

COMPETITION GURUKUL



'Longest' hanging pedestrian bridge opens in Switzerland

Switzerland is set to become the longest moving pedestrian bridge in the world, which has now been opened for travelers. This bridge, built near the Swiss city of Zermatt, is 1,620 feet long and is at an altitude of 278 feet.



- This bridge has been named EuropaBrakki (Europe Bridge). This bridge connects two mountainous villages named Germet and Gretchen in Randa, Switzerland.
- Zermatt Tourist Board says it is the longest in the world, hanging at a heady 85m above the Grabengufer ravine, although a 405m bridge in Reutte, Austria hangs 110m higher. The Europaweg replaces an older bridge which was closed in 2010 after it was damaged by falling rocks.

Typhoon Haitang strikes China

Typhoon Haitang struck China's eastern Fujian Province with incessant rain battering different parts of the region.

- Typhoon Haitang, the 10th typhoon this year, made landfall at 4.40 pm in Pingtung on the island of Taiwan
- According to the provincial meteorological observatory wind hit with a maximum speed of 18 meters per second, the tropical cyclone followed Typhoon Nesat which landed in the same city at 6 am on 30th of July 2017.

World breastfeeding week – August 1-7, 2017

World breastfeeding week 2017 is being celebrated from 1st to 7th August 2017 with the theme “Sustaining Breastfeeding Together”.

- It was first celebrated in 1992 by World Alliance for Breastfeeding World Breastfeeding Week Action (WABA) and is now observed in over 120 countries by United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF), World Health Organization (WHO) and their partners including individuals, organizations, and governments.
- The World Breastfeeding Week’s 25th year in 2017

China opens its first overseas Military base in Djibouti

China has formally opened its first overseas military base in Djibouti with a flag raising ceremony and military parade.

- The event was timed to coincide with the celebration of the 90th anniversary of the establishment of China's military, the People's Liberation Army, on August 1.
- Djibouti's position on the northwestern edge of the Indian Ocean .
- Djibouti is a tiny barren nation sandwiched between Ethiopia, Eritrea and Somalia. It is at the southern entrance to the Red Sea on the route to the Suez Canal.

India permitted to construct Kishanganga, Ratle projects: World Bank

The World Bank has said that India is allowed to construct hydroelectric power facilities on tributaries of the Jhelum and Chenab rivers with certain restrictions under the 1960 Indus Waters Treaty (IWT).

The IWT was signed in 1960 after nine years of negotiations between India and Pakistan with the help of the World Bank.

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

USISPF set up to deepen Indo-US ties

A new representative body -- US- India Strategic Partnership Forum (USISPF) -- is being set up to further enhance business relations between the India and US.

The non-profit corporation aims to promote bilateral trade and work on creating “meaningful opportunities that have the power to change the lives of citizens”.

USISPF's board of directors will include Chairman John Chambers (Executive Chairman, Cisco), Vice-Chairs Punit Renjen (Global CEO, Deloitte LLP) and Edward Monser (President, Emerson Electric), and board members Indra Nooyi (Chairman and CEO, PepsiCo), and Ajay Banga (President and CEO, MasterCard).

Satellite launched by Israel to monitor climate change and vegetation

Two satellites are launched by Israel including one dedicated to monitoring the effects of climate change on vegetation were successfully launched into orbit.

- The Vegetation and Environment monitoring on a New Micro Satellite -- or Venus -- is a joint effort between France's National Centre for Space Studies (CNES) and Israel's space agency.

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- They were launched from Korou, in French Guiana, at 10:56 PM (local time).
- Venus will photograph 110 specific sites across the world every two days for two-and-a-half years, charting the impact of climate change on ecosystems and agriculture as well as studying carbon stocks and plant evolution.

First meeting of JICF held in New Delhi

The first meeting of the Japan-India Coordination Forum (JICF) for Development of North-Eastern Region was held in New Delhi.

- Secretary, Ministry of Development of North-Eastern Region (DoNER), Shri Naveen Verma led the Indian side while the Japanese delegation was led by the Japanese Ambassador to India, Mr. Kenji Hiramatsu.
- Priority areas of cooperation identified by Indian side including Connectivity and Road Network Development, especially inter-State roads & major district roads; Disaster Management; Food Processing; Organic Farming and Tourism were discussed in the meeting.
- Secretary, DoNER, Shri Naveen Verma said regular meetings of the Forum would not only enhance Assistance by Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) but also promote B2B and people to people contacts.

Hiroshima Day: August 6th

August 6th marks the 71st anniversary of the bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki—an event which is commemorated in the U.S. as “Hiroshima Day.”

- On August 6, 1945, during WWII, an American B-29 bomber piloted by Colonel Paul Tibbets deployed the world’s first atomic bomb over the Japanese city of Hiroshima.
- Three days later, on August 9, 1945, a second atomic bomb was dropped over Nagasaki, killing some 40,000 more civilians.

Paul Kagame wins presidential poll by a landslide

Rwanda's incumbent leader Paul Kagame has sealed a landslide victory in presidential elections, granting him a third term in office and extending his 17 years in power.

- With 80 percent of votes accounted for, the 59-year-old former guerrilla leader secured 98.66 percent.
- Kagame has won international praise for presiding over a peaceful and rapid economic recovery in the east African nation since the 1994 genocide.

Sri Lankan Navy commissions India-built AOPV

The Sri Lankan Navy has commissioned an India-built state-of-the-art Advanced Offshore Patrol Vessel (AOPV), the first-ever purchase from a foreign ship builder, to boost its search and rescue capabilities.

