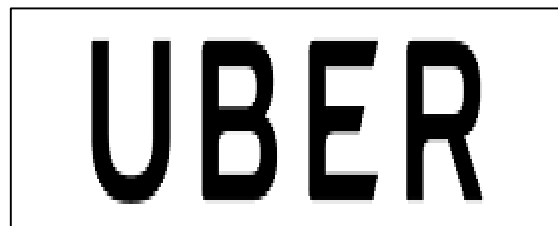
Fifty nations have inked a UN treaty to ban nuclear weapons. Indonesia, Ireland, Guyana, Thailand and the Vatican had put their names to the treaty. All nations who have ratified the treaty would be barred from developing, testing, producing, manufacturing, otherwise acquiring, possessing or stockpiling nuclear weapons "under any circumstances."



Brazil was the first country to sign onto the ban. The assembly was part of the Peace Wave 2017 campaign, in which citizens start a chain of movements from Japan in hopes of realizing a peaceful world free of nuclear weapons.

48. Uber lost its license to operate in London

Transport for London has stripped off the licence of Uber to operate in London. TfL rejected Uber's application to renew its licence was not being "fit and proper" private car hire operator. According to TfL, Uber's approach and conduct demonstrated a lack of corporate responsibility.



Uber is planning to appeal the decision in the court. Almost 3.5 million passengers and 40,000 drivers use the Uber app in London.

49. Angela Merkel won 4th term as Chancellor of Germany

Chancellor Angela Merkel won a fourth term in Germany's election. Merkel's Christian Democrat-led bloc took 32.5% to defeat Martin Schulz's Social Democrats who got 20% votes. The anti-Islam, anti-immigration Alternative for Germany (AfD) captured around 13 percent, catapulting it to become the country's third biggest political force.



Angela Dorothea Merkel has been the Chancellor of Germany since 2005. She has also been the leader of the centre-right Christian Democratic Union (CDU) since 2000.

50. The seventh ASEM Economic Minister's Meeting Held in South Korea

The seventh ASEM Economic Ministers' Meeting (EMM7) was held in Seoul, Korea. It was attended by economic and trade Ministers from 21 Asian countries and from 30 European countries. Theme for this year's meeting was 'Innovative Partnership for Inclusive Prosperity'.



The Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) is an exclusively Asian-European forum to enhance relations and various forms of cooperation between its partners. It was officially established on 1 March 1996 at the first summit in Bangkok, Thailand.

51. Pakistan and Russia hold joint military drill

The second edition of DRUZBA 2017 (Friendship-2017), a joint military exercise between Special Forces of Pakistan and Russia was held in Minralney Vody, Russia. The exercise focussed on counter-terrorism operations, hostage and rescue, cordon and search operation.



The exercise aimed to enhance and further strengthen military ties between the two countries and share Pakistan Army's experience in war against terrorism. Pakistan's army chief, Gen. Qamar Javed Bajwa is scheduled to visit Russia in October 2017.

52. 'Incredible India' Campaign Launched in Cairo

The Embassy of India in Egypt has organised a month-long "Incredible India!" campaign in Cairo to attract Egyptian travellers and make them aware of magnificent holiday options in the country.

The campaign was organised in coordination with the India Tourism Office in Dubai, the Cairo Governorate, and the Cairo Public Transport Authority. As a part of the campaign, 12 buses of transport authority will display various tourist destinations in India, including culture, festivals, monuments, landscape, wildlife, people and food.



53. Joao Lourenco becomes the new President of Angola in 38 years

Joao Lourenco has been sworn in as president of Angola that makes him the first new leader in 38 years. He will replace outgoing president Jose Eduardo dos Santos.

Dos Santos had been the President of the nation since 1979 after the death of Angola's first president, Agostinho Neto.

Angola is Africa's second-largest oil producer, behind Nigeria. It is ranked as one of the most corrupt countries in the world.



54. China operationalises stealth fighter J-20

China has announced commissioning the radar-evading J-20 stealth fighter jets into military service. The flight tests of J-20 jets are being conducted as scheduled.

The J-20 is China's fourth-generation medium and long-range fighter jet. It made its maiden flight in 2011. It was first shown to the public at the 11th Airshow China in Zhuhai, Guangdong Province in November 2016.

The US air force operates the F-22 Raptor, which is the Fifth Generation Stealth Air Superiority Fighter.



55. Twitter announced Test Project to expand tweets from 140 to 280 characters

Twitter has announced a test project allowing tweets to be expanded to 280 characters, double the existing limit. A "small group" of users will see the new limits before the new changes are rolled out for all.

Twitter reported its base of monthly active users at 328 million compared to social network leader Facebook, which has some two billion users, and Facebook-owned Instagram, with 800 million.



Twitter reported a net loss of \$116 million in the second quarter.

56. Legislation introduced in House of Representative to support India's Permanent Membership to UNSC

An Indian-American Democratic lawmaker along with another member of the US House of Representatives, have introduced a legislation to support India's permanent membership to the UN Security Council.

The legislation was introduced by Congressman Ami Bera and Congressman Frank Pallone. Bera is the Vice Ranking Member on the House Foreign Affairs Committee and longest serving Indian-American in Congress. The bill was introduced on the last day of the UN General Assembly session in New York.



Miscellaneous

- The Union Home Minister Shri Rajnath Singh inaugurated the YUVA – a skill development program, an initiative by Delhi Police under Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana.
- Canara HSBC Oriental Bank of Commerce Life Insurance Company (CHOICE) has come up with a 'Point-of-Sale' product- 'PoS - Easy Bima Plan', which is the first PoS product for the company and is a pure term insurance plan.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated highway and road projects worth Rs15,000 crore for Rajasthan.
- The Indian Olympic Association (IOA) formally awarded to Goa the rights to host the 36th National Games in 2018.
- Markets regulator SEBI has barred Orion Capital as well as Orion Broking and their partners from the securities markets for 10 years for failing to redress several investor grievances pertaining to non- settlement of funds due to the clients.
- Vice president Venkaiah Naidu laid the foundation stone for the country's first smart city. It is the country's first 'green-field' smart city.
- India has won second South Asian Basketball, SABA, under - 16 Championship after it defeated Bhutan by 131-50 in its last league match, which was held in Kathmandu, Nepal.
- The World Senior Badminton Championship was held at Kochi.
- According to Economic Affairs Secretary Subhash Chandra Garg, Industrial Production Index has returned to positive territory in July with 1.2% growth compared to -0.2% in June.
- In addition to Guwahati, Shillong airport in Umroi will be the hub for Regional Connectivity Scheme.
- Kochi hosted the fifth edition of the 'Coastal Shipping and Inland Water Transportation Business Summit 2017' to explore the immense potential of coastal shipping and waterways.
- Payment gateway provider, PayU, has tied up with Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) to provide an option to pay for rail tickets booked on the IRCTC website.
- Vijaya Bank has bagged the first prize under the Rajbhasha Kirti Puraskar (Region C) for the year 2016-17.
- Air India has launched its direct flight to the Danish capital Copenhagen from New Delhi describing it as connecting 'Maharaja with the Mermaid'. It is Air India's 44th international destination and 11th European non-stop destination.
- Cleanliness drive was launched across the country to mark PM's birthday as 'Seva Diwas'.
- Ola has tied up with the Karnataka State Tourism Development Corporation to promote responsible tourism, titled #GhoomoResponsibly.

- ICICI Bank announced a new home loan scheme that offers borrowers the benefit of 1% cashback on every EMI, for the entire tenure of the loan.
- India will host the South Asian Boxing Championship for the first time in Guwahati from December 6 to 10.
- IDBI Bank has launched 'Project Nishchay' in partnership with the Boston Consulting Group (BCG) to accelerate its turnaround program and improve financial performance.
- Saudi King Salman issued a decree to allow women to drive cars.
- A new underground water treatment plant has been commissioned at Sadhutilla in the southern part of Agartala in Tripura with a treatment capacity of 4.8 million litres per day.
- Purnima Hembram won India's first gold medal in women's pentathlon, in the fifth Asian Indoor and Martial Arts Games at Ashgabat, Turkmenistan.
- Hurricane Maria landed in Puerto Rico. According to the US National Hurricane Center (NHC), it arrived in Yabucoa in the east of the US territory, producing winds of 250 kilometre per hour.
- Fino Payments Bank has launched its mobile banking app called BPay.
- Asian champions G. Lakshmanan and P. U. Chitra won gold medals in the athletics events of the fifth Asian Indoor and Martial Arts Games in Ashgabat, Turkmenistan.
- Britain and Saudi Arabia signed a framework deal on military and security cooperation with an aim to counter Iran in the Gulf region and defeat Islamic State.
- Qatar signed an agreement to buy 24 Typhoon fighter jets from Britain.
- 190th Gunners Day celebrated across India on 28th September
- Regiment of Artillery, one of the largest Arms of the Indian Army celebrated 190th Gunners' Day on 28 September 2017. The Gunners' Day, also known as the "Raising Day" is celebrated to commemorate the raising of the first Indian Artillery Unit namely, five (Bombay) Mountain Battery on this day in 1827.
- The Regiment of Artillery has been part of all the wars that India has fought since its independence.
- India's Manav Thakkar and Manush Shah claimed gold in the doubles event of Slovenia Open Junior and Cadet Open Table Tennis championship after they defeated top-seeded Chinese Taipei pair of Feng I-Hsin and Tai Ming-Wei in the final.
- Indian wrestler Bajrang beat Daichi Takatani of Japan in the men's freestyle 65kg final to win the gold in the Asian Indoor and Martial Arts Games.
- Minister of Tribal Affairs Shri Jual Oram inaugurated the National Workshop organized by TRIFED on "Minimum Support Price (MSP) for Minor Forest Produces (MFP) scheme – Taking it to the next level for a Fair and Equitable Deal to the Tribals".
- Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu declared the year of 2017 as e-pragati year.

- President Ram Nath Kovind will make his first foreign trip as head of state to the strategically significant African continent in the first week of October. He will visit to Ethiopia and Djibouti.
- India, US and Afghanistan will hold a joint trade and investment show in Delhi for the first time.
- India is now at the top of both the Test and ODI rankings. The top three teams in ODI are India, South Africa, and Australia.
- Reigning Asian champion Govindan Lakshmanan of Services cruised to victory in the men's 5000-metre race on the opening day of the 57th National Open Athletics Championships at the Nehru Stadium in Chennai.

1. Cabinet approved MoU by the Election Commission of India with the Election Management Bodies of other countries/International Agencies

The Union Cabinet has approved the proposal of the Election Commission of India to enter into Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on cooperation in the field of electoral management and administration with the Election Management Bodies of other countries/International Agencies.

- The MOU's are as follows:
- The National Electoral Council of Ecuador;
- The Central Election Commission of Albania;
- The Election Commission of Bhutan;
- The Independent Election Commission of Afghanistan;
- The National Independent Electoral Commission of Guinea;
- The Union Election Commission of Myanmar; and
- The India International Institute of Democracy and Election Management (IIIDEM) and the International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (International IDEA).



2. Cabinet approved MoU with Myanmar for the Conservation of Earthquake-Damaged Pagodas at Bagan

The Union Cabinet has approved the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between India and Myanmar for the conservation of earthquake-damaged pagodas at Bagan, Myanmar.

Implementation of the project will further strengthen India's enduring ties in culture and religion with Myanmar. It will also generate immense goodwill for India among the people of Myanmar due to the religious significance as well as the touristic significance of the project.

It will also contribute to India's development partnership with Myanmar. Bagan is one of the premier tourist attractions of Myanmar.



3. Cabinet approved promulgation of the Goods and Services Tax (Compensation to States) Ordinance, 2017

The Union Cabinet has given its approval to the proposal of the Finance Ministry to promulgate an ordinance to amend suitably the Goods and Services Tax (Compensation to States) Act, 2017.



The approval would allow increasing the maximum rate at which the Compensation Cess can be levied from 15% to 25% on:

1. Motor vehicles for transport of not more than thirteen persons, including the driver [falling under sub-headings 870210, 8702 20, 8702 30 or 8702 90]; and
2. Motor vehicles falling under headings 8703.

4. Cabinet approved MoU on "India-Israel Industrial R&D and Technological Innovation Fund"

The Union Cabinet approved a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between India and Israel on "India-Israel Industrial R&D and Technological Innovation Fund (I4F)". The MoU was concluded in July 2017.



India and Israel will make a contribution of four million US Dollars each for the Fund, both equivalent amounts, annually for five years. The Innovation Fund will be governed by a joint Board, which will consist of four members from each country. The activities supported by the Joint Fund would increase the techno-economic collaboration between the two countries by investing in jointly developed technology projects and collaborations based on technological innovation.

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5. Cabinet approved MoU between India and Brazil for cooperation in the fields of Zebu Cattle Genomics and Assisted Reproductive Technologies

The Union Cabinet was apprised of Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed between India and Brazil for cooperation in the fields of Zebu Cattle Genomics and Assisted Reproductive Technologies. The MoU was signed in October 2016.



The MoU will promote development of Genomics and Assistant Reproductive Technologies (ARTs) in Cattle through joint activities to be implemented through mutually agreed procedures. The MoU would promote and facilitate scientific cooperation and setting up of genomic selection programme in Zebu Cattle through application of genomic in Zebu Cattle and their crosses and buffaloes.

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6. Cabinet apprised of jointly issuing of postage stamps between India and Canada

The Union Cabinet was informed that India and Canada have mutually agreed to issue a set of two Commemorative Postage Stamps on India-Canada: Joint Issue on the theme "Diwali". The joint stamps will be released on 21 September 2017.



A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) has already been signed between Department of Posts and Canada Post for this joint issue. The theme "Diwali" has been selected, as it is a cultural theme for both the countries, considering the large presence of Indian Diaspora in Canada.

7. CPWD goes digital with all Rs.20,000 crores payments per year now online

The Government's construction major, Central Public Works Department (CPWD) has undergone a major digital transformation enabling payments worth Rs.20,000 crores per year electronically. This has been done by networking all the 400 field offices of CPWD across the country through a special integrated portal ensuring digital payments from this month. With this, CPWD has become the first organization of a civil ministry to become digital at the field level.



Electronic Measurement Book (e-MB) has also been developed for CPWD that enables reporting of progress of works online as per the schedule of agreement with contractors based on which payments will be made.

8. CWC signed MoUs with NIT Calicut and NIT Rourkela to support capacity building in Dam Safety Areas

Central Water Commission (CWC) has signed MoUs with NIT Calicut and NIT Rourkela to support dam rehabilitation efforts of various implementing agencies and CWC.