- Sri Lankan President and Armed Forces commander-in-chief Maithripala Sirisena commissioned the new patrol vessel “SLNS Sayurala” at a ceremony at the Eastern Container Terminal of the Port of Colombo. It is the largest vessel built by an Indian ship builder for a foreign navy to date.
- It is expected to conduct patrols, policing, surveillance, reconnaissance, search and rescue, Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) and pollution control missions in Sri Lanka’s maritime zones.

NCRB merged with bureau of police research

The government merged the National Crimes Records Bureau (NCRB) - which, over the years, has been the principal source of reference by policy makers, police, criminologists, researchers and media - both in India and abroad, with the Bureau of Police Research and Development (BPR&D).



- The ministry of home affairs issued an order placing NCRB's functions under the Director General of BPR&D, who will now oversee all the data collection related to Crime in India, Accidental Deaths and Suicides, Prison Statistics and Fingerprints.
- The merger means that the Director NCRB and all its staff will now report to Meera C Borwankar, DG of BPR&D but administrative matters of both the bodies will be handled directly by home ministry itself.

Low-cost, sensitive CO sensor from IISc

Indian Institute of Science researchers have developed a highly sensitive nanometer-scale carbon monoxide sensor by employing an innovative fabrication technique.

- Typically, a sensor would be a thin, current carrying plate whose resistance changes on exposure to carbon monoxide. This in turn changes the value of the current flowing through it. This change when measured indicates the level of carbon monoxide in the air.

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BCCI ordered to lift lifetime ban on cricketer Sreesanth by Kerala HC

The Kerala High Court on Monday set aside the lifetime ban imposed on cricketer S Sreesanth by Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) alleging engagement in spot-fixing during an Indian Premier League (IPL) match in 2013.

- BCCI had continued with the ban despite a Delhi sessions court exonerating him in July 2015.
- In 2013, Sreesanth faced allegations on spot-fixing issues in the Indian Premier League and was hence charged with the same alongside fellow cricketers Ajit Chandila and Ankeet Chavan.

Centre completes first phase of measles-rubella vaccination campaign

Ministry of health and family welfare has completed the first phase of the Measles-Rubella vaccination campaign – the largest ever vaccination campaign in the world aiming to cover approximately 41 crore children.

- India, along with ten other WHO South East Asia Region member countries, have resolved to eliminate measles and control rubella/congenital rubella syndrome (CRS) by 2020. Under the measles-rubella (MR) vaccination campaign, all children in the age group of 9 months to less than 15 years will be vaccinated in a phased manner across the nation.

8th Meeting of the Heart of Asia – Istanbul Process held in New Delhi

India, along with 17 countries under the Heart of Asia – Istanbul Process, is seeking to make transit and trade agreements among them more inclusive and comprehensive by expanding them both northwards and southwards, to connect South Asia with Central Asia.

- At a meeting held in New Delhi, the participants, besides viewing Afghanistan as a natural bridge in promoting regional connectivity and economic integration, also reviewed steps taken for development of transit and transport through Chabahar Port involving India, Afghanistan and Iran, TAPI gas pipeline, CASA-1000, TAT railway line and Lapis Lazuli corridor.
- Representatives of 17 participating countries and supporting international organisations, including Azerbaijan, Iran, Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan, Russia, Tajikistan, Turkey, Turkmenistan, the UAE, Australia, Egypt, Germany, the UK, the US, the EU and the UN, attended the meet.

Delhi is Asia's fastest growing city

Delhi will have the fastest growth of any city in Asia, with the economy of the city-state likely to become almost 50% larger in 2021 than it was at the end of last year.



- Indian cities are set to expand the most across the Asian region, with growth speeding up from the past five years, according to a new study from Oxford Economics, which has ranked Asia's 30 largest cities.
- Ho Chi Minh, the largest metro in Vietnam, was the only non-Indian city in the top five.

Qatar scraps visit visa requirements for 80 nationalities

Qatar has announced scrapping of visa requirements for visitors from 80 countries including India to host the Football World Cup 2022.

- Under the new policy announced by Qatar Airways and authorities, citizens of 33 mostly European countries can enter without a visa for 90 days in single or multiple trips during a 180-day period.
- Qatar's economy has taken a hit since Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Egypt and Bahrain moved to isolate it two months ago over allegations it supports extremists.
- This will be the first time the World Cup will be held in the West Asia. This tournament will be the last one to involve 32 national teams, including the host nation, as the next one will have 48 teams.

India ratifies 2nd commitment period of Kyoto Protocol

India has ratified the second commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol that commits countries to contain the emission of greenhouse gases, reaffirming its stand on climate action.

- India became the 80th country to accept the amendment relating to the second commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol, the international emissions reduction treaty.
- The Kyoto Protocol is an international agreement linked to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), which commits its Parties by setting internationally binding emission reduction targets.
- The Kyoto Protocol was adopted in Kyoto, Japan, in December 1997 and entered into force in February 2005.

15th BIMSTEC ministerial meeting in Kathmandu

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The working session of the 15th Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation, BIMSTEC, Ministerial meeting held in Kathmandu.

- Describing BIMSTEC as a “natural choice” for India to fulfill its key foreign policy priorities of ‘Neighbourhood First’ and ‘Act East’, External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj said the grouping enjoys the unique strengths of connecting South and Southeast Asia.
- India was hosting the first BIMSTEC Disaster Management Exercise in October 2017. “This will help the group countries to develop quicker, coordinated and comprehensive responses to disasters, and provide timely relief and rehabilitation,”
- India also identified the energy sector as a key area of cooperation and noted that cross-border exchange of power between India, Nepal, Bhutan and Bangladesh is on a rapid upswing.