Ministry of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation has taken on board selected premier academic and research institutes, for capacity building in the areas of dam safety through World Bank assisted Dam Rehabilitation and Improvement Project (DRIP). DRIP is assisting rehabilitation of 225 dams in seven States, which are experiencing different levels of distress.

9. Record production of horticulture crops in the country during 2016-17

The record production of horticulture crops in the country during 2016-17 is estimated to be around 300 million tonnes, which is 4.8% higher as compared to the previous year's i.e. 2015-16 estimates.



The area under horticulture crops has increased from 24.5 million ha to 25.1 million ha in 2016-17, recording an increase of 2.6% over previous year. Fruit production during the current year is estimated to be record 93.7 million tonnes, which is about 3.9% higher than the previous year. Production of vegetables is estimated to be record around 176 million tonnes, which is 4.2% higher than the previous year.

10. First Synergy Conference on Defence Pension

The Defence Accounts Department (DAD) organized its first Synergy Conference on Defence Pensions. The conference was attended by all Defence Pensioners Associations.



The objective of the conference was to obtain feedback from the pensioners that would help the department to serve them better with constantly improving systems and procedures. Digitization of pension data and implementation of a pension's app were also discussed in detail.

11. Swiss President Doris Leuthard visited India

The President of the Swiss Confederation, Mrs Doris Leuthard, was on a State Visit to India. The following Memoranda of Understanding were signed during the visit:



1. Memorandum of Understanding between the Ministry of Railways of the Republic of India and the Federal Department of the Environment, Transport, Energy and Communications of the Swiss Confederation on technical cooperation in the rail sector and
2. Memorandum of Understanding between Konkan Railway Cooperation Limited (KRCL) and the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Zürich (ETH Zürich).

12. Union Cabinet approved equivalence of posts in PSUs, banks, Insurance companies

The Union Cabinet has given its approval to the norms for establishing equivalence of posts in Government and posts in PSUs, PSBs etc. for claiming benefit of OBC reservations.

This will ensure that the children of those serving in lower categories in PSUs and other institutions can get the benefit of OBC reservations, on par with children of people serving in lower categories in Government.

The Union Cabinet also approved the increase in the present income criterion from Rs 6 lakhs to Rs. 8 lakh per annum.



13. Government issued alert on spread of 'Locky Ransomware'

The government has issued an alert on spread of new malware 'Locky Ransomware' that can lock computers and demand ransom for unlocking them.

Ransomware is a malicious software and the Locky Ransomware is learnt to be demanding ransom of half bitcoin, which at present rate is equivalent to over 1.5 lakh rupees. The alert stated that the computer users are advised to exercise caution while opening e-mails and organisations are advised to deploy anti-spam solutions and update spam block lists.



14. First batch of 1000 E-rickshaws 'SmartE' flagged off in Gurugram

Union Minister Nitin Gadkari flagged off a fleet of first batch of 1000 E-rickshaws from Huda City Centre metro station in Gurugram. The E-rickshaw fleet will provide cost effective and pollution free substitute in transport system of Gurugram and generate employment opportunities for marginalised youth.

The E-rickshaw fleet is being operated by Treasure Vase Ventures Private Limited in partnership of Delhi Metro, under the SmartE brand name. SmartE will provide the last mile transport connectivity in the area.

The E Rickshaws have been manufactured in India and are fitted with GPS and tracking system.



15. NITI Aayog launched National Nutrition Strategy

NITI Aayog has launched National Nutrition Strategy. It lays the roadmap for targeted action to address India's nutritional needs. NITI's national nutrition strategy calls for convergence between four proximate determinants of nutrition - food, health services, income and water.



The Nutrition Strategy framework envisages a Kuposhan Mukht Bharat - linked to Swachh Bharat and Swasth Bharat. The strategy enables states to make strategic choices, through decentralized planning and local innovation, with accountability for nutrition outcomes.

16. Union Health Ministry launched two new contraceptives - Antara and Chhaya

The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has launched two new contraceptives, an injectable contraceptive MPA under the 'Antara' programme and a contraceptive pill, 'Chhaya'. The 'Antara' injectable is effective for three months and the 'Chhaya' pill for one week.



The Ministry has also launched Mission Parivar Vikas, a central family planning initiative with the main objective of bringing down the Total Fertility Rate to 2.1 by the year 2025. The mission is being implemented in 146 high focus districts with the highest total fertility rates in the country.

17. India and Myanmar sign eleven MoUs in a range of sectors

India and Myanmar today signed 11 agreements in a range of sectors, including one on maritime security cooperation, to strengthen their multifaceted partnership further. The MoUs were signed after Prime Minister Narendra Modi held wide-ranging talks with Myanmar's State Counsellor Aung San Suu Kyi.



India and Myanmar signed a MoU to strengthen maritime security cooperation. The two sides also signed an agreement for sharing white shipping information to improve data sharing on non-classified merchant navy ships or cargo ships.

18. UJALA scheme launched in Melaka, Malaysia

Energy Efficiency Services Limited (EESL) has launched UJALA (Unnat Jyoti by Affordable Lighting for All) Scheme in the State of Melaka, Malaysia. The Scheme was launched by Chief Minister of Melaka Datuk Seri Utama Ir. Hj. Idris Bin Hj. Haron.

Under this scheme, each household in Melaka will get 10 high quality 9-watt LED bulbs at a cost of only RM 10, which is a special price and is almost half of what is being offered in the market.



19. Government sets up online service facility for importers, exporters to resolve all foreign trade-related issues

The government has set up an online service facility that can be used by importers and exporters to resolve all foreign trade-related issues. The Directorate General of Foreign Trade, which comes under Ministry of Commerce, has asked all exporters and importers to use the system - Contact@DGFT - for resolution of their matters.



Traders can raise all matters related to the directorate or other agencies of the Centre and States through this facility activated at the DGFT website. Contact@DGFT system has been activated as a single point contact for resolving all foreign trade-related issues.

20. CGWB enters into MoA with IIS Bangalore for development of ground water flow models

Central Ground Water Board (CGWB), Ministry of Water Resources, RD & GR has entered into a Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) with Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bangalore for 'Development of ground water flow models and preparation of aquifer management plans for parts of Karnataka'.



This mathematical model will render better understanding of existing groundwater scenarios and developing effective management plans incorporating different demand and supply side interventions. The study will cover an area of 48000 square km.

21. Nestle sets up first Food Safety Institute in India

Nestle India has set up India's first ever food safety institute in Manesar. Nestle Food Safety Institute will conduct training programmes, on Food Safety Management Systems, testing methods and regulatory standards.

Nestle is already running such institutes in China, Lausanne and Switzerland. The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) had banned Nestle India Ltd.'s Maggi instant noodles over health and safety worries two years ago.



22. Government extends FAME India Scheme by six-month

The Union government is planning to extend the Faster Adoption and Manufacturing of Hybrid and Electric Vehicles (FAME)-India scheme by another six months.

FAME promotes electric and hybrid vehicles. It is to be implemented over a period of 6 years, until 2020. It will focus on market development of hybrid/electric vehicles and its manufacturing eco-system. The Department of Heavy Industries had allocated Rs. 75 crores and Rs 122.90 crore for FY2016 and FY2017 respectively. It has benefited a total of 148,275 electric and hybrid vehicles (xEVs) from April 1, 2015 until June 30, 2017.



23. Festival 'North-East Calling' launched at India Gate

Minister for Development of North Eastern Region, DONER Dr Jitendra Singh inaugurated North East Festival 'North-East Calling' at India Gate in New Delhi.

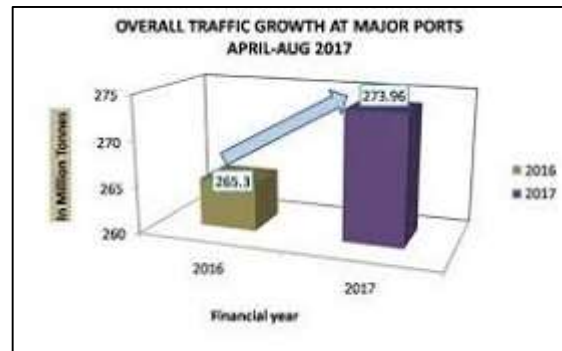
Dr. Singh launched three initiatives, North-East Venture Fund, North East Tourism Development Council and Science and Technology Intervention in North Eastern Region, STINER. He said, in last 3 years, the Centre gave its due to Northeast and connected it to rest of India.



He also said that the region has the potential to become a hub for Start-Ups.

24. Technology Advancement uplifts Productivity at India's Major Ports

Technological advancement for modernization of major ports and reforms for enhancing ease of doing business are driving and sustaining the growth trend line at India's major ports. The country's 12 major ports together handled 273.96 Million Tonnes of cargo between April to August 2017 as against 265.31 Million Tonnes handled during the corresponding period of previous year, an overall growth of 3.26%.



Seven Ports (Kolkata, Paradip, Chennai, Cochin, New Mangalore, Mumbai and JNPT) registered growth in traffic during the period April to August 2017.

25. Second Indian Workers' Resource Centre inaugurated in UAE

Indian Ambassador in UAE Navdeep Singh Suri inaugurated the second Indian Workers' Resource Centre (IWRC) in UAE to provide support and counselling to Indians in distress. IWRC provides counselling and support to the overseas Indian Community on legal, personal and financial matters, free of cost. The first IWRC was opened in Dubai in 2010.



Members of the Indian Community can call this centre from anywhere in UAE through a toll free number 800 INDIA or 80046342. The helpline will work 24x7 and will have multi lingual facility to help the Indian diaspora staying in UAE.

26. Belarus President on two-day visit to India

President of Belarus AG Lukashenko was on a two-day visit to India. Belarus and India are celebrating 25th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations.



The two sides discussed bilateral cooperation in defence and security, trade and investment, science and technology and people-to-people exchanges. They also exchanged views and assessments on regional and multilateral issues of mutual interest. A business forum and parallel meetings organized for the members of the large delegation accompanying President Lukashenko also explored business opportunities and cooperation avenues.

27. India and Afghanistan exchange four pacts

India and Afghanistan exchanged the following four pacts in areas of health, transport, space and new development partnership.

1. Motor Vehicles Agreement for the Regulation of Passenger, Personal and Cargo Vehicular Traffic.
2. MoU for mutual cooperation in the field of pharmaceutical products regulation between the National Medicine and healthcare Products Regulatory Authority of Afghanistan and the Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO), Directorate General of Health Services, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.
3. The Orbit Frequency Coordination Agreement between India and Afghanistan on South Asia Satellite (SAS).
4. Letters establishing the New Development Partnership and launching 116 High Impact Community Development Projects.



28. Airports Authority of India undertakes construction of Integrated Cargo Terminal at Imphal airport

Airports Authority of India will undertake construction of Integrated Cargo Terminal at Imphal Airport after obtaining grant-in-aid under Trade Infrastructure for Export Scheme (TIES) of Ministry of Commerce & Industry. The Government of Manipur had planned to establish an Export Import Cargo Terminal (EICT) at Tulihal, Imphal Airport under ASIDE Scheme of the Ministry of Commerce & Industry.



The estimated cost construction of the cargo terminal is Rs. 16.20 crores. Out of this, the Ministry of Commerce & Industry has sanctioned a grant of Rs. 12.96 crores under TIES. The balance amount to construct will be met out of internal sources of AAI.

29. SIM Cards not linked to Aadhaar to be deactivated after February 2018

In order to comply with an order passed by the Supreme Court, the government is planning to link Aadhaar with mobile SIM cards and all unlinked phones will be deactivated after February 2018.

According to the Supreme Court, all SIM cards have to be verified with Aadhaar within a year from the date of judgement. The court had also directed that biometrics cannot be stored by the mobile operators nor they have access to any of the other personal data.



30. Government to launch Project Insight

The Union Finance Ministry is planning to launch 'Project Insight' from October 2017, in a move to restrict black money holdings and transactions. It is an ambitious project of the income tax (I-T) department.

The I-T Department has signed a contract with L&T Infotech Ltd for its implementation. The project will be rolled out in three phases, with the first phase being implemented from May 2017. The aim of this project is to observe and check high value transactions, and track tax evaders with the help of technology to restrict black money holdings.



31. India and Belarus signed ten MoUs

Belarus President A G Lukashenko who arrived in India last night held extensive talks with Indian leaders this morning. After meeting PM Modi, India and Belarus signed 10 MOU's aimed at expanding bilateral ties and exploring joint development and manufacture of military platforms. The interaction between the two leaders has now led to the ramping up of bilateral engagement in various areas, including defence, trade and investment.

Belarus and India have already determined the philosophy of relations, now it is essential to develop the practical dimension, Belarus President Alexander Lukashenko said as he met with Indian Vice President Venkaiah Naidu as per reports from the Belarus Media.



32. Cabinet approved implementation of the scheme "Dairy Processing & Infrastructure Development Fund"

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs has approved a Dairy Processing & Infrastructure Development Fund" (DIDF) with an outlay of Rs 10,881 crore during the period from 2017-18 to 2028-29. Rs 8004 crore shall be loan from NABARD to NDDDB/NCDC, Rs. 2001 crore shall be end the borrowers contribution, Rs 12 crore would be jointly contributed by NDDDB/NCDC and Rs 864 crore shall be contributed by DADF towards interest subvention.

The project will be implemented by National Dairy Development Board (NDDDB) and National Dairy Development Cooperation (NCDC) directly through the End Borrowers. The end borrowers will get the loan @ 6.5% per annum. The period of repayment will be 10 years with initial two years moratorium.



33. Dr. Harsh Vardhan launched 'Wood is Good' campaign in New Delhi

Union Minister Dr Harsh Vardhan launched the 'Wood is Good' campaign in New Delhi. The government wants to increase the country's forest cover from 24% to 33% of the geographical area and create an additional carbon sink of 2.5 to 3 billion tons of CO2 equivalent in forests.



The Partnership for Land Use Science (Forest-Plus) is a joint programme by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC) to strengthen capacity for REDD (Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation) implementation in India.

34. Cabinet approves MoU between India and Morocco on cooperation in the field of health

The Union Cabinet approved the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between India and Morocco on cooperation in the field of health.

The MoU covers the following areas of cooperation:

- Non-communicable diseases, including child cardiovascular diseases and cancer;
- Drug Regulation and Pharmaceutical quality control.
- Communicable Diseases;
- Maternal, child and neonatal health;
- Hospital twinning for exchange of good practices;
- Training in administration and management of health services and Hospitals.
- Any other area of cooperation as may be mutually decided on.



35. Cabinet approves MoU between India and Armenia on Cooperation in the field of Disaster Management

The Union Cabinet approved signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between India and Armenia on Cooperation in the field of Disaster Management.

The MoU would enhance cooperation in the field of Disaster Management and contribute to the well-being and safety of the people of both the countries in the event of disaster.

It will also result in exchange of information in the relevant fields of disaster management, which is of mutual interest.



36. Cabinet apprised of MoU between India and Japan for collaborative research in the field of silkworm and silk industries

The Union Cabinet has been apprised of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between Central Silk Board (CSB), India and National Institute of Agro biological Sciences (NIAS), Japan for collaborative research in the field of silkworm and silk industries.

The MoU was signed on 11.11.2016 between CSB and NIAS for initiating a Collaborative Research for developing prolific bivoltine hybrids of silkworm suitable for the Indian tropical conditions. It would help in developing prolific hybrid silkworms, which would improve the manufacturing capacity and the quality standards of the Indian sericulture industry.



37. Cabinet approved introduction of the Payment of Gratuity (Amendment) Bill, 2017 in the Parliament

The Union Cabinet has given its approval for introduction of the Payment of Gratuity (Amendment) Bill, 2017 in the Parliament, which seeks to double tax-free gratuity for private sector and government employees to Rs. 20 lakh.

The Amendment will increase the maximum limit of gratuity of employees, in the private sector and in Public Sector Undertakings/ Autonomous Organizations under Government who are not covered under CCS (Pension) Rules, at par with Central Government employees. At present, the withdrawal is capped at Rs10 lakh and the rest is paid out after deduction of taxes.



38. Cabinet approved survey of Un-appraised Areas of Sedimentary Basins of India

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs gave its approval for a significant project to acquire 48,243 Line Kilometre (LKM) 2D seismic data for appraisal of Indian sedimentary basins where limited data is available.

The project will help in increasing the investments in domestic production of oil and gas. The project will be implemented by NOCs, i.e. Oil India Limited (OIL) and Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC). The total estimated cost of the entire project is Rs. 2932.99 crore spread over five years.



39. FSSAI launched online platform for food inspection and sampling

Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) has launched a nationwide online platform called as 'FoSCoRIS' to bring in transparency in food safety inspection and sampling.

'FoSCoRIS' is a web-based system. It will help verify compliance of food safety and hygiene standards by food businesses as per the government norms. It will bring together all key stakeholders— food businesses, food safety officers, designated officers and State Food Safety Commissioners.



40. India-Japan Annual Summit

Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe was in India on a two-day visit to attend the India-Japan annual summit meeting. During the summit, PM Narendra Modi and Japan's Shinzo Abe held strategic discussions on a wide range of issues under the Special Strategic and Global Partnership between the two countries.

They also decided to implement WTO's Trade Facilitation Agreement steadily. The 12th edition of the summit was held in Gandhinagar, Gujarat.



41. Government launched Hackathon to promote App Ideas

The Ministry for Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) launched a nation-wide hackathon #OpenGovDataHack with an aim to Support & Showcase potentially great Ideas/Talent from Inner India by reaching out in their own State/City (7 Cities).

The hackathon enables such great Ideas/Talent develop into Apps/Infographics primarily by use of Open Government Data around the themes of Drinking Water& Sanitation, Transport, Education, Crime and Health to a stage, after which it can be evaluated by jury and be selected for Prizes and future support/funding.



42. Foundation stone for India's first High Speed Rail project

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe jointly laid the foundation stone for India's first high speed rail project between Mumbai and Ahmedabad.

The train will have top speeds of 320-350 kms per hour. Twelve stations have been proposed: Mumbai, Thane, Virar, Boisar, Vapi, Bilimora, Surat, Bharuch, Vadodara, Anand, Ahmedabad and Sabarmati. The 508km-long Mumbai to Ahmedabad High Speed Rail (MAHSR) is a Rs. 1,10,000 crores project. The Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) will fund Rs 88,000 crore at a low rate of interest of 0.1% per annum.



43. MOU between the Ministry of Corporate Affairs and (CBDT) for Automatic and Regular Exchange of Information

The Ministry of Corporate Affairs and Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) have now concluded a formal Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for data exchange to curb the menace of shell companies, money laundering and black money in the country and prevent misuse of corporate structure by shell companies for various illegal purposes.

The MoU will facilitate the sharing of data and information between CBDT and MCA on an automatic and regular basis. It will enable sharing of specific information such as Permanent Account Number (PAN) data in respect of corporates, Income Tax returns (ITRs) of corporates etc.



44. Operation Insaaniyat: Humanitarian Assistance to Bangladesh

The Government of India has decided to assist Bangladesh by sending relief material at a time of crisis due to heavy influx of refugees from Myanmar. The government sent 55 Tons of relief material to Chittagong, Bangladesh with the help of the Indian Air Force aircraft C-17 Globemaster.

The relief material consisted of critical daily necessities viz., rice, pulses, sugar, salt, cooking oil, ready to eat meals, mosquito nets etc.



45. Agreements signed between Japan and India

The list of agreements signed between Japan and India are as follows:

- MoU in disaster risk reduction, to share experiences, knowledge and policies on disaster prevention.
- MoC in the field of Japanese Language Education in India between MEA and MOFA, Japan
- MoU to enhance connectivity and promote developmental projects in the North Eastern Region of India in an efficient and effective manner
- MoU for implementing the commercial arrangement of "Cool EMS" service between the Japan Post and India Post through which fresh food can be sent from Japan to India in cool boxes to facilitate for the Japanese expatriates in India
- India-Japan Investment Promotion Road map between DIPP and METI
- MOC between METI and the State of Gujarat on 'Japan-India special programme for Make In India' in Mandal Bechraj-Khoraj in Gujarat
- Exchange of RoD on Civil Aviation Cooperation (Open Sky)
- Agreement for International joint exchange programme between interdisciplinary theoretical and mathematical sciences programme (iTHEMS), RIKEN and National Centres for Biological Sciences (Simons-NCBS)
- MoU to conduct joint research and to establish an International Center named as "DBT-AIST International CENTER for Translational & Environmental Research (DAICENTER)" at AIST, Japan.
- MoU to promote research collaboration between DBT Research Institutes and AIST in the field of Life Science and Biotechnology



- MoU to facilitate and deepen international education cooperation and exchanges between Lakshmbai National Institute of Physical Education, India and Nippon Sport Science University, Japan
- MoU on International Academic and Sports Exchange between Sports Authority of India and Nippon Sports Science University, Japan (NSSU)
- LETTER OF INTENT between Lakshmbai National Institute of Physical Education (LNIPE) and University of Tsukuba, Japan
- LETTER OF INTENT between Sports Authority of India and University of Tsukuba, Japan
- MoU between RIS and IDE-JETRO for promotion of Cooperation in Research Related Activities

46. President launched 'Swachhata Hi Seva' campaign

The President Shri Ram Nath Kovind launched the nationwide jan aandolan, Swachhta Hi Seva, from Iswarigunj, a village in Kanpur district of Uttar Pradesh.

The objective of the campaign is to mobilise people between 15 September and 2 October, reigniting the "jan aandolan" for sanitation. The launch kicked off the nationwide campaign to mobilise people to do large-scale shramdaan. Union Ministers, MLAs, MPs, iconic celebrities of India, sports stars, inter-faith leaders, corporates, etc. have been appealed to join in this campaign towards swachhta.



47. HRD Minister announced Swacchata ranking of Higher Educational Institutions

Human Resources Development Minister Prakash Javadekar announced the Swacchata ranking of Higher Educational Institutions and presented awards to top rankers. Around 3500 institutions participated in the Swacchata ranking out of which best 25 institutions were selected in four categories - cleanliness standards, cleaning systems, waste disposal methods, greenery in the institute campus and campus accessibility.



The complete list of award recipients in the University category is:

- O.P. Jindal Global University, Sonapat, Haryana
- Manipal University, Jaipur, Rajasthan
- Chitkara University, Kalu Jhanda, Solan, Himachal Pradesh
- K.L.E. Academy of Higher Education and Research, Belgaum, Karnataka
- Dayalbagh Educational Institute, Agra, UP

48. Chennai-Vladivostok sea route: India's effort to counter China's OBOR

India is planning to create a major connectivity initiative — direct shipping link between Chennai and Vladivostok in Russia that will help connect India with Northeast Asia and Western Pacific region.

This shipping link would enable to transfer cargo between Chennai and Vladivostok in 24 days as compared to over 40 days currently taken to transport goods from India to Far East Russia via Europe. India was the first country to establish a resident Consulate in Vladivostok in 1992.



49. Rs.300 crore Plan for better solid waste management in Delhi

Union Minister of Housing & Urban Affairs, Hardeep Singh Puri, announced a Rs. 300 crores action plan for a visible improvement in Solid Waste Management in Delhi. It will be supported through the 'Urban Development Fund' operated by Delhi Development Authority.

North, South and East Municipal Corporation of Delhi will spend Rs. 100 crores each on procuring 549 units of modern equipment. An assistance of Rs. 80 crores will be provided to each MCD.



50. India signed 76 Million US Dollar loan deal with JICA to upgrade Alang-Sosiya Shipyards

The Government of India signed a loan deal worth \$76 million with Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), for a project to upgrade the environment management plan at Alang-Sosiya ship recycling yards. The total cost of the project will be \$ 111 million. \$25 million as taxes and fees will be borne by Government of Gujarat and the balance \$10 million will be shared by Ministry of Shipping & Government of Gujarat.



The project will be executed by Gujarat Maritime Board (GMB). It is likely to be completed by 2022. This project will help the Alang-Sosia ship-recycling yards to comply with international safety & environmental regulations.

51. PM Modi dedicated Sardar Sarovar Dam to the nation

Prime Minister Narendra Modi dedicated the Sardar Sarovar Dam at Kevadia in Narmada district of Gujarat to the nation. Over 18 lakh hectares of land in Gujarat will come under irrigation through the dam. The power generated will be shared among three states - Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra and Gujarat. The dam will irrigate 2.46 lakh hectares of land in Barmer and Jalore districts of Rajasthan.



Sardar Sarovar project is the biggest dam in terms of volume of concrete used in it. It is also the second biggest dam in the world after the Grand Coulee Dam in the United States.

52. Rajnath Singh launched intelligence wing of SSB, WARB App

Home Minister Rajnath Singh launched intelligence wing of Sashastra Seema Bal, SSB, and Welfare and Rehabilitation Board App, WARB in New Delhi. The paramilitary force guards India's borders with Bhutan and Nepal. The intelligence wing will gather actionable information.



The app WARB features to facilitate retire CAPFs and Assam Rifles personnel to get their grievances redressed, seek skill development and other relevant and important information. SSB officials will check authenticity of messages, which are being spread on the social media regarding security or intelligence alerts.

53. Government saved Rs. 65,000 crores through DBT

The government has saved 65 thousand crore rupees through Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) in various public schemes. DBT enables linking of Aadhar card to bank accounts and other subsidised services availed by citizens. Scores of welfare schemes have been linked to DBT, under which the money are transferred directly to the beneficiary's bank accounts.



It is being used to plug the loopholes in the system due to which the government incurred losses. Government has successfully opened 30 crore Jan Dhan bank accounts and 118 crore Aadhar numbers have been issued.

54. India and Japan inked Open Sky Airline Agreement

Open Sky Airline Agreement means where two countries agree to allow unlimited number of flights between the two countries airlines. India and Japan inked Open Sky Airline Agreement.



India had previously signed such agreement with Greece, Jamaica, Guyana, Czech Republic, Finland, Spain and Sri Lanka. India is allowed to do so under a pact mentioned in National Civil Aviation Policy, 2016, where India can enter in 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.

55. First ever National Conference on 'Mission Mode to address Under-Nutrition' held in New Delhi

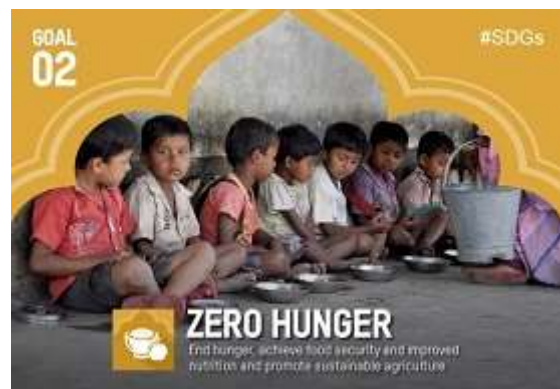
The first ever National Conference on "Mission Mode to address Under-Nutrition" was held in New Delhi. The conference was organized by the Ministry of Women & Child Development in collaboration with Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation and Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, keeping in mind the goal of "Malnutrition Free India-2022".



Union Minister Maneka Gandhi released a book "Forest Lanterns" containing essays on solutions to improve nutrition among children in tribal areas.

56. Zero Hunger Program to be launched in October

India's ambitious 'Zero Hunger' program will be launched in three districts - Gorakhpur in Uttar Pradesh, Koraput in Odisha and Thane in Maharashtra on October 16, the World Food Day.



The Program will be initiated by Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) in association with Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), MS Swaminathan Research Foundation and Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council (BIRAC). Zero Hunger – pledges to end hunger, achieve food security, improve nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture, and is the priority of the World Food Programme.

57. Law Ministry approved Fugitive Economic Offenders Bill, 2017

The Union Law ministry has approved Fugitive Economic Offenders Bill, 2017 to enable the government to seize the property of economic offenders and defaulters who flee India.

According to the law, a 'fugitive economic offender', means an individual against whom an arrest warrant has been issued for an economic offence and the person has escaped from the country and refuses to return to face criminal prosecution.



In the recent past, there have been instances of major offenders, including economic offenders, fleeing the country to escape the reach of the law.

58. Cabinet approved revamped Khelo India Program

The Union Cabinet has approved the revamped Khelo India programme at a cost of Rs. 1,756 crore for the period 2017-18 to 2019-20. The Programme aims at mainstreaming sport as a tool for individual development, community development, economic development and national development.

Salient features:

- An unprecedented Pan Indian Sports Scholarship scheme, which would cover 1,000 most talented young athletes each year across select sports disciplines.
- Each athlete selected under the scheme shall receive an annual scholarship worth Rs. 5.00 lakh for eight consecutive years.
- The Program aims to promote 20 universities across the country as hubs of sporting excellence.



59. Cabinet approved Rationalization/Merger of the Government of India Press (GIPs) and their modernization

The Union Cabinet has given its for rationalization/merger and modernization of 17 Government of India Presses (GIPs)/Units into 5 Government of India Presses (GIPs) at Rashtrapati Bhavan, Minto Road and Mayapuri, New Delhi; Nashik, Maharashtra and Temple Street, Kolkata, West Bengal.

These five Presses will be redeveloped and modernised by monetisation of their surplus land. Land measuring 468.08 acres of the other merged Presses will be given to Land & Development Office, Ministry of Urban Development.