About BIMSTEC:-

- The **Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation** (BIMSTEC) is an international organisation involving a group of countries in South Asia and South East Asia. These are: Bangladesh, India, Myanmar, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Bhutan and Nepal.
- In 1997, a new sub-regional grouping was formed in Bangkok and given the name BIST-EC (Bangladesh, India, Sri Lanka, and Thailand Economic Cooperation).
- BIMSTEC Headquarters is situated in Dhaka, Bangladesh.
- The main objective of BIMSTEC is technological and economic co-operation among south Asian and south east Asian countries along the coast of the bay of Bengal.

Kenya President Uhuru Kenyatta re-elected

In Kenya, Uhuru Kenyatta has been re-elected as President in election. According to Election Commission Head Wafula Chebukati announced in Nairobi that



Kenyatta got 54.27 per cent votes beating his rival Raila Odinga who got 44.74 per cent of votes.

- Opposition leader and Presidential candidate Raila Odinga claimed massive fraud during Presidential

polls. However, the country's Electoral Commission has denied opposition claims that IT system had been hacked in order to manipulate the poll results.

About Kenya: -

- Republic of Kenya is a country in Africa and a founding member of the East African Community (EAC). Its capital is Nairobi.
- It is bordered by Tanzania to the south and southwest, Uganda to the west, South Sudan to the north-west, Ethiopia to the north and Somalia to the north-east.
- Currency: Kenyan shilling
- Official languages: Swahili, English

India, Russia to hold mega war games in October

In the midst of evolving security situation in the region, India and Russia will hold a mega war game in October involving their armies, navies and the air forces for the first time to further ramp up military ties.

- The exercise Indra, which will be held in Russia from October 19 to 29, will primarily focus on achieving coordination between forces of the two countries in a tri- services integrated theatre command scenario.
- It will be for the first time India will participate in a tri-services exercise with a foreign country with such large scale participation by the Navy, the Army and the Air Force.

India, China to join Indian Ocean exercise

Indian Navy would join the People’s Liberation Army (PLA) Navy in a maiden maritime search and rescue exercise to be chaired by Bangladesh at the Indian Ocean Naval Symposium (IONS) in November this year.

- Bangladesh, the current Chair, is scheduling a maiden International Maritime Search and Rescue Exercise (IMMSAREX) in November in the Bay of Bengal to be attended by ships and aircraft of the members and observers of the IONS.
- The IONS is a regional forum of Indian Ocean littoral states, represented by their Navy chiefs, launched by India in February 2008. It presently has 23 members and nine observers.

India-ASEAN Youth Summit to be held in Bhopal

The event is being organised by Foreign Ministry, Madhya Pradesh government and India Foundation.

- The exercise will mark the 25th anniversary of the ASEAN-India dialogue partnership in the ongoing year and also the commemorative year’s theme of “Shared Values, Common Destiny”.

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- Madhya Pradesh has been chosen for this event as the Sanchi stupa here strengthens the state's cultural affiliation with the ASEAN countries.
- Taking into account the "Act East Policy" of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the event becomes even more significant. Over 175 delegations of youths from Indonesia, Singapore, Philippines, Malaysia, Brunei, Thailand, Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, Vietnam and India will attend the Summit.

World Health Organisation declares Somalia free of polio

The UN World Health Organisation (WHO) said that it had not recorded any case of polio disease in Somalia in the last three years, declaring the country polio free.



The WHO said the country recorded the last case of polio in 2014 in the central part of the country but has since then remained free of the paralyzing disease.

The UN health agency, however, warned Somalia remained vulnerable, calling for continued vaccination campaign.

The head of the WHO Eastern Mediterranean, which covers Somalia, Mohamed Fiqi said that massive vaccination campaigns and commitment from government and international actors had ensured the polio virus did not recur in the Horn of Africa country.

India moves to revive TAPI gas pipeline

India will host the next steering committee meeting of the proposed 1,814 kilometre-long Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan-India (TAPI) gas pipeline.



- The decision was came during the sixth joint Inter-Governmental Committee (IGC) meeting on trade, economic, scientific and technological cooperation.
- The pipeline, that had its ground-breaking ceremony in December 2015, has seen flagging interest since then for a number of reasons. India's effort is to tap Turkmenistan's Galkynysh gasfields, which are the fourth largest in the world.

India, Turkmenistan hold talks to boost ties

India and Turkmenistan reviewed the entire gamut of their bilateral relations and took stock of the progress achieved in key areas like energy, trade and security.

- The delegation participated in the 6th Session of the India-Turkmenistan Inter-Governmental Commission (IGC) on Trade, Economic, Scientific and Technological Cooperation held on August 14.
- EAM Sushma Swaraj and Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister of Turkmenistan Meredov comprehensively reviewed the entire gamut of bilateral relations and took stock of the progress achieved in the various areas as energy, trade and economic cooperation, transport and connectivity, security cooperation, etc.

MoU on IPR signed between India and Sweden

A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between **India and Sweden** on cooperation in the field of **Intellectual Property Rights** (IPRs) has been approved by the Union Cabinet.

- The MoU establishes a wide ranging and flexible mechanism through which both countries can exchange best practices and work together on **training programs** and **technical exchanges** to raise awareness on IPRs and better protect intellectual property rights.
- It has also the provision of exchange of information and best practices regarding **Intellectual Property law infringements in the digital environment**, especially regarding Copyright issues.

A New Landmark in India-USA relationship

New vistas in the Indo-USA relationship will begin with the arrival of the **first shipment of American crude oil to India** by the end of September this year.

- It is the first lot of two million barrels costing \$100 million, is a part of expected bilateral oil trade to \$2 billion.
- India joins Asian countries like South Korea, Japan and China to buy American crude after production cuts by OPEC drove up prices of Middle East heavy-sour crude, or grades with a high sulphur content.
- The **40-year-old ban on export of American oil** was lifted by the then U.S. President **Barack Obama** in **December 2015**, but the real move started during the meeting between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and U.S. President Donald Trump on June 26 when the two leaders agreed to deepen the engagement in the energy sector.