60. Cabinet approved introduction of the Dentists (Amendment) Bill, 2017

The Union Cabinet has given its approval for introduction of the Dentists (Amendment) Bill, 2017 in Parliament. The amendment will reduce the redundancy. The clauses being amended include those pertaining to certain modifications in the provisions of the Dentists Act, 1948 with regard to –

1. The Membership of the Dental Council of India under clause (f) of section 3 and The Membership of State and
2. Joint State Dental Councils under clause (b) of section 21 and clause (b) of section 23 of the said Act.



61. Cabinet approved Productivity Linked Bonus for Railway Employees Payment

The Union Cabinet has given its approval to pay Productivity Linked Bonus (PLB) equivalent to 78 days wages to eligible non-gazetted railway employees (excluding RPF/RPSF personnel) for the financial year 2016-17. About 12.30 lakh non-gazetted Railway employees are likely to benefit from the decision.

The financial implication of payment of 78 days' PLB to railway employees has been estimated to be Rs. 2,245.45 crores. The maximum amount payable per eligible railway employee is Rs. 17,951 for 78 days.



62. Cabinet approved transfer of Hotel Jaipur Ashok, Jaipur to Government of Rajasthan

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) has given its approval to the transfer of Hotel Jaipur Ashok, Jaipur and Lalitha Mahal Palace Hotel, Mysore, units of India Tourism Development Corporation Ltd (ITDC) to Government of Rajasthan and Government of Karnataka, respectively and disinvestment of ITDCs shares in M/s Donyi Polo Ashok Hotel Corporation.

The policy has been formulated keeping in view that running and managing hotels on professional lines is not the job of Government or its entities.



63. Cabinet approved annual cost indexation for increase in rates in future

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs has approved the proposal for revision of cost norms with annual cost indexation for Supplementary Nutrition (SN) for the beneficiaries of Anganwadi Services and Adolescent Girls (out of school 11-14 years) under the Umbrella ICDS Scheme.

The revision of cost norms for SN for beneficiaries of Anganwadi Services would cost additional expenditure of Rs. 9,900 crore and for beneficiaries of Adolescent Girls, it would cost Rs. 2,267.18 crore as GoI share for a period from 2017-18 to 2019-20.



64. Cabinet approved Extension of time of the Scheme "Special Industry Initiative for J&K" (SII J&K) – Udaan

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs has approved the proposal of the Ministry of Home Affairs for extension of time of the Scheme "Special Industry Initiative for J&K" (SII J&K) - Udaan until 31 December 2018 without any modification and cost escalation. Initially the time of Udaan was up to 2016-17.

Udaan provides exposure to the youth of J&K to the best of corporate India and corporate India to the rich talent pool available in the State. So far, 34,587 candidates have been selected of whom 14,694 have been offered jobs.



65. National Conference on Agriculture for Rabi Campaign – 2017-18

The National Conference on Agriculture for Rabi Campaign – 2017-18 was organized at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi.

During the two day conference, Group Discussions were held on important topics such as on (1) Soil Health Card Scheme, (2) Increasing Coverage of Non-loanee Farmers, (3) e-NAM-Ideas on Improvements, (4) Integrated Pest Management (IPM), (5) Management of Drought, (6) Review of Post-Harvest Management (PHM), (7) Drought Proofing of 30 Vulnerable Districts, (8) Doubling Farmers' Income.



66. India to conduct the First 'BIMSTEC Disaster Management Exercise- 2017'

The First 'BIMSTEC Disaster Management Exercise- 2017' (BIMSTEC DMEEx-2017) will be conducted by the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) as the lead agency from October 10-13, 2017 in Delhi and the National Capital Region (NCR).

This Exercise will be a platform for sharing Best Practices on all aspects of Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR), strengthening regional response and coordination for Disaster Management among the BIMSTEC member countries.



67. New Campus of Indian Aviation Academy Inaugurated

The Union Minister of Civil Aviation Shri P. Ashok Gajapathi Raju inaugurated the new state of the art campus of Indian Aviation Academy (IAA) in New Delhi. With the inauguration of this new excellent campus, the IAA academy aims to enhance and augment its training and hostel capabilities to more than double.

The New IAA campus has been equipped to meet the skilling and training needs of the future as a large number of professionally skilled and trained work force are required to operate, manage and maintain the future international air transport system.



68. Hindustan Swachh Rakhenge Hum campaign launched

The campaign 'MaaKasam, Hindusthan Swachh Rakhenge Hum' started by Hindi daily Hindustan reflects the mood that is underlying the Swacchata Hi Seva campaign. Swacchata Hi Seva campaign calls all citizens across the country to participate actively through shramdaan or building of twin pit toilets to the cause of swachhata.

Swacchata Hi Seva campaign is witnessing new initiatives being undertaken by the States. In Maharashtra, campaign resulted in declaring Navali open defecation free. In Punjab, Mission Swachh Punjab - a YouTube channel was launched with over 100 videos promoting Swachhta.



69. Union Home Minister inaugurates two-day NHRC National Seminar on Good Governance

The Union Home Minister Shri Rajnath Singh inaugurated National seminar on Good Governance, Development and Human Rights organized by the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) in New Delhi.



The discussion focussed on the role of media in civil society in promoting good governance and human rights, discerning indicators of good governance, global best practices and impact of information technology on good governance.

70. Centre announces new PPP Policy to promote private investments

Central Government today announced a new PPP Policy for Affordable Housing that allows extending central assistance of up to Rs.2.50 lakh per each house to be built by private builders even on private lands besides opening up immense potential for private investments in affordable housing projects on government lands in urban areas.



Eight PPP options, including six for promoting affordable housing with private investments using government lands have been evolved after extensive consultations with States, promoter bodies and other stakeholders.

71. Textiles Minister Smt. Smriti Zubin Irani inaugurates VASTRA 2017

Textiles Minister Smt. Smriti Zubin Irani inaugurated the sixth Edition of the 4-day international textiles and apparel fair VASTRA 2017, in Jaipur.



VASTRA 2017 is an all-encompassing trade fair and conference on Textiles and Apparel presenting a fusion of the finest and the latest in textiles products. The event is jointly organized by Rajasthan State Industrial Development and Investments Corporation Limited (RIICO) and Federation of Indian Chamber of Commerce and Industry and is supported by the Government of Rajasthan. More than 50 countries and 13 Indian States participated in VASTRA 2017.

72. 'Newton' is India's official entry for Oscars 2018

The Film Federation of India announced that "Newton", starring Rajkummar Rao, would be India's official entry to the Best Foreign Film category at Oscars 2018. The FFI's selection committee was headed by Telugu producer C V Reddy.



"Newton" is directed by Amit Masurkar. It tells the story of a polling officer Newton Kumar, who is bent on conducting free and fair elections in the conflict-ridden jungles of Chhattisgarh. The Oscars will be held on March 4, 2018, in Los Angeles.

73. NITI Aayog's SATH Program launched in Assam

The Government of Assam in a joint initiative with NITI Aayog launched a program called SATH- Sustainable Action for Transforming Human Capital, which aims to provide structured support to Assam in identifying key health priorities and implement the solutions towards transforming the health and improving the well-being of people of Assam.



The vision of SATH program is to initiate transformation in education and health sectors. The other two states selected for the program are Uttar Pradesh and Karnataka.

74. Niti Aayog signed agreement with IRF to cooperate in the field of Intelligent Transportation Systems

The National Institution for Transforming India (NITI Aayog) and the International Road Federation, Geneva (IRF Geneva) have signed a Statement of Intent (SoI) to cooperate in the field of Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS).

The objectives of the SoI are:

- Traffic Management,
- Parking Management,
- Electronic Enforcement of Traffic Rules and Regulations,
- Fleet Management and Monitoring,
- Innovation in the field of ITS, and
- Education in the field of ITS.



75. Centre launched Neighbourhood Action Plan in cities for better Solid Waste Management

The Union Government has launched 'My Home-My Neighbourhood' (Ghar Bi Saaf-Pados Bhi Saaf) campaign with the following six components:

- Segregation of waste at source
- Compost making from wet waste within the premises/neighbourhood/area
- Recycling of dry waste
- Freeing the neighbourhood from open defecation and open urination
- Motivating the residents of neighbourhood against throwing garbage in open spaces; and
- Adopting a near-by park or open place for collection and waste segregation.



76. PM launched Pradhan Mantri Saubhagya Yojana

Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the Pradhan Mantri Sahaj Bijli Har Ghar Yojana, or Saubhagya, at New Delhi. The aim of this scheme is to provide power to all homes. On the birth anniversary of Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay, the Prime Minister also dedicated a new ONGC building - the Deendayal Urja Bhawan.



The PMSY would provide power connections to all the estimated four crore households which currently did not have a power connection. The outlay for this scheme would be over Rs. 16000 crore. These connections would be provided free of cost.

77. TRIFED signed MoU with Amazon

Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India Limited (TRIFED) has formally signed an MOU with M/s Amazon Seller Services Pvt. Ltd for sale of tribal products through leading e-commerce giant Amazon.



As a part of the MOU, exquisite authentic tribal art and craft items crafted and sculpted by tribal artisans from all over the country will be showcased on the online portal – www.amazon.in for sale. The aim is to promote tribal handicrafts like handloom products, cane and bamboo products, tribal jewellery, Dhokra craft, tribal weaves and embroidery, tribal paintings etc.

78. Government constituted Economic Advisory Council headed by Bibek Debroy

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has constituted Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister (EAC-PM). Niti Aayog member Dr Bibek Debroy will head the five-member council.



The other members of the council are Dr Surjit Bhalla, Dr Rathin Roy, Dr Ashima Goyal and Ratan Watal. The committee will analyse any issue economic or otherwise referred to it by the Prime minister. The EAC-PM is an independent body, which provides advice on economic issues to the government, specifically to the Prime Minister.

79. Multi-Agency Exercise 'Pralay Sahayam' Held

A multi-agency exercise was conducted on the banks of Hussain Sagar Lake as the final event of 'Pralay Sahayam' in Hyderabad. The event demonstrated efforts of all central and state agencies, National Disaster Relief Force (NDRF) and the Armed Forces towards jointly tackling an urban flooding scenario in Hyderabad.



The exercise brought out the role and function of the State Emergency Operations in coordinating conduct of the joint operations.

80. Prime Minister dedicated Deendayal Hastkala Sankul to the Nation

The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi, dedicated to the nation, the Deendayal Hastkala Sankul – a trade facilitation centre for handicrafts – at Varanasi.



The Sankul will facilitate the weavers/artisans/exporters in promotion of handlooms/handicrafts in both domestic and international markets. The approximate cost of the complex is 300 crore rupees. The Crafts Museum in the Sankul will preserve the traditional handloom/handicrafts products of Varanasi. The project spans 7.93 acres, with a built-up area of 43,450 square metres.

81. Union Government launched "Electronic Negotiable Warehouse Receipt (e-NWR) System"

The Union Government launched the Web Portal of Warehousing Development and Regulatory Authority (WDRA) & "Electronic Negotiable Warehouse Receipt (e-NWR) System" in New Delhi.



e-NWRs would have no chances of any tempering, mutilation, fudging, loss or damage and with no possibility of any multiple financing. NWRs will facilitate an easy pledge financing by banks and other financial institutions but also smooth trading on various trading centres like commodity exchanges, electronic National Agriculture Markets (e-NAM) and other electronic platforms.

82. Kandla Port renamed as Deendayal Port

The Central Government, in exercise of powers conferred on it under Indian Ports Act, 1908, has renamed Kandla Port Trust as Deendayal Port Trust.



Kandla Port, located on the Gulf of Kutch in Gujarat, is one of the twelve major ports in the country. It is the largest port of India by volume of cargo handled. On 31 March 2016 it created history by handling 100 million tonnes cargo in a year—the first Major Port to achieve the milestone.

83. Union Government launched Mobile App for Divyang

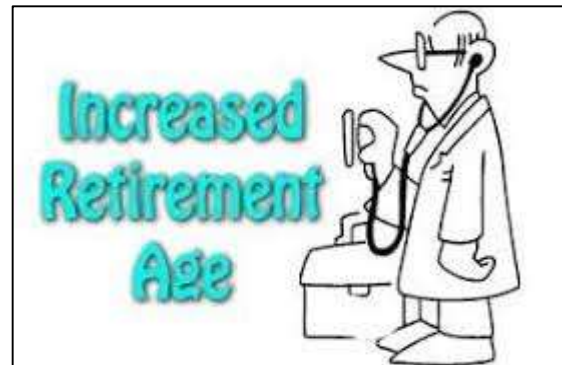
The Union Government has launched Divyang Sarathi - an accessible and comprehensive mobile App for easy information dissemination to Divyangjans. The unique features of the App are its audio notes embedded in it, which converts the written information into an audio file.



Adjustable font size is also one of the feature, which can be altered as per requirement. It has been developed bilingually in Hindi and English. This mobile application aims at providing all relevant information pertaining to the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities.

84. Cabinet approved enhancement of age of superannuation of doctors to 65 years

The Union Cabinet has approved the enhancement of age of superannuation of doctors other than Central Health Service (CHS) doctors to 65 years. The Union Cabinet has further approved that doctors shall hold the administrative posts until the date of attaining the age of 62 years and thereafter their services shall be placed in Non-Administrative positions.



The decision would help in better patient care, proper academic activities in Medical colleges as also in effective implementation of National Health Programmes for delivery of health care services. Around 1445 doctors of various Ministries/Departments of the Central Government would be benefitted.

85. Cabinet approved signing of Inter-bank Local Currency Credit Line Agreement by EXIM Bank

The Union Cabinet has given its approval to the signing of the (i) Interbank Local Currency Credit Line Agreement and (ii) Cooperation Memorandum Relating to Credit Ratings by Exim Bank with participating member banks under BRICS Interbank Cooperation Mechanism.



At an appropriate time, Exim Bank, leveraging this umbrella agreement, could enter into bilateral agreement with any of these member institutions to raise resources for its business.

86. Cabinet approved Agreement on "Cooperation in the field of Information, Communication and Media" between India and Ethiopia

The Union Cabinet has given its approval to sign the Agreement between India and Ethiopia on "Cooperation in the field of Information, Communication and Media".



The Agreement aims to harness the growing power of Information, Communication and Media for information dissemination and enhancing outreach between the two countries for inclusive development. It will also enhance people-to-people contact through exchange programmes. It would also provide an opportunity for both the nations to share best practices and innovations in the field of Information, Communication & Media.

87. Cabinet approved umbrella scheme of Modernisation of Police Forces

The Union Cabinet has given its approval for implementation of umbrella scheme of "Modernisation of Police Forces (MPF)" for years 2017-18 to 2019-20. The financial outlay for the scheme over the three-year's period is Rs. 25,060 crore, out of which the Central Government share will be Rs. 18,636 crore and the States' share will be Rs. 6,424 crore.