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- Indian oil companies, **Indian Oil Corporation** and **Bharat Petroleum**, the duo placed orders for over four million barrels to the US counterparts.
- **India** is the world's **third-largest oil importer**.

Italy to Host G-7 Interior Ministers' Summit

Italy will host a summit of G-7 interior ministers centered on security issues.

- According to Italian Interior Minister Marco Minniti, the meeting is being organized at the request of Italy's G-7 partners namely Canada, France, Germany, the United Kingdom, Japan and the United States.
- Italy currently holds the rotating helm of the G-7 industrialized nations.
- The summit is expected to be held in October.

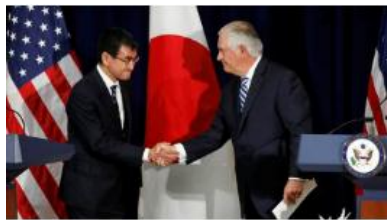
India Signs Global Environment Facility (GEF) Grant Agreement

The Government of India, the Governments of Chhattisgarh and Madhya Pradesh, the Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education and the World Bank signed a US\$ 24.64 million grant from the Global Environment Facility (GEF) to improve forest quality, sustainable land management and benefits from Non-Timber Forest Produce for forest dependent communities in Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh.

- The Ecosystem Services Improvement Project will support the Government of India's Green India Mission's (GIM) goal of protecting, restoring and enhancing India's forest cover and responding to climate change.

US, Japan Boost Defence Cooperation with India, S Korea, Australia

The US and Japan have agreed to advance their multilateral security and defence cooperation with countries like India, South Korea and Australia in view of



North Korea's dangerous provocative behaviour.

- The ministers highlighted ongoing Alliance efforts to advance trilateral and multilateral security and defence cooperation with other partners in the region, notably the Republic of Korea, Australia, India and Southeast Asian countries.
- US Secretary of State Rex Tillerson told that in cooperation with other nations, they will continue to employ diplomatic and economic pressure to

convince North Korea to end its illegal nuclear and ballistic missile program.

Emma Stone Named as 2017's Highest-Paid Female Actor

Emma Stone has been named Hollywood's best-paid female actor in Forbes' annual list of top earners.

- The 28-year-old made \$26m in the last 12 months, the majority of which was earned from her Oscar-winning performance in the musical romance La La Land. The film made over \$445m worldwide.
- Stone was closely followed by Jennifer Aniston with \$25.5m, yet the majority of Aniston's earnings have come from endorsements, such as SmartWater and Emirates airlines.
- Last year's no 1, Jennifer Lawrence, is in third place with \$24m.

Disputed Venezuela Assembly Takes Parliament's Powers

Venezuela's controversial new constituent assembly has overwhelmingly voted in favour of assuming the powers of the opposition-led parliament.

- The move has been rejected by parliament, which said Venezuelans and the international community would not recognise the new powers.
- President Nicolas Maduro said the new assembly will end the deadly political unrest in the country. But many have called it a slide towards dictatorship.
- The head of the Organization of American States (OAS) Luis Almagro called the move an "illegitimate dissolution" of the elected parliament.

US and South Korea to Begin 10-day Long Annual Military Exercise

The Pentagon says the US and South Korea will begin a 10-day-long annual military exercise.

- US Department of Defence said the Ulchi Freedom Guardian drill is a computer simulated defensive exercise designed to enhance readiness and maintain stability on the Korean peninsula.
- In addition to South Korea and US forces, UN Command forces from seven states will participate in the exercise.
- The Ulchi Freedom Guardian drills will be the first joint military exercise between the allies since North Korea successfully flight-tested two intercontinental ballistic missiles in July and

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threatened to bracket Guam with intermediate range ballistic missile fire in August.

China Launches First Cyber Court in e-commerce Hub

China launched its first cyber court specialising in handling internet-related cases in the e-commerce hub of Hangzhou, amid a spike in the number of online disputes.

- The Hangzhou Internet Court in Hangzhou, capital of east China's Zhejiang Province will handle cases such as online trade disputes and copyright lawsuits. The cases handled by the court will be tried online.
- The Hangzhou municipal legislature appointed the president, vice presidents and judges of the court.
- Hangzhou is home to many Internet companies, including e-commerce giant Alibaba.

First Regional Centre of NDB Opens in South Africa

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

- The New Development Bank (NDB), formerly referred to as the BRICS Development Bank, is a multilateral development bank established by the BRICS Nations (Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa) with an initial authorised capital of the bank is USD 100 billion.
- The idea for setting up NDB was proposed by India at the 4th BRICS summit in 2012 held in New Delhi. The creation of a NDB was the main theme of the meeting.

Festival of India being Organized in Cote D'Ivoire, Liberia and Guinea

A Festival of India is being organized in Cote d'Ivoire and concurrently accredited countries of Liberia and Guinea from 15 August, 2017 – 28 January, 2018.

- The Festival will showcase diverse Indian culture, i.e. classical and folk dances.
- The events will be held in four cities of Cote d'Ivoire, namely, Abidjan, Yamassoukro and Grand Bassam and Daloa and capital cities of Monrovia of Liberia and Conakry of Guinea.

Shri Piyush Goyal addresses the 8th World Renewable Energy Technology Congress

Union Minister of State (IC) for Power, Coal, Renewable Energy and Mines, Shri Piyush Goyal, addressed a distinguished gathering of delegates attending the 3-day 8th World Renewable Energy Technology Congress in New Delhi. The Minister also gave away Energy and Environment Foundation Global Excellence awards 2017 during the inaugural session of the conference.