Under the umbrella scheme, central budget outlay of Rs. 10,132 crore has been earmarked for internal security related expenditure for Jammu & Kashmir, North Eastern States and left wing extremism affected States.

88. Cabinet approved MoU between India and Belarus in the oil and gas sector

The Union Cabinet has given its ex-post facto approval for a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed between India and Belarus in the oil and gas sector. The MoU shall remain in force for three years for the day of its signing.



The MoU is envisaged to enhance the economic and commercial cooperation in oil and natural gas sector. Under the MoU, both sides will work towards establishing cooperation in the areas of upstream and downstream activities, capacity building, technology transfer, enhanced oil recovery and development of mature fields in India.

89. Cabinet approved signing and ratification of the Bilateral Investment Treaty between India and Belarus on investments

The Union Cabinet has given its approval for signing and ratification of the Bilateral Investment Treaty (BIT) between the India and Belarus on Investments.



The agreement is expected to improve the confidence of the investors resulting in an increase in FDI and Overseas Director Investment (ODI) opportunities. India has already initiated the BIT text with the Kyrgyz Republic and is in talks with the Russian Federation for a new BIT, based on the Model BIT text.

90. Cabinet approved bilateral MoU between India and Afghanistan on Technical Cooperation on Police Training and Development

The Union Cabinet has given its approval for signing a MoU between India and Afghanistan on Technical Cooperation on Police Training and Development.

The MoU will help in capacity building of Afghanistan National Police and improving the security apparatus in the region. It has been approved for a period of 5 years from the date of signing the MoU and shall be extended for a further period of 5 years on the condition that are no further changes and or revision.



91. CARA launched monthly “Jan Sampark” Program to facilitate adoption

The Central Adoption Resource Authority (CARA) of the Ministry of Women & Child Development has started a monthly “Jan Sampark” program to enable the public to interact with its officials and staff for seeking information related to Adoption as well as flagging their concerns.

The event will now be a regular feature every month apart from the quarterly Facebook live chat by CEO CARA.



92. Platform for Effective Enforcement for No Child Labour (PENCIL) Portal Launched

The Union Home Minister Shri Rajnath Singh launched the Platform for Effective Enforcement for No Child Labour (PENCIL) Portal at the National Conference on Child Labour organised by the Ministry of Labour and Employment.

The PENCIL is an electronic platform that aims at involving Centre, State, District, Governments, Civil Society and the Public in achieving the target of child labour free society. The PENCIL Portal (pencil.gov.in) has various components, namely Child Tracking System, Complaint Corner, State Government, National Child Labour Project and Convergence.



93. First Ever India Mobile Congress 2017 launched

The Minister of Communication Shri Manoj Sinha launched the first ever Mobile, Internet and Technology event in India - India Mobile Congress 2017 at Pragati Maidan, New Delhi.

The India Mobile Congress was organised by Cellular Operators Association of India (COAI). The event was a congregation to display, discuss, unveil, imbibe, educate and recognise the importance of the global and Indian telecommunications, mobile, internet, connectivity and digital services sector to the world.



94. India and Norway signed Letter of Intent to extend health cooperation

India has signed a Letter of Intent with the Government of Norway to extend the cooperation within health sector through the Norway India Partnership Initiative for a period of three years.

The partnership shall include areas related to reproductive, maternal, new born, child, adolescent health and health system strengthening. Through this letter, the cooperation between India and Norway will continue to be aligned with the development goals of the Indian Government as outlined in its National Health Policy 2017 for achievement of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).



95. NMCG to use latest Geo-Spatial Technologies for Namami Gange Program

The National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) will use latest Geo-Spatial Technologies for Namami Gange Programme. NMCG will work in an integrated manner with National Remote Sensing Centre (NRSC) and Survey of India to make optimal use of latest geo-spatial technologies to rejuvenate river Ganga.

NRSC is a part of ISRO and has been supporting the NMCG to use geo-spatial technology for Water Quality Monitoring, Hydrological Monitoring, Evaluation Geomorphological Monitoring, etc., Geospatial technology is a term used to describe the range of modern tools contributing to the geographic mapping and analysis of the Earth and human societies.



96. Government to borrow Rs. 2 lakh crore in the second half of 2017-18

Government plans to borrow 2.08 lakh crore rupees from the market in the second half of 2017-18 reiterating its commitment to meet the fiscal deficit target of 3.2% of GDP. To finance the fiscal deficit for the current financial year, the Budget has pegged gross borrowing at 5.8 lakh crore rupees.



The government has already borrowed 3.72 lakh crore rupees in the first half. Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs) capital expenditure of more than 3.75 lakh crore rupees is moving as per the plan.

97. Budget for MGNREGA increased by Rs 20000 crore in last 5 years

According to Rural Development Minister Narendra Singh Tomar, the budget for MGNREGA has increased by 20 thousand crore rupees in the last 5 years.



The budget for MGNREGA has gone up from 37 thousand crore rupees in 2011-12 to about 58 thousand Crore in 2016-17. Around 235 crore of man days were generated this fiscal, which is highest in the last 5 years. The coverage of the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana has increased from 64% to 81% in the last three years.

98. ADB Earmarks Up to \$4 Billion a Year for New Partnership with India 2018-2022

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) plans to raise its annual lending to India to a maximum of \$4 billion.



About 85% of lending will be focused on transport, energy, and urban infrastructure and services. Other finance will be aimed at public sector management, agriculture, natural resources and rural development, as well as skills development and urban health. The new lending program is much higher than the average \$2.65 billion a year in loans extended during 2012 and 2016.

Persons in News

1. Bridgestone India appointed P.V. Sindhu as its Brand Ambassador

Bridgestone India, a subsidiary of the world's largest tyre and rubber company and a Worldwide Olympic Partner, has appointed Olympic silver medallist, P.V. Sindhu to be the company's first brand ambassador.

The shuttler has signed a three-year deal with Bridgestone India. Sindhu will participate in Bridgestone's activations around its worldwide Olympic partnership. Bridgestone announced its Worldwide Olympic Partnership in 2014 that continues through 2024.



2. Nirmala Sitharaman becomes India's first full-time woman Defence Minister

Nirmala Sitharaman became the second woman to head the Ministry of Defence after former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi. Mrs Sitharaman also became the first full-time woman Defence Minister of the country.

Sitharaman has an MA degree in economics from Jawaharlal Nehru University. She had joined the BJP in 2006.

She has served as a Minister of State for Finance and Corporate Affairs under the Ministry of Finance headed by Arun Jaitley and the Minister of Commerce and Industry with independent charge. She is a Rajya Sabha member and represents Karnataka in the Parliament.



3. Peggy Whitson returns to Earth after a record breaking stay in space

U.S. astronaut, Peggy Whitson, returned to earth after a record-breaking stay in space which lasted for 665 days off the planet - 288 on this mission alone.

Whitson stands top on the list among all American astronauts who have spent the most cumulative amount of time in space. She returned in a Soyuz module along with US astronaut Jack Fischer and Russian cosmonaut Fyodor Yurchikhin in central Kazakhstan. She is eighth on the all-time space endurance list.



She was the first female International Space Station commander, and holds the record for number of spacewalks by a woman.

4. Actress Parineeti Chopra became first Indian Woman Ambassador for Tourism Australia

Tourism Australia has appointed Indian actress Parineeti Chopra in its tourism ambassador panel. With this, she became the first Indian woman ambassador in 'Friends of Australia' (FOA) advocacy panel by Tourism Australia.



Parineeti joins famous Indian Chef Sanjeev Kapoor and Indian cricket commentator Harsha Bhogle in the panel. Parineeti Chopra is exploring various places of Australia such as Brisbane, Gold Coast and Ayers Rock to indulge in several adventurous activities.

The Friends of Australia programme has been formed as a way for Tourism Australia to encourage mutually beneficial long term friendship.

5. Cyclist Mark Beaumont breaks the world record

British cyclist Mark Beaumont has broken the world record for cycling around the world when he completed the 18,000-mile route in 79 days. The previous record was set at 123 days by New Zealand's Andrew Nicholson.



Mark began his journey in Paris on 2 July and cycled through Europe, Russia, Mongolia and China before heading across Australia, New Zealand and North America and then headed back into Europe for the final stretch from Lisbon to Paris.

6. Akshay Kumar appointed as Brand Ambassador of Uttarakhand Swachh Bharat Mission

The Uttarakhand state government has appointed Bollywood actor Akshay Kumar as the brand ambassador of the Swachh Bharat Mission. He was also appointed as the brand ambassador for the cleanliness campaign in Uttar Pradesh.



The Swachh Bharat Abhiyan is the most significant cleanliness campaign by the Government of India. The movement has

evoked a sense of responsibility among the people. The campaign aims to achieve the vision of a 'Clean India' by 2nd October 2019.

7. An 18-year-old from Srinagar becomes an ambassador for Swachhata Hi Seva

Bilal Dar, a young boy from Srinagar, has become the brand ambassador for Swachhata Hi Seva for Srinagar Municipal Corporation. Dar has been contributing to the 'Swachhta Abhiyan' since the age of 12. He found a mention in the Prime Minister's recent Mann Ki Baat.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi had called upon the nation to begin a campaign, Swachhata Hi Seva, Cleanliness is Service, from 15th September 2017 to Gandhi Jayanti on 2nd October 2017.



Places in News

1. Ahmedabad declared India's first "World Heritage City" by UNESCO

The World Heritage Committee (WHC) of UNESCO has announced Ahmedabad as India's first World Heritage City, recognising heritage value of the city's unique heritage.

The city also became third in Asia to have received the status. India now has a total of 36 World Heritage Inscriptions -- 28 cultural, 7 natural and 1 mixed site.

The Walled City of Ahmedabad is more than 600 years old and it was founded by Ahmed Shah. It has 28 Archaeological Survey of India's centrally protected monuments.



2. North East Calling festival organized in New Delhi

The two-day festival 'North East Calling' was organized by the Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region (DoNER) in New Delhi under its Destination North East series for this year.

The purpose of the event was to promote the art, culture, heritage, cuisine, handicrafts, business and tourism of North East India.

The two-day event included showcase of rich culture of North East, including Music Festival for bands of North-East, Cultural Night for Dances of North-East. The B2B conferences were also organised at the event.



3. Uninhabited Lakshadweep island Parali I vanishes

One of the uninhabited islands in the Lakshadweep, Parali I, has vanished due to coastal erosion. The island was a part of Bangaram atoll. It had an area of 0.032 sq.km in 1968. It is assumed that the island has been subjected to complete erosion during 1968-2003 period.

Other four such territories in the sea are shrinking fast. Apart from Parali I, net erosion was higher in Parali II (80%), followed by Thinnakara (14.38%), Parali III (11.42%) and Bangaram (9.968%).



4. India's first advanced Homoeopathy Virology lab inaugurated in Kolkata

The Union Minister of State for AYUSH (Independent Charge) Shri Shripad Yesso Naik inaugurated India's first State of art virology laboratory at Dr. Anjali Chatterjee Regional Research Institute for Homoeopathy in Kolkata.

The laboratory has been established to develop new drugs and technologies in Homoeopathy to combat emerging challenges of viral diseases.

The laboratory, established at a cost of Rs. 8 crore is the only one in India for conducting basic and fundamental research in Homoeopathy for viral diseases like influenza, Japanese encephalitis, dengue, chickunguniya and swine flu.



5. Anti-terrorist operation Sajak held in Kanyakumari by Coast Guard

In Tamil Nadu, anti-terrorist operation Sajak was held in Kanyakumari by Coast Guard. As part of Operation Sajak the preparedness of marine security officials to prevent intrusion by terrorists through sea routes were tested.

The patrol ships of Coast Guard started from Chinna Muttom fishing harbour in Kannya Kumari. They covered the 68 kilometre sea coast upto Neerodi in Kerala border. Fishermen in the area were also advised to alert marine police and local authorities about suspected sighting of boats in sea and the coast.



6. Second State Startup Conference in New Delhi

The Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion, Government of India organized the Second State Startup Conference in New Delhi. The discussions were conducted around four key themes:

- Governance reforms to be undertaken by States for Startups.
- Incubation facilities in India and role of State Governments in developing these facilities.
- Role of State Governments in setting up funds for Startups.
- Making regulations easier for Startups



7. First Regional Vocational Training Institute to set up in Hyderabad

Vice President Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu laid the foundation stone for Regional Vocational Training Institute in Hyderabad which is the first of its kind for the State of Telangana boosting skill development opportunities among women ready to contribute to the country's workforce.



Skill development will not only empower country and its industries but also contribute to economies across the world. There is a huge demand for skilled workforce world over and it is the right that India reap demographic dividend and bridge this demand supply gap.

8. India's First Centre for Animal Law Set up at Hyderabad

NALSAR University of Law in Hyderabad, Telangana to have India's first Centre for Animal Law. Union Minister for Women and Child Development announced N G Jayasimha as the honorary director of the Centre.



The Centre will be dedicated for study of animal issues in India and elsewhere. A curriculum on animal welfare laws, including developing topics for research will be followed by Center.

Centre will also conduct workshops on animal laws and animal welfare issues with judicial magistrates, animal welfare advocates, law enforcement agencies and other stakeholders in the government.

9. PM attends Sahkar Sammelan on the occasion of birth centenary of Laxmanrao Inamdar

The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi attended a Sahkar Sammelan in New Delhi, on the occasion of the birth centenary celebrations of Shri Laxmanrao Inamdar.



The Prime Minister spoke of the goals such doubling farmers' income by 2022, and balanced development in rural and urban areas.

The Prime Minister emphasized the importance of preserving the "spirit" in the cooperative movement. The Prime Minister released two books: one on Shri Laxmanrao Inamdar, and one titled "Nine Gems of Indian Cooperative Movement."

10. Chennai to host India International Science Festival 2017

The 3rd edition of India International Science Festival (IISF) 2017 will be held in Chennai during 13-16 October, 2017 at various venues which include Anna University, Central Leather Research Institute (CLRI), Structural Engineering Research Centre (SERC), National Institute of Ocean Technology (NIOT) and IIT-Madras.



The Ministry of Science and Technology, Ministry of Earth Sciences and Vijnana Bharati (VIBHA) have come together to organize the IISF every year, since 2015. India has declared 2010-20 as the 'Decade of Innovation'.

1. CM Naveen Patnaik announced abolition of block grant system in school and colleges

Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik has announced abolition of block grant system in school and colleges of the state. After meeting with the agitating teachers' body in Bhubaneswar, the Chief Minister said that his government has decided to replace the block grant system with grant-in-aid.

The teachers would get an overall benefit following the institutional policy of the state. The scheme will be implemented from first January 2018. The State will bear burden of additional 900 crore rupees annually.