- The annual conference is visualized and planned in the backdrop of India's vision on achieving "Energy Independence and Power for all by 2022".
- It focusses on new Green Technologies to ensure clean, reliable and affordable Renewable Energy supplies.
- It provides an opportunity and open forum to exchange information, share experiences and best practices by bringing together experts, investors and other multi stake holders of i.e. Public and Private Sector, Advisory Groups, Governments, NGOs, Non-Profit organizations Environmentalists and Academia.

Home Minister Rajnath Singh Attends SCO Meet

A two-day Meeting of Heads of Governments of Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) Member States began at Choplon Ata in Kyrgyz Republic.



- The meeting will focus on prevention and elimination of emergency situations. Home Minister Rajnath Singh is leading the Indian delegation which includes senior officers from Home and External Affairs Ministries and National Disaster Management Authority.
- India had joined the SCO in June in Kazakhstan capital Astana. Prime Minister Narendra Modi had attended the summit.
- The participation of India as SCO Member will open additional opportunities for giving new impetus to the development of international cooperation in the field of protecting the population and territories from emergency situations within the framework of the Organisation.
- The meeting will consider and approve the draft action plan for 2018-2019 for the implementation of the agreement between the governments of the SCO

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member states on cooperation in providing assistance in the elimination of emergency situations.

8 MoUs Signed Between India and Nepal

As Nepal's PM visits India, the two trusting countries signed a string of MoUs. The MoUs signed will largely provide aid to Nepal for the recovery from its disastrous earthquakes.



- The MoUs included the modalities for utilization of India's housing grant component to support reconstruction of 50,000 houses in Nepal, implementation of the grant component of India's post-earthquake reconstruction package in the education sector, cultural heritage sector and the health sector in Nepal, implementation arrangement on cost sharing.
- While the other MoUs included schedules and safeguard issues for construction of Mechi Bridge under ADB's SASEC road connectivity program, funded by the government of India, MoU on drug demand reduction and prevention of Illicit trafficking in narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances and precursor chemical and related matters, agreement on cooperation in the field of standardization and conformity assessment

Alibaba's Jack Ma Asia's Richest Man: Forbes

A huge rise in Alibaba Group's earnings and the stock price has propelled its founder and executive chairman Jack Ma back to the top of the list of Asia's wealthiest people.

- According to Forbes Real-time Billionaires List, Ma is now worth \$37.4 billion.
- Former English teacher Jack Ma founded Alibaba in 1999. The company unites a family of internet-based businesses, which enables users to buy or sell anywhere in the world.

A New Bridge Over Mechi River at Indo-Nepal Border

The Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi approved a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to be signed between India and Nepal for laying down implementation arrangement on Cost sharing, Schedules and Safeguard issues for starting construction of a new Bridge over Mechi River at Indo-Nepal border.

- The cost of construction would be funded by Government of India through ADB loan. The new bridge is part of up-gradation of the Kakarvitta (Nepal) to Panitanki Bypass (India) on NH 327B. Mechi Bridge is the ending point of Asian Highway 02 in India leading to Nepal and provides critical connectivity to Nepal.
- The construction of the bridge will improve regional connectivity and has potential to strengthen cross border trade between both the countries and cementing ties by strengthening industrial, social and cultural exchanges.
- National Highway and Infrastructure Development Corporation (NHIDCL) under Ministry of Road Transport & Highways has been designated as the implementing agency for this project.

Festival of India Being Organised in Brazil

A Festival of India is being organized in Brazil from 31 August-9 September 2017.

- The Festival will showcase diverse Indian culture, i.e. classical dances, literature, cuisine and Exhibition on Mahatma Gandhi.
- The following events will be held in the cities of Brasilia, Sao Paulo and Rio de Janeiro.

International Military Music Festival in Moscow

The International Military Music Festival "Spasskaya Tower" is the parade of the best military music bands of Russia and other countries that takes place every year at Red Square in Moscow. This Music Festival is a mega event, where military musicians represent the variety of national, artistic and military traditions of the world.

- Every year about 1500 musicians, military men and other artists from around 40 countries perform at the "Spasskaya Tower". The Festival is duly considered one of the largest international events in Russia and attracts tremendous response of the general public.
- A Tri-Services band from the Indian Armed Forces has also been invited to participate and perform in the prestigious event. The participation of the Tri-Services Band would foster better ties between the Armed Forces of the two countries and is also a befitting acknowledgment of the professional skills of the Indian Armed Forces bands.

Google Expands Public Wi-Fi to Indonesia

After a successful run in India, Google has brought its public Wi-Fi programme 'Google Station' to Indonesia that will help

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improves access to Internet at railway stations and other locations.

- Google is partnering with CBN and Fiberstar to bring high-speed public Wi-Fi to hundreds of locations across Indonesia.
- Google, in collaboration with Railtel, has rolled out free Wi-Fi service at several railway stations in India, offering high-speed internet to millions of people.
- Google launched its first free WiFi services at Mumbai Central station in January 2016.

M.J. Akbar Inaugurated 'Namaskar Africa' Trade Show

The 'Namaskar 2017' exposition will be inaugurated by MoS in the ministry of external affairs MJ Akbar and is part of 'Namaskar Africa', a regional flagship programme where Ficci in partnership with the ministry of commerce and industry will create awareness about the best Indian technologies and products in the region as well as explore opportunities offered by the region.

- Ghana has been preparing to implement the regional economic grouping, Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) Common External Tariff (CET), a major platform for a Customs Union that facilitates free trade and ensures greater regional economic integration.
- To make Indian businessmen more acceptable in Africa, there is an urgent need for more people-to-people interaction, more sanitised information and awareness to Indians about Africa and African people.

US Imposes Financial Sanctions on Venezuela

The US slapped "strong" financial sanctions on the dictatorship in Venezuela, barring banks from any new deals with the government. US President Donald Trump has signed an executive order imposing "strong, new financial sanctions" on Venezuela.