2. Fourth Session of the India-Tanzania Joint Trade Committee

The Fourth Session of the India-Tanzania Joint Trade Committee meeting was held in New Delhi. With an investment of US \$ 2.2 billion, Tanzania is among the top 5 investment destinations for India.

The Indian side conveyed to the Tanzanian side that the potential areas for Tanzania in India include Light oils and petroleum or bituminous minerals, motor cars and vehicles, medicaments etc.



The Tanzanian side encouraged co-operation in the field of Fisheries, Industrial Development, Information, Communication and Technology, Labour and Employment, Information, Culture, Arts and Sports.

3. Gobindohog Rice got Geographical Indication Status

Gobindohog rice, a speciality from Burdwan district of West Bengal, has got the geographical indication (GI) status. The state government had applied for GI status for Gobindohog rice on August 24, 2015. The region of Burdwan (now divided into the districts of east and west Burdwan) is known as the rice bowl of Bengal.

As a result of getting the GI certification, rice from other regions or rice of other varieties cannot be branded as 'Gobindohog'.



4. Maharashtra CM gave his in-principle approval to construct cycle track in Mumbai

Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis gave his in-principle approval to the proposal of the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) to construct a cycle track in the city.

The Rs 300 crore-worth project will create the shortest route connect between North-South and East-West Mumbai.

It will have 40 entry/exit points and will connect to 19 railway stations, seven Metro rail stations and four Monorail stations. It will have Bollywood walk, bio-diversity corridor and Mumbai books route.



5. President laid foundation stone for Link-4 of SAUNI Yojna in Gujarat

President Ramnath Kovind laid foundation stone for Link-4 of Saurashtra Narmada Irrigation Scheme- SAUNI Yojna at Jasdan in Rajkot district of Gujarat. The link-4 is a part of ambitious SAUNI project to be completed at the cost of 10,000 crore rupees.

The Scheme aimed to fill up about 115 dams by the overflowing waters of Sardar Sarovar Dam on Narmada River. The entire project will benefit more than 2 lakh acres of farm land and more than 900 villages of 7 districts of Saurashtra.



6. Punjab to be 'Corneal Blindness Backlog Free State' by Dec 31

Punjab Health and Family Welfare Minister Brahm Mahindra said that Health department has set a target to make Punjab Corneal Blindness Backlog Free State by 31st December this year.

"Eye Donation Fortnight" is being celebrated in all districts of state and around 1000 persons have pledged to donate their eyes so far. Since March to June 2017, about 341 Corneas procured from the state and 212 corneal Transplant Surgeries have successfully been conducted in registered Keratoplasty Centers.



7. Wellness Centre under CGHS launched in Kohima

In a first of its kind in Nagaland, a Wellness Centre under the Central Government Health Scheme (CGHS) has been officially launched in Kohima.

With this, the total cities covered under the CGHS now are 33. The scheme will cover Kohima city and is expected to function fully from 1st of October.

The CGHS is the model Health care facility provider for Central Government employees and Pensioners and is unique of its kind due to the large volume of beneficiary base, and open ended generous approach of providing health care.



8. Karnataka Government launched 'Arogya Bhagya' to give free healthcare facilities

The Karnataka state government approved a universal health coverage (UHC) scheme called as "Arogya Bhagya" aimed at providing free medical assistance.

Karnataka has seven different healthcare schemes which would be merged under Arogya Bhagya. Healthcare facilities will be provided through an Aadhar-linked universal health card. The scheme would cost the state exchequer Rs 869.4 crore.

The facility would be extended to both APL and BPL. Households from APL category in rural areas would need to contribute Rs300 per person and those in urban areas Rs 700 per person.



9. Gujarat CM Vijay Rupani launched Gyankunj project

Gujarat Chief Minister Vijay Rupani has launched Gyankunj e-class project on the occasion of Teachers day. The entire project will work on pilot basis with Interactive e-class room and smart boards have been provided under this initiative.

1609 government primary schools have been provided laptop, projector, infrared camera, smart board, speaker and WiFi router facilities for 3,173 class rooms of standard 7 and 8. Education for all courses in standard 5 to 8 will be given through e-content and internet.



10. Assam government sets up DBT cell for implementation of Direct Benefit Transfer scheme

The Assam state government has set up a Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) Cell for implementation of DBT across schemes in the Country and to coordinate efforts at the State Level in taking the DBT initiative forward with immediate effect. It will closely monitor & evaluate the progress of various Departments on DBT related indicators.

Chief Secretary, Assam will be the Chairman and Additional Chief Secretary/ Principal Secretary from Finance Department will be the Convenor. The Cell will Coordinate with Central Ministries & disseminate the directives to the respective Departments in States.



11. India's first Hyperloop transport system to come up in Andhra Pradesh

India's first hyperloop transport system is going to come up in Andhra Pradesh connecting Vijayawada and the state capital Amaravati.

The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) that the Hyperloop Transportation Technologies (HTT), an American research firm, has signed with the Andhra Pradesh Economic Development Board (APEDB), is a first of its kind in India.

Hyperloop, which uses a low pressure tube to transport people at speeds as high as 1,200 km per hour, will cut down the nearly one-hour travel time for the Vijayawada-Amaravati ride to just 5-6 minutes.



12. Centre to give Rs 60000 crore to Maharashtra for river-linking and irrigation projects

The Union Government will provide up to Rs 60,000 crore to Maharashtra in the next two years for river-linking and irrigation projects to tackle the recurring water crisis.

The work on two major river-linking projects with Rs 20000 in the state, Par-Tapi-Narmada and Damanganga-Pinjal, will begin soon. The state also has proposed four more river-linking projects worth Rs 10,000 crore each, Damanganga-Godavari, Damanganga- Vaitarna-Godavari, Par-Godavari and Nar-Par-Girna rivers.



13. Punjab government and Bharti Foundation to come together for strengthening sanitation initiative

Punjab Government and Bharti Foundation have decided to come together for strengthening the sanitation initiative under Swachh Punjab Mission. An MOU was signed between Water supply & Sanitation Department and Bharti Foundation's 'Satya Bharti Abhiyan'.

20,000 toilets for rural households will be constructed in Amritsar district. Bharti Foundation will provide financial assistance for construction of toilets in four blocks of district Amritsar with an investment of up to Rs 30 crore. The remaining over 30,000 toilets will be provided by the Department of Water Supply & Sanitation.



14. Haryana Cabinet approved amendment in provisions of Haryana Excise Policy for 2017-18

Haryana Cabinet approved the amendment in provisions of the Haryana Excise Policy for the year 2017-18.

As per the amendment, a licensee who has not established all his allowed vends or sub vends may be allowed to establish vends or sub vends at locations alongside National Highways or State Highways in Municipal areas on payment of additional fee.

The State may get additional revenue of Rs 20 crore on account of license fee, duty and VAT and additional revenue of Rs 25 crore will be received from liquor vends that may get shifted to places along national and state highways.



15. Karnataka becomes first Indian State to approve e-vehicle Policy

The Karnataka state government has approved the Electric Vehicle and Energy Storage Policy 2017 with an aim to become the Electric Vehicle Capital of India. The union government has envisioned to make India an all-electric vehicle market by 2031.

The state government wants to attract investments to the tune of Rs 31,000 crore from companies looking at research and development (R&D), and manufacturing of



electric vehicles (EVs) in the state. The new policy will help create around 55,000 employment opportunities.

16. Sachin Tendulkar launched Mission 24

Cricket icon Sachin Tendulkar launched -Mission 24 for Mumbai's M east ward. The project is supported by NGO Apnalaya and Municipal Corporation of Greater Mumbai (MCGM). The programme aims at improving the quality of life in one of Mumbai's poorest wards through collaborative efforts in the next 24 months.

The programme aims to provide basic facilities like secondary schools and colleges, aanganwadis, maternity homes, health posts and dispensaries in the ward.



17. ADB to provide grant of Rs 14 crore for traffic, safety management in Kolkata

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) will provide a grant of Rs 14 crore for traffic and safety management in Kolkata.

The Kolkata police will be utilising the funds to bring every nook and corner under CCTV surveillance and connected with the central server at the police headquarters in Lalbazar. This will help in curbing untoward incidents and also in enhancing the quality of traffic management in the city.



18. Maharashtra CM Fadnavis launched 'Maharashtra Mission 1 Million' initiative

Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis launched the 'Maharashtra Mission 1 Million' initiative under which over 10 lakh students across the state would play football.

The mission was launched to support the FIFA U17 World Cup scheduled to start in October 2017 for the first time ever in India.

The Maharashtra state government also distributed 1 lakh footballs in more than 30000 schools.



19. West Bengal Transport department introduced Yatrik mobile app

The West Bengal Transport department introduced 'Yatrik' mobile phone app to help in the easy booking of traditional meter taxis in Kolkata. Government made the announcement at a programme held at Paribahan Bhavan II at Kasba.



Both yellow and blue-and-white taxis can be hailed through the app. The service has been initiated with 300 taxis. Gradually, all taxis would be made available through the app. Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry has developed the app for all taxi drivers.

20. Gujarat to have India's First Lithium-Ion Battery Unit

Suzuki Motor in union with Toshiba and Denso will set up India's first lithium-ion battery facility in Gujarat. It is part of government's ambitious vehicle electrification and Make in India initiatives.



This union will help in expanding capacity of car manufacturing unit at Hansalpur near Ahmedabad and manufacture rechargeable batteries for electric and hybrid vehicles.

Maruti Suzuki will benefit from this deal as it will become the biggest user, if those components for these technologies are made in India and then exported to increase economic growth.

21. International Yoga Festival started in Kashmir

The second International Yoga Festival and International Yoga Sports Championship 2017 started in Kashmir with close to 300 participants. The festival was organized by the Yoga Society of Kashmir at the Sher-i-Kashmir International Conference Centre.



Governor N.N. Vohra inaugurated the event. People from various parts of India, Vietnam, Taiwan, Canada, Bulgaria, United States of America and Nepal are participated in the festival. The first International Yoga Festival was held in Uttarakhand.

22. Tripura became first state to set up Family Welfare Committees

Tripura became the first state in the country to set up family welfare district committees. The committee will deal with the issue of fake and biased complaints by women against their husbands, in-laws and husband's relatives, as per the directives of the Supreme Court.

The committees would examine the complaints of any woman against her husband, in-laws and relatives of the husband and try to find a solution through negotiation.



23. Jharkhand Government launched Shaheed Gram Vikas Yojana

The State Government of Jharkhand has launched Shaheed Gram Vikas Yojana at Ulihatu Village, Khunti district.

Ulihatu Village is the birth place of freedom fighter and Jharkhand's tribal icon, Birsa Munda.

The scheme aims at developing the villages of freedom fighters in the state. The state government will build 136 pucca houses. The State Planning Committee has approved Rs. 30 crores for the scheme.



24. Andhra Pradesh to be declared ODF by March 2018

Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh, Shri N Chandrababu Naidu, announced that Andhra Pradesh will be declared ODF by March 2018. This was announced during a Collectors' Conference in Vijaywada, as a part of the Swachhata Hi Seva Campaign.

Cleanliness Drive was carried out in important and iconic places and Solid and Liquid Resource Management activities were undertaken.

Adding momentum to this drive more than 2 lakhs toilet pits were dug on 17th September in Madhya Pradesh. These are targeted to be converted into one lakh toilets by 2nd October.



25. India's first electric bus service launched in Himachal Pradesh

India's first electric bus service was flagged off for travel between Kullu-Manali-Rohtang Pass in Himachal Pradesh. Himachal Pradesh has become the first hill state in the country to run electric buses. Electricity charging points have been installed at Manali and Marhi.

The bus has been developed by Goldstone Infratech Limited popularly known as Goldinfra. The 25+1 seater Goldstone eBuzz K7 zero-emission electric buses completely Made in India and can travel for up to 200 kms in a single charge.



26. Union Minister Dharmendra Pradhan unveiled LPG Panchayat in Gujarat

Union minister for petroleum and natural gas Dharmendra Pradhan inaugurated the Pradhan Mantri LPG Panchayat as a backup to the Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana in Gandhinagar.

The scheme is aimed at providing LPG gas cylinders to village households and replace conventional fuel for domestic purposes.

The Union government plans to conduct one lakh LPG panchayats across the country in the next one and half years.



27. Odisha Government Launched 'Sampurna Yojana'

The Odisha state government has launched 'Sampurna (Sishu Abond Matru Mrityuhara Purna Nirakaran Abhijan) Yojna' scheme for pregnant women of the state.

As a part of the scheme, the state government will provide Rs. 1,000 as transport cost for pregnant women to travel to the hospital.

The main objective of this scheme is to reduce the mortality rates of infants and mothers.

Around 7853 villages will be covered from 30 districts of Odisha, under this scheme.



28. Karnataka Government launched Vision-2025 Project

The Karnataka government has launched 'Vision-2025' project.

It is aimed at evolving a draft policy for development of the state in next seven years by seeking the opinion of the public.

The government has launched the website www.navakarnataka2025.in.

The project will be headed by Executive officer of the project, Renuka Chidambaram who will visit various parts of the state to collect public opinion.



29. Gujarat cabinet clears formation of new commission for unreserved segments

The Gujarat State Government has approved the formation of new commission for unreserved segment of the society.

Patidar community and other unreserved segments of the society will be given low interest loans for education, foreign education, employment, agricultural activities and animal husbandry by the state government.

The state cabinet also decided to appoint a retired High Court Judge to probe into complaints regarding Patidar agitation.



30. Maharashtra inked MoU with South Korea

The Maharashtra state government has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the South Korean government to enter into business partnership with the state to push mega-infrastructure projects.

South Korea will also provide assistance to the upcoming 706 km Mumbai-Nagpur Expressway.

The Rs 46,000 crore Nagpur-Mumbai Super-communication Expressway (also called Samruddhi Corridor) aims to bring down the travel time to 6 hours from the current 18 hours and also will prove to bring industrial development in Nagpur.



31. J&K Govt launches scheme for disabled soldiers, dependents

The Jammu and Kashmir government has launched a scheme for disabled soldiers or dependent relatives of such soldiers, who are permanent residents of the state, having disability of 40% and above can avail maximum loan of 25 lakh rupees with 4-7% rate of interest per annum to set up self-employment ventures.

The scheme is being launched in collaboration with the National Handicapped Finance and Development Corporation.



Reports

1. Arunachal Pradesh and J&K are the fastest growing economies

According to the recently published new series of gross State Domestic Product (SDP) data with 2011-12 as the base year by Central Statistics Office(CSO), Jammu and Kashmir and Arunachal Pradesh were the fastest growing State economies in 2015-16.