- The president's new action prohibits dealings in new debt and equity issued by the government of Venezuela and its state oil company.
- It also prohibits dealings in certain existing bonds owned by the Venezuelan public sector, as well as dividend payments to the government of Venezuela," White House Press Secretary Sarah Sanders said in a statement after Trump signed the executive order.

Points to remember about Venezuela

President : Nicolás Maduro

Capital: Caracas

Currency: Venezuelan bolívar

Two-Day Indian Ocean Conference in Colombo

Minister of External Affairs (MEA) Sushma Swaraj will participate in the two-day Indian Ocean Conference (IOC) scheduled to be held at Colombo.

- Sri Lankan Prime Minister and President are among the key speakers at the IOC event on the theme of "Peace, Progress and Prosperity".
- Delhi-based think tank India Foundation will host the IOC 2017 in collaboration with Research and Learning Center RSIS Singapore and NIFS Colombo.
- The first was held in Singapore in 2016 in partnership with think tanks from Singapore, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh.
- The conference will also be attended by officials from the USA, Australia and Germany among others.

UN Opens Atomic Fuel Reserve in Kazakhstan to Ensure Supply

Ensuring the supply of nuclear fuel in the event of disruption due to political or market problems is the objective of the



International Atomic Energy Agency's Low Enriched Uranium Bank, which opens in 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.
- This material is usually purchased on the open market or by bilateral agreement between countries, a system the new bank does not want to disrupt.
- The IAEA insists that the reserve is a "mechanism of last resort" for situations in which a UN member nation cannot access fuel by the usual means.



Swachh Survekshan-2018 launched in the country

Central Government launched 'Swachh Survekshan-2018' to rank all the 4,041 cities and towns of the country based on infrastructure



development for improved sanitation services and their

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sustainability, outcomes, citizen connect and visible impact on ground.

- Minister of Housing & Urban Affairs Shri Narendra Singh Tomar launched the survey, the third in the series and released a comprehensive Survey Tool Kit, explaining the methodology, weightages and new features and thrust areas that helps cities and towns prepare for the field survey over the next six months.

Minority minister launches “Jiyo Parsi Publicity Phase-2” in Mumbai

Union Minister of state for Minority Affairs and Parliamentary Affairs Shri Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi launched “JIYO PARSI PUBLICITY PHASE – 2” function in Mumbai On July 29th 2017. In the year of 2013 “Jiyo Parsi Publicity Phase-1 has launched.

- The main objective of the “Jiyo Parsi” scheme is to reverse the declining trend of Parsi population by adopting a scientific protocol and structured interventions, stabilize their population and increase the population of Parsis in India.
- Ministry of Minority Affairs’ scheme has two components: Medical Assistance and Advocacy/Counselling.

‘Rajaswa Gyansangam’ scheduled to be held in New Delhi

A two day Conclave of Tax Officers entitled ‘Rajaswa Gyansangam’ will be held on 1st and 2nd September, 2017 at Vigyan Bhawan in New Delhi.

- The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi will inaugurate this Conclave on the 1st day of September, 2017.
- The focus of the discussion will be on GST as well as on unearthing black money.

Projects worth Rs 425 crore approved by NMCG

The Executive Committee of National Mission for Clean Ganga in its 4th meeting held approved seven projects worth Rs 425 crore in the sector of sewage infrastructure, Ghat development and research.

- In sewage sector, three projects each in Uttar Pradesh and Bihar have been approved.
- For Uttar Pradesh, interception, diversion and STP projects for Unnao, Shuklaganj and Ramnagar have been approved. These three projects aim at creation of sewage treatment at a total cost of Rs 238.64 crore.
- While in Bihar, three projects at Sultanganj, Naugachia and Mokama with total estimated cost of Rs 175 crore have been approved.

Constitution 123rd Amendment Bill 2017 for NCBC

On July 31, 2017, Constitution 123rd Amendment Bill, 2017 for setting up of a National Commission for Backward Classes was passed by Rajya



Sabha after dropping an important clause.

- Rajya Sabha passed the bill by dropping Clause 3 which pertains to the insertion of a new article 338B about the constitution and powers of the National Commission for Backward Classes.
- One amendment sought increase in the number of members of the proposed commission from three to five with reservation for a member from a minority community and another for women.

Committee to study issues related to data protection

Justice B N Srikrishna, former judge of the Supreme Court of India will head a Committee of experts which would study various issues relating to data protection in the country and suggest a draft data protection Bill.

The government led ten-member committee will "identify key data protection issues in India and recommend methods of addressing them."

Expert Team had also reported how the government has sought the help of a legal think tank -- the Vidhi Centre For Legal Policy -- which was instrumental in drafting of the Aadhaar Act as well as the Bankruptcy Code.

Government launches e-RaKAM portal

The government launched a portal, e-Rashtriya Kisan Agri Mandi(e-RaKAM), to provide a platform to sell agricultural produce. The portal is a joint initiative by state-run-auctioneer MSTC and Central Warehousing Corporation arm CRWC.

E-RaKAM is a first-of-its-kind initiative that leverages technology to connect farmers of the smallest villages to the biggest markets of the world through internet and e-RaKAM centres.

Under this initiative, e-RaKAM centres are being developed in a phased manner throughout the country to facilitate farmers for online sale of their produce.

Farmers would be paid through e-Payment directly into their bank accounts.

Army launches 'Humraaz' app for soldiers

The Indian Army has developed a mobile application 'Humraaz' through which serving soldiers can track details like postings and promotions.

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Through the 'Humraaz' app, soldiers can also view their monthly salary slips and the Form 16 and also download them.

Desi Global Positioning System: NavIC

Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has deployed an indigenous regional positioning system named as "Navigation with Indian Constellation" (NavIC).