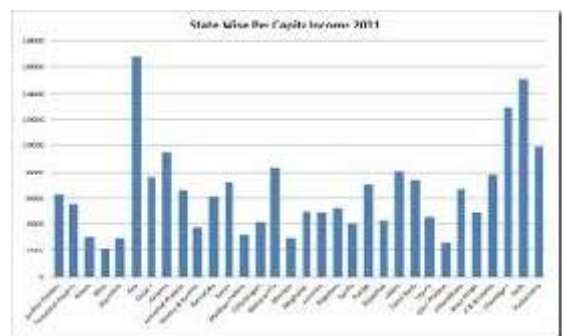
Arunachal Pradesh grew by 16.5% while J&K grew by 14.7%. Maharashtra and Uttar Pradesh expanded about 8-8.5%. Maharashtra remains the largest State economy followed by Tamil Nadu, Gujarat, Uttar Pradesh and Karnataka in the top-five. These five States together account for about 46% of the nation's GDP.



2. Gujarat has the highest per capita income

According to the recently published new series of gross State Domestic Product (SDP) data with 2011-12 as the base year by Central Statistics Office(CSO), the per capita income was the highest in Gujarat at ₹1,22,502.06, followed by Maharashtra (₹1,21,514.50), Karnataka (₹1,13,506.12) and Tamil Nadu (₹1,11,453.76).

The per capita income for Jammu and Kashmir was estimated at ₹60,171.36 compared with ₹2,67,328.90 for Goa and ₹2,26,583.11 for Delhi.



3. CSIR Ranked 9th Public Research Institution of the World

According to the Scimago Institutions ranking World Report 2017, the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) has been ranked ninth in the world amongst a total of 1,207 government institutions.

The ranking was topped by Chinese Academy of Sciences with Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique, France at second and Helmholtz Gemeinschaft, Germany ranked third.

CSIR is India's largest autonomous public research and development organisation. Scimago Institutions Ranking (SIR) is a science evaluation resource developed by Scimago Labs.



4. Road accidents in India decrease by 4.1% during 2016, fatalities rise by 3.2%

According to the Road Transport and Highways Ministry's annual publication 'Road Accidents in India-2016, road accidents in the country have decreased by around 4.1% during 2016, with the year seeing 4,80,652 road accidents as against 5,01,423 in 2015.

However fatalities resulting from these accidents have risen by about 3.2% during the same period. Nearly 1,50,785 persons were killed in 2016 as against 1,46,133 in 2015.



According to the report, between January to July 2017, there has been a 3 % reduction in road accidents, along with a 4.75 % reduction in road accident fatalities.

5. World University Rankings 2018 released

According to World University Rankings 2018, India's Indian Institute of Science was the highest ranked institute from the country, followed by other institutes such as IIT Delhi and IIT Kanpur.

Indian Institute of Science was ranked in band 251-300, whereas IIT Delhi and IIT Kanpur were ranked in 501-600 band. IIT Bombay was placed in band of 351-400 club. Except IIT Bombay, other institutes slipped to downward position as compared to last year's rankings.



University of Oxford was ranked topmost in the world followed by Cambridge University. California Institute of Technology and Stanford University were placed at 3rd position.

6. Norway topped the Global Human Capital Index

Norway has topped the Global Human Capital Index released by the World Economic Forum. India was ranked 103rd, the lowest among BRICS economies. India was ranked 105th on this list last year.

Among the BRICS nations, Russia was ranked 16th followed by China at 34th, Brazil at 77th and South Africa at 87th place. Finland and Switzerland were placed second and third respectively in the overall list.

Other countries in the top 10 include, the United States (4th), Denmark (5th), Germany (6th), New Zealand (7th), Sweden (8th), Slovenia (9th) and Austria (10th).



7. Jaipur's National Institute of Ayurveda enters Guinness Book

Jaipur's National Institute of Ayurveda has entered the Guinness Book for 'Most people receiving Nasya Panch Kararma simultaneously'.

733 Ayurvedic practitioners performed Nasya Karma on the second day of National Ayurveda Yuva Mahotsav which has been registered in the Guinness Book of records.

The Nasya Karma is beneficial in all diseases related to brain. Three thousand youth Ayurveda students and doctors from across the country participated in the three-day National Ayurveda Youth Festival.



8. UNCTAD reported India and China as major growth poles in global economy

UNCTAD's Trade & Development report 2017 titled 'Beyond austerity — towards a global new deal' was released. The report highlighted the fact that growth in two countries China and India will play major role as a growth pole in global economy. However, they are growing at a slow pace due to serious downside risks.

Report stated that global economy growth is expected to reach 2.6%, but due to too much debt and too little demand at the global level, global growth has sustained its expansion.



9. 40 million people trapped in modern slavery: UN report

According to the United Nations report, an estimated 40 million people, mostly women and girls, are trapped in modern slavery and 152 million children are subject to child labour. 29 million are women and girls.

The report said one in four victims of modern slavery are children which totals about 10 million. The report said that some 152 million children, including 64 million girls and 88 million boys, are subject to child labour, accounting for almost one in ten children around the world.



10. Three Indians included in World's '100 Greatest Living Business Minds'

According to the Forbes' special list of the world's '100 Greatest Living Business Minds', three Indian corporate czars — Lakshmi Mittal, Ratan Tata and Vinod Khosla have made it to the list. Lakshmi Mittal is the Chairman and CEO of Arcelormittal, Ratan Tata is Tata group's Chairman Emeritus and Vinod Khosla is the co-founder of Sun Microsystems.



Some of the other notable people in the list included Amazon Founder Jeff Bezos, Virgin Group founder Richard Branson; Berkshire Hathaway CEO Warren Buffett; Microsoft co-founder Bill Gates and News Corp Executive Chairman Rupert Murdoch.

11. China's Hui Ka Yan became Asia's Richest Man

According to the Forbes Real-Time Billionaires List, Hui Ka Yan, the Chairman of big China real estate developer China Evergrande Group, has become Asia's richest man.



Among the Chinese, Hui's estimated fortune of \$42.2 billion puts him ahead of Tencent Holdings Chairman Ma Huateng (\$39.1 billion), Alibaba Group Chairman Jack Ma (\$38.9 billion), and Wanda Group Chairman Wang Jianlin (\$30.4 billion). Ma Huateng currently ranks second in Asia and Jack Ma third.

12. India Third in Nuclear Power Installations: Report

According to the World Nuclear Industry Status Report 2017, India is third in the world in the number of nuclear reactors being installed while China tops the list. India has 6 nuclear reactors while China has 20.



In 2016, nuclear energy contributed only 10.5 % to the total global power generation. Whereas, renewable energy contributed 62 % to the global power generation. In 2016, nuclear power generation increased by 1.4% globally. Wind power generation increased by 16% and solar power generation by 30%.

13. Two Indians on Fortune's most powerful women in business list

Chanda Kochhar and Shikha Sharma have featured in "the Most Powerful Women in Business Outside the US list", released by the Fortune magazine. ICICI Bank's Kochhar was ranked 5th while Axis Bank's Sharma was ranked 21st.

Banco Santander group executive chairman Ana Botin topped the list. GSK CEO Emma Walmsley is at the second place and Engie CEO Isabelle Kocher at the third slot.

US Most Powerful Women in Business list was topped by General Motors chairman and CEO Mary Barra followed by PepsiCo chairman and CEO Indra Nooyi.



14. RIL ranked as world's 3rd largest energy firm

According to Platts Top 250 Global Energy Company Rankings, Reliance Industries Ltd (RIL) has been ranked at the third position among the world's biggest energy companies behind Russian gas firm Gazprom and German utility E.ON.

Indian Oil Corp (IOC) was ranked at 7th place, up from 14th rank in 2016. Oil and Natural Gas Corp (ONGC) was placed at 11th position in 2017 as against 20th in 2016. South Korea's Korea Electric Power is ranked 4th, followed by China Petroleum & Chemical and Russia's PJSC Lukoil.



15. CISF security at Mumbai Airport rated best in the world

According to an independent evaluation by the World Quality Congress (WQC), the security checks by the CISF at India's Mumbai airport has been awarded the best security award.

The Mumbai airport is the second busiest airport in the country and it handled 45.2 million passengers in the last fiscal year. The CISF takes care of passenger frisking, hand baggage screening, CCTV surveillance, Quick Reaction Team (QRT), anti-hijacking response team etc.



16. India ranked 40th in the Global Competitiveness Rankings

According to the World Economic Forum's global competitiveness index, India has been ranked the 40th most competitive economy. India was ranked 39th last year. The list is topped by Switzerland.

US and Singapore are ranked second and third in the list. China is ranked at 27th. Russia is placed at 38th position.

Other countries in the top 10 are the Netherlands (4th rank), Germany (5), Hong Kong SAR (6), Sweden (7), United Kingdom (8), Japan (9) and Finland (10).



Resignations & Retirements

1. Union Minister Kalraj Mishra resigned from the cabinet

Union Minister for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises Kalraj Mishra resigned ahead of the Cabinet Reshuffle. Earlier, Minister for Skill Development and Entrepreneurship Rajiv Pratap Rudy, Labour Minister Bandaru Dattatreya, Minister of State for Water Resources Sanjeev Balyan, Minister of State for Human Resources Development Mahendra Nath Pandey and Minister of State for Health Faggan Singh Kulaste had resigned from their posts.

Some of these ministers were asked to go because of underperformance, some were found fit for party work.



2. Ibibo group co-founder Ashish Kashyap resigned from makeMyTrip

President of MakeMyTrip Ltd and co-founder of Ibibo group, Ashish Kashyap resigned from his duties. Ashish Kashyap had vast experience at Times Internet, Google and Ibibo Group. Ashish is greatly appreciated for bringing the MakeMyTrip-ibibo deal turn true.

Ibibo Group is an online travel organization founded in January 2007 by Ashish Kashyap. The company is a subsidiary of Naspers, South Africa which owns an 80% stake in Ibibo Group. Makemytrip Inc. is an Indian online travel company founded in 2000.



3. Rajiv Kumar of Niti Aayog resigned from DHFL board

Rajiv Kumar has resigned from the board of Dewan Housing Finance Corporation (DHFL) as independent director after his appointment as the Vice Chairman of Niti Aayog. He was holding the position since August 7, 2015.

Rajiv Kumar took over as the Vice Chairman of Niti Aayog from Arvind Panagariya. Mr Kumar also served as chief economist at industry body Confederation of Indian Industries (CII). He also held senior positions at the Asian Development Bank.



4. Infosys Senior VP Sanjay Rajagopalan resigned

Infosys Senior Vice-President and Design and Research Head Sanjay Rajagopalan has resigned from the company. He has quit the company a month after his former boss Vishal Sikka stepped down as the CEO and MD in protest over the founder's interference and allegations of corporate mis-governance.

Rajagopalan was employed with Infosys from August 2014 to September 2017. He was amongst several of Sikka's colleagues from SAP, who had moved to Infosys to help him implement new initiatives such as Design Thinking.



1. PSLV-C39 Flight Carrying IRNSS-1H Navigation Satellite Unsuccessful

The Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle, in its forty-first flight (PSLV-C39), was supposed to launch IRNSS-1H, the eighth satellite of the Indian Regional Navigation Satellite System (IRNSS) into a Sub-Geosynchronous Transfer Orbit (Sub-GTO).

Launch of PSLV-C39/IRNSS-1H, Scheduled on Aug 31, 2017 from Satish Dhawan Space Centre, SHAR, Sriharikota was unsuccessful. All the flight events took place exactly as planned, except heat shield separation. This resulted in satellite separation occurring within the heat shield. The satellite is inside the heat shield resulting in the unsuccessful mission.



2. Unicity launched world's first ever Genomeceuticals range of products in India

Unicity International has launched world's first ever Genomeceutical (gene controlling) range of products to India. Unicity is headquartered in Orem, Utah, United States.

Unicity uses advanced Genomeceutical technology in its products to support proper gene expression, which helps maintain healthy body function at their most basic levels. All products marked with "Genomeceutical" labels, contain compounds from plants with high concentrations of gene-strengthening material.



3. Fifteen genes behind intellectual disabilities identified

Scientists have discovered 15 gene mutation that can cause intellectual disabilities. Researchers from Radboud University Medical Centre in Netherlands found a mechanism in fifteen genes that play a role in the development of intellectual disabilities.

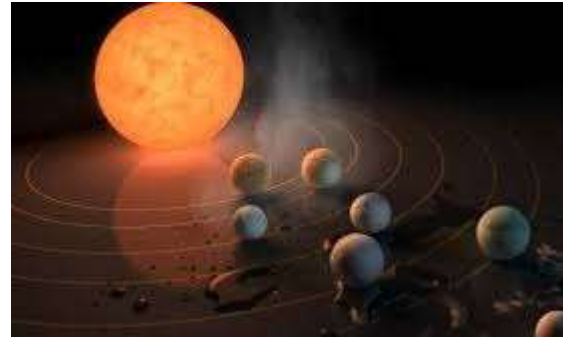
Intellectual disabilities are often caused by a mutation that damages a gene, preventing the associated protein from functioning properly. However, a mutation can also change the function of a gene. As a result, the gene in question acts in a completely different way.



4. TRAPPIST-1 planets likely to have water

Scientists believe that the Earth-sized planets orbiting the ultracool TRAPPIST-1 dwarf star 40 light-years away may have substantial amounts of water and could be habitable.

An international team of astronomers used the NASA/ESA Hubble Space Telescope to estimate whether there might be water on the seven planets. The results suggest that the outer planets of the system might still harbour substantial amounts of water.



5. Indian Scientists create artificial leaf to make fuel from sunlight

A team of Indian scientists have developed an artificial leaf that can absorb sunlight to generate hydrogen fuel from water. The “ultra-thin wireless device” can mimic plant leaves to produce energy using water and sunlight.

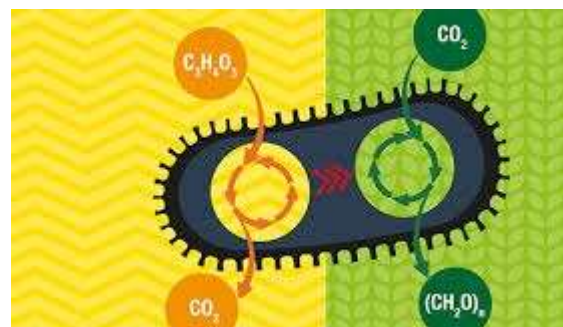
According to the report, the device consists of semiconductors stacked in a manner to simulate the natural leaf system. When visible light strikes these semiconductors, the electrons move in one direction, producing electric current. This current almost instantaneously splits water into hydrogen – which is considered to be one of the cleanest forms of fuel.