It consists of seven satellites in a constellation to provide Position, Navigation and Timing (PNT) services in Indian mainland and surrounding region up to 1500 Km.

A budget of Rs.1420 Crore has been approved by the Government for the realisation of the system including 7 in-orbit satellites, 2 satellites as ground spare and associated ground segment.

2nd AGRI UDAAN- Food and Agribusiness launched in New Delhi

In an attempt to promote innovation and entrepreneurship in agriculture, Government launched the 2nd AGRI-UDAAN program in New Delhi.

- This programme will help to selected innovative startups that will be mentored in to scale up their operations in agri value chain for effective improvement in agriculture.
- This 6-month program is a unique platform for scale up stage innovators, entrepreneurs and startups in the Food and Agribusiness sectors. Top 40 startups will be shortlisted and allowed to pitch in front of the panel of evaluators during cohort finalization program.

Finance Minister Arun Jaitley announces new ETF- Bharat-22

Finance Minister Arun Jaitley launched a new ETF under the name Bharat 22, which will comprise shares of 22 companies.

- The Finance Minister said that Bharat-22 ETF will comprise of the government's holding in SUUTI, CPSE ETF and PSU banks.
- Among the 22 stocks, IOC, BPCL and NALCO will have 4.4 per cent weight each in Bharat-22. Power Grid will have 7.9 per cent weight, while Axis Bank (7.7 per cent), SBI (8.6 per cent) and Coal India (3.3 per cent) ITC (15.2 per cent), ONGC (5.3 per cent), NTPC (6.7 per cent) will have 3-15 per cent weightage in the ETF.

India's first private missile production facility unveiled

India's first private sector missile sub-systems manufacturing facility, a joint venture between the \$2.5 billion Kalyani Group and Israel's Rafael Advanced Defence Systems Ltd, inaugurated in Hyderabad.

- According to Kalyani Group chairman Baba N. Kalyani, the Kalyani Rafael Advanced Systems (KRAS) plant will make anti-tank guided missile (ATGM) Spike. Besides supplying to the Indian Army, the plan is to export to South East Asian countries.

- Advanced equipment formed in line with the 'Make in India' initiative of the Centre and the policy to encourage private sector participation in defence production, the 51:49 joint ventures will develop a wide range of advanced capabilities.

MahaDBT, MahaVASTU portals launched by Maharashtra Government

Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis launched MahaDBT and MahaVASTU online portals.



- MahaDBT is an Aadhaar-authenticated electronic mechanism to give benefits to lakhs of beneficiaries under various schemes across all departments.
- MahaVASTU is an Online Building Permission Management System with an electronic workflow for sanctioning building approvals.
- Maharashtra is the first state to launch this system to give direct benefits with 'Aadhaar' authentication.

Green Airports in Andhra Pradesh

The Government of India encourages development of green airports. In order to develop airports in Andhra Pradesh as green airports, AAI has commenced installation of 1MWp solar power plant at Tirupathi and Vijaywada Airports. AAI has completed installation of solar power plants at 29 airports/locations with a total capacity of 12.84 MWp.

- Earlier, the Cochin International Airport Limited (CIAL) became the first airport in the world, to be completely powered by solar energy.

7 August: National Handloom Day

National Handloom Day is being observed today to encourage people to use hand-made loom in the country. The main event will be held in Guwahati to celebrate the third National Handloom Day.

- Central Government has declared August 7 as National Handloom Day, to be celebrated every year due to its significance in India's history, as 'Swadeshi Movement' was launched in 1905 on this day. The movement involved revival of domestic products and production processes.

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- This event will give a boost to weavers of Assam, who are known for producing Pat and Muga silk. The Assam government has already announced an ambitious Muga Mission to increase production with a cost of 100 crore rupees.

Government revises the base year of Wholesale Price Index (WPI)

On August 4, 2017, in a written reply to a question in Lok Sabha, Arjun Ram Meghwal, Minister of State for Finance and Corporate Affairs stated that Government has revised the base year of All-India Wholesale Price Index (WPI) from 2004-05 to 2011-12.

- In the revised series, WPI will continue to constitute three Major Groups namely Primary Articles, Fuel & Power and Manufactured Products.
- The new series has 697 items as compared to 676 items in old series.

NITI Aayog announces partnership with 6 states to transform Health & Edu sectors

NITI Aayog has shortlisted Uttar Pradesh, Assam and Karnataka under its 'Sustainable Action for Transforming Human Capital', SATH initiative to handhold them and transform their health sector.

- The Aayog has also selected Madhya Pradesh, Jharkhand and Odisha under its SATH initiative to transform their education sector.
- To give major push to competitive, cooperative federalism, the government think tank had invited all states and Union Territories to participate in its SATH initiative to transform Health and Education sectors.
- States then made presentations for each sector which was assessed by a committee comprised of senior members of NITI Aayog and Health and Human Resources Development ministries.

75th anniversary of Quit India Movement

The nation is celebrating the 75th anniversary of the Quit India Movement today. A number of events are being planned to mark the occasion.

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi has called upon countrymen to start a new India movement "SANKALP SE SIDDHI"- Attainment through Resolve.
- Mr Modi, termed the month of August as a month of revolution as the non-cooperation movement was launched on 1st of August 1920, Quit-India

movement on 9th of August 1942 and on 15th August 1947 India became independent.

- The National Archives of India is organizing a special exhibition in New Delhi from today to mark the 75th year of Quit India Movement and Azad Hind Fauj. The two big events of the Indian history will be displayed through thousands of declassified files and documents.

Gujarat Rajya Sabha Election result

BJP National President Amit Shah, Union Minister for Textile and Information and Broadcasting Smriti Irani and Senior Congress leader Ahmed Patel have won the Rajya Sabha elections from Gujarat.