6. Scientists make fuel from air

A team of scientists from Cardiff University in the UK have created methanol from methane using oxygen from the air. The new process can help to reduce dependence on fossil fuels and its commercialisation may take much longer.

The transformation begins when CO₂ is broken down into oxygen and CO, the latter of which can be combined with hydrogen to make a variety of hydrocarbon fuels. Adding four hydrogen atoms, for example, creates methanol, a liquid fuel that can power cars.



7. NASA's Cassini Spacecraft concluded its 20-year Journey

National Aeronautics and Space Administration's (NASA) \$3.9-billion Cassini spacecraft concluded its 20-year-long ground-breaking journey. The spacecraft helped scientists better understand Iapetus, solving a centuries-old mystery of why it should be bright on one side and dark on the other.

The Cassini mission is a cooperative project of NASA, ESA (the European Space Agency) and the Italian Space Agency. The Cassini orbiter and its two onboard cameras were designed, developed and assembled at JPL. The imaging operations center is based at the Space Science Institute in Boulder, Colorado.



8. ISRO's Mars Orbiter Mission completed 3 years in orbit

The Indian Space Research Organisation's, Mars Orbiter Mission, MOM, has completed three years in its Martian orbit.

The 450-crore rupees MOM aims at studying the Martian surface and mineral composition as well as scan its atmosphere for methane which is an indicator of life on Mars. ISRO had launched the spacecraft on its nine-month-long odyssey on a home-grown PSLV rocket from Sriharikota in Andhra Pradesh on November 5, 2013.



9. NASA teams up with Russia to put a new space station near the moon

NASA and the Russian space agency Roscosmos have signed an agreement to work together to build a space station somewhere near the moon. The agreement was made during the International Aeronautics Congress in Adelaide, Australia.

The first lunar space station is a part of a long-term project to explore deep space and send humans to Mars. NASA and Roscosmos are two of the major partners in the \$100-billion Earth-orbiting International Space Station (ISS).



1. Hockey India removed Chief Coach Roelant Oltmans

Hockey India, HI, has sacked national coach Roelant Oltmans with immediate effect and made High Performance Director David John in charge of the national men's team.

The HI arrived at the decision after a three-day review meeting of its High Performance and Development Committee. Oltmans had joined the Indian team as High Performance Director in January 2013 and took over as coach in July 2015 after the ouster of Paul Van Ass.



2. Mahendra Singh Dhoni becomes first wicketkeeper to affect 100 stumpings in ODI Cricket

Former India captain Mahendra Singh Dhoni became the first wicketkeeper in world cricket to affect 100 stumpings in One Day Internationals. Dhoni achieved the feat in his 301st ODI in Colombo when he whipped off the bails to remove Sri Lankan batsman Akila Dananjaya off leg-spinner Yuzvendra Chahal's bowling.

Dhoni has also taken 281 catches apart from scoring 9,657 runs so far. Dhoni played 90 Tests and 77 T20 Internationals as well.



3. Kongsam Ormila Devi bagged gold at Commonwealth Youth weightlifting Championship

India's Kongsam Ormila Devi bagged a gold medal in 44 kg weight category on the opening day of the Commonwealth Youth (boys & girls) weightlifting championships, held at Gold Coast, Australia.

Ormila lifted 57 kg in snatch and 76 kg in clean and jerk for an overall effort of 133 kg, to finish on the top of the podium. With this effort, Ormila has registered her best lift so far.



4. Star India bagged IPL Media rights for Rs 16,347.50 cr for next 5 years

Star India has won the coveted Indian Premier League, IPL, media rights for a whopping 16,347.50 crore rupees for the next five years. The staggering deal, will run from 2018 to 2022.

The previous 10-year bid for TV rights only was bought by Sony at 8200 crore rupees in 2008. BCCI now stands to earn Rs 3270 crore from IPL media rights per year. The BCCI will now earn 55 crore rupees approximately from an IPL match. The media rights include broadcast (TV) and digital (mobile and internet) for various segments namely India, Middle East, Africa, Europe and America.



5. Amritpal Singh became first Indian to be signed by Australian basketball team

Amritpal Singh, captain of the Indian basketball team, created history by becoming the first Indian-born player to be picked up by an Australian NBL team.

Australia's Sydney Kings has signed Amritpal to play professional basketball in the National Basketball League (NBL). The Sydney Kings begin their NBL season on October 7 against the Adelaide 36ers. Amritpal, who represented India at the '2016 Asia Challenge' in Tehran averaged 17.8 points and 10.4 rebounds.



6. FIFA U-17 World Cup Song officially launched

The Local Organising Committee (LOC) and Sony Pictures Networks India (SPN) formally launched the official song of the FIFA Under-17 World Cup, 'Kar Ke Dikhla De Goal'.

The song is written by lyricist Amitabh Bhattacharya and composed by Pritam. The music video for the song celebrates diversity, showcases how the nation is waiting in anticipation for the U-17 World Cup and features stars like Bhaichung Bhutia, woman footballer Bala Devi, singers Shaan, Papon and cricket legend Sachin Tendulkar amongst others.



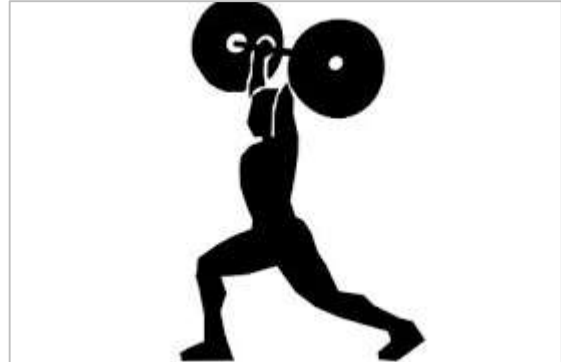
7. 2019 Commonwealth Weightlifting Championships to be conducted in India

2019 edition of the Commonwealth (Youth, Junior and Senior) Weightlifting Championships will be conducted by India. The decision was taken at Gold Coast, Australia during current edition of the tournament.

During the current Commonwealth (Youth, Junior and Senior) Weightlifting Championships, India's Saikhom Mirabai Chanu and K Sanjita Chanu bagged a gold medal each at their respective weight categories.

The Commonwealth Weightlifting Federation comprise of Commonwealth nations from the five continents and recognised by the International Weightlifting Federation (IWF).

The CWF secretariat is located in Noumea, New Caledonia together with the Oceania Weightlifting Federation.



8. Hockey Coach Appointed

The Joint Committee Meeting of SAI and HI has appointed Shri Harendra Singh, Dronacharya Awardee, Hockey Coach as High Performance Specialist Coach for Indian Senior Women Hockey Team. He was also the Chief Coach of the Senior Men Hockey team from 2008 to 2009 and National coach from 2009 to 2010. He is a Level III certified Coach.



It has also been decided in the meeting that, the present Chief Coach of India senior women Hockey Team, Mr. Waltherus Norbertus Maria Marijne will take over as Chief Coach of Indian Senior Men Hockey Team.

9. BAI to confer first Lifetime Achievement award on Prakash Padukone

The renowned Indian Badminton legend Prakash Padukone has been selected for the first life time award by Badminton Association of India for his contributions to Badminton. The award carries cash prize of 10 lakh rupees with a citation.

Padukone had won the 1980 All England, besides bagging a bronze at the 1983 World Championship in Copenhagen. He also won a gold medal at the 1978 Commonwealth Games. He was bestowed with the Arjuna award in 1972 and the Padma Shri in 1982.



10. Rafael Nadal and Garbine Muguruza lead in WTA ranking in their respective categories

Spanish tennis player Rafael Nadal retained the number one spot in the men's Association of Tennis Professionals world singles rankings. Nadal, 16-time Grand Slam champion, won his third US Open title. Roger Federer, Andy Murray, Alexander Zverev, Marin Cilic, Novak Djokovic ranked in the top six respectively.



In Women's category, Garbine Muguruza topped the rankings. Simona Halep of Romania came in second, followed by Ukraine's Elina Svitolina. Czech Republic's Karolina Pliskova held the fourth place. United States Venus Williams jumped four places to occupy the fifth position.

11. PV Sindhu won Korea Open title 2017

India's P V Sindhu won the women's singles title at the Korea Open Super Series badminton tournament after she defeated Nozomi Okuhara of Japan. Sindhu became the first Indian to win the Korea Super Series crown. It is also the third super series title of her career and second this year.



Anthony Sinisuka Ginting of Indonesia won the men's singles. Mathias Boe and Carsten Mogensen of Denmark won the men's doubles. China's Huang Yaqiong and China Yu Xiaohan won the women's doubles while the mixed double winners were Indonesian pair of Praveen Jordan and Debby Susanto.

12. Hamilton won the Singapore GP

Lewis Hamilton won the Singapore Grand Prix. In the process, Hamilton extended his championship lead to 28 points with rival Sebastian Vettel who is sitting at 235 points. Valtteri Bottas of the Mercedes is at third place in the standings with 212 points.



Red Bull driver Daniel Ricciardo stood second in the race followed by teammate Valtteri Bottas at third position. The Singapore Grand Prix takes place on the Marina Bay Street Circuit.

13. Official Slogan and Emblem of FIFA Women's World Cup France 2019 launched

The Official Emblem and Slogan of the FIFA Women's World Cup France 2019 was launched in Paris. The emblem features the competition trophy wrapped in blue and white, with eight shards of light around football at the top of the trophy symbolising the eighth edition of the FIFA Women's World Cup.



The slogan of the tournament "Dare To Shine" reflects the changing nature of football and the evolution of the women's competition. The competition will take place from 7 June to 7 July 2019.

14. ICC launched anti-corruption investigation in Sri Lanka

The International Cricket Council (ICC) has launched an anti-corruption investigation in Sri Lanka. Officials of its Anti-Corruption Unit had visited the country recently as part of the probe. The probe was triggered after allegations made by former player and selector, Pramodya Wickramasinghe.



Sri Lanka had lost a home ODI series against Zimbabwe before suffering a whitewash at the hands of India in all the three formats.

15. Vaishnavi Jakka Reddy clinched Belgian Junior badminton title

Indian shuttler Vaishnavi Reddy has clinched the women's singles Under-19 title at the Belgian Junior Open badminton tournament. She defeated top seed Vivien Sandorhazi in the final at Herstal, Belgium.



At Ethiopia International, Indian duo of Arjun MR and Ramchandran Shlok won men's doubles title after they defeated Jordanian pair of Bahaedeen Ahmad Alshannik and Mohd Naser Mansour in the final. However, at the Polish International at Bierun, Poland, Indian women's doubles combination of Maneesha K and Arathi Sara Sunil lost to English pair of Jenny Moore and Victoria Williams in the finals to settle for Silver medal.

16. MC Mary Kom to be International Boxing Association's representative at IOC athletes' forum

Five-time world champion and Olympic bronze-medallist MC Mary Kom has become the first Indian to be picked as the International Boxing Association's representative for the IOC Athletes' Forum scheduled in November.



Mary Kom has been invited to attend the 8th International Olympic Committee's (IOC) Athletes' Forum in Lausanne from November 11th to 13th. The bi-annual forum brings together athlete representatives from across the Olympic Movement and provides an in-person community where athletes can exchange and discuss their viewpoint.

17. PV Sindhu recommended for Padma Bhushan by Sports Ministry

Olympic silver medallist shuttler P V Sindhu has been recommended for the prestigious Padma Bhushan, country's third highest civilian award, by the Sports Ministry, for her contribution to the game.



Sindhu won the 2016 China Open Super Series Premier, India Open Super Series, bagged a historic silver at the Glasgow World Championship before laying claim to her third Super Series title at Korea Open this month. In March 2015, Sindhu was awarded India's fourth highest civilian honour, the Padma Shri.

18. WFI suspends coach Kripa Shanker Patel over objectionable social media post

The Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) has suspended coach Kripa Shanker Patel, an Arjuna awardee, for an objectionable social media post. He will remain suspended till the disciplinary committee takes the final call on the write-up.



In the September 12 post, Patel had expressed his ire at the WFI only partially endorsing tweaks made in wrestling rules by the international body governing it.

19. Lakshmanan completes double at National Open Athletics C'ship

G Lakshmanan of Services completed a double by cruising to victory in the men's 10,000 metres on the final day of the 57th National Open Athletics Championship at the Nehru Stadium in Chennai.

Lakshmanan also had won the 5,000 metres gold. L Surya too achieved a double by coasting to victory in the 10,000 metres and 5,000 metres event in the female category.

Railways finished with 16 gold medals followed by the Services with 12. Tamil Nadu athlete Santhosh Kumar and Chintha Yadav of Railways were named the 'best male and female athlete' respectively.



20. India won nine gold medals at 5th Asian Indoor and Martial Arts Games

The 5th Asian Indoor and Martial Arts Games concluded at Ashgabat in Turkmenistan. With 9 gold, 12 silver and 19 bronze, India finished at 11th position in the Games. Hosts Turkmenistan topped the medals tally with 89 gold, 70 silver and 86 bronze, followed by China and Iran.

On the concluding day Indians grabbed four medals, including a gold through tennis player Sumit Nagal, to end at 11th place.



21. US Open Tennis Tournament 2017

The 2017 US Open was the 137th edition of tennis' US Open and the fourth and final Grand Slam event of the year. List of Winners:

- Men's singles: Rafael Nadal defeated Kevin Anderson
- Women's singles: Sloane Stephens defeated Madison Keys
- Men's doubles: Jean-Julien Rojer / Romania Horia Tecău defeated Feliciano López / Spain Marc López
- Women's double: han Yung-jan / Switzerland Martina Hingis defeated Lucie Hradecká / Czech Republic Kateřina Siniaková
- Mixed doubles: Martina Hingis / United Kingdom Jamie Murray defeated Chan Hao-ching / New Zealand Michael Venus



22. India finished 5th at Moscow Shotgun World Championships

India finished fifth at the Moscow Shotgun World Championship. India won one gold and two silver medals.

Italy topped the tally with 17 medals that included 9 gold medals. USA was the second in the list with total 12 medals that included 5 gold medals. Hosts Russia were third in the overall tally with two golds for a total of eight.

Olympic skeet champions Gabrielle Rossetti and Diana Bacosi of Italy were also crowned world champions in the tournament.



23. Sloane Stephens wins Women's Singles Title of the US Open 2017

Sloane Stephens of the United States won the Women's Singles title of the US Open 2017 after she defeated Madison Keys of the USA 6-3, 6-0 in the finals.

Angelique Kerber was the defending champion, but lost in the first round to Naomi Osaka. Stephens became the second unseeded woman in the Open era to win the US Open after Kim Clijsters in 2009. Garbiñe Muguruza became the new WTA no. 1 player at the end of the tournament.