- Amit Shah and Smriti Irani received 46 votes each while Ahmed Patel got 44 votes.

PM discussed the New India initiative with the district magistrates

Prime Minister Narendra Modi addressed district collectors across the country through video-conferencing, on the theme of "New India - Manthan."

- It was the first-of-its-kind interaction with district collectors which marked the occasion of the 75th anniversary of the Quit India Movement.
- During the interaction, the Prime Minister asked the collectors to prepare a vision document, or resolution document for their district before the 15th of August.
- The Prime Minister recalled Mahatma Gandhi's message that the ultimate goal of governance should be to improve the lives of the poorest of the poor.

NCERT launches Web Portal for supply of NCERT Textbooks

Minister of State for Human Resource Development Upendra Kushwaha launched the NCERT's Web portal for supply of textbooks to schools and individuals at a function in New Delhi.



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NCERT

NCERT

National Council Of Educational Research
And Training

- The portal will ensure better distribution of textbooks across the country and address the concerns of schools and parents, regarding unavailability of textbooks. The Web Portal can be accessed at www.ncertbooks.ncert.gov.in.
- They can place their orders by login in onto the portal, and books will be delivered at their doorsteps with nominal postal charges. The NCERT textbooks can also be downloaded, free of cost, from its website.

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Kerela, Haryana top sanitation survey

According to the survey, almost all rural households in Kerala and Haryana had access to a toilet.

- The Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation released the findings of the survey of 1.4 lakh rural households.
- Northeastern States of Sikkim, Manipur and Nagaland were top performers with 95% rural households covered by toilets.
- The Himalayan States of Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand with over 90% toilet coverage of the rural houses.
- BJP-ruled Uttar Pradesh and NDA-ruled Bihar are among the worst performers in terms of rural sanitation. In Bihar, only 30% of the rural household had access to toilets while Uttar Pradesh was marginally better at 37%.

National Mission for Clean Ganga approves 10 projects

National Mission for Clean Ganga has approved ten projects in Bihar, West Bengal and Uttar Pradesh. These projects were approved in the 5th meeting of the Executive Committee of National Mission for Clean Ganga.

- Eight of the ten projects pertain to sewage infrastructure and treatment, one to ghat development and one to Ganga Knowledge Centre.
- A project to establish Ganga Monitoring Centers in five riparian Ganga states has also been approved.

About NMCG:-

- The National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) is the implementation wing of National Ganga Council which was set up in October 2016. It is under the Ministry for Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation, Government of India.
- The aim is to clean the Ganga and its tributaries in a comprehensive manner.

Venkaiah Naidu sworn as 13th Vice President of India

Former Union Minister M Venkaiah Naidu will be sworn in as the 13th Vice President of India today. He will be administered the oath of office and secrecy by President Ram Nath Kovind.



- Mr. Naidu will take charge as the Chairman of Rajya Sabha at Parliament House and will preside over the proceedings in the Upper House.
- In the Atal Bihari Vajpayee Government he was the Union Cabinet Minister for Rural Development. In present Narendra Modi led government Mr Naidu has served as the Minister of Housing and Urban Affairs and Information and Broadcasting.

About Vice-President:-

- Article 63 of Indian Constitution states “there shall be a Vice-President of India”.
- Article 66 of the Indian Constitution states the manner of election of the Vice-President.
- The Vice-President of India is also ex officio Chairperson of the Rajya Sabha.

Aajeevika Grameen Express Yojana (AGEY) launched

The Government of India has decided to launch a new sub-scheme named “Aajeevika Grameen Express Yojana (AGEY)” as part of



the Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana – National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM).

- The Self Help Groups under DAY-NRLM will operate road transport service in backward areas. This will help to provide safe, affordable and community monitored rural transport services to connect remote villages with key services and amenities (such as access to markets, education and health) for the overall economic development of backward rural areas.
- The beneficiary SHG member will be provided an interest free loan by the CBO from its Community Investment Fund upto Rs.6.50 lakh for purchase of the vehicle.

About DAY-NRLM:-

- National Rural Livelihoods Mission (NRLM) was launched by the Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD), Government of India in June 2011.
- In November 2015, the program was renamed Deendayal Antayodaya Yojana (DAY-NRLM).
- Objective of scheme is enabling poors to increase household income through sustainable livelihood enhancements and improved access to financial services.

CBFC Board Reconstituted for three years

The Centre has appointed lyricist Prasoon Joshi as Chairman of the Central Board of Film Certification, CBFC, for a period of three years. Mr Joshi has replaced former Chairman Pahlaj Nihalani.

- Government has also reconstituted the existing CBFC with immediate effect for a period of three years or until further orders.
- Information and Broadcasting Ministry in a release confirm that there are 12 members in the new board, which include Ms. Gautami Tadimalla, Narendra Kohli, Naresh Chandra Lal, Vivek Agnihotri and Ms Vidya Balan.

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About CBFC:-

- CBFC is a statutory body under Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, regulating the public exhibition of films under the provisions of the Cinematograph Act.
- The Board consists of non-official members and a Chairman, all of whom are appointed by Central Government.
- It headquartered at Mumbai. Any Film can be publicly exhibited in the country only after they have been certified by it.

Economic Survey 2016-17 Volume 2 was laid in the Parliament

According to Economic Survey 2016-17 Volume 2, achieving the high end of the 6.75-7.5 percent growth projected previously will be difficult due to appreciation of rupee, farm loan waivers and transitional challenges from implementing GST.

- It said the government and the RBI have taken "prominent steps" to address the twin balance sheet challenge which has boosted market confidence in the short run.
- Also, the removal of check posts and easing of transport constraints after Goods and Service Tax (GST) implementation can provide some short-term fillip to economic activity.

Environment Minister launches 'Gaj Yatra' to mark World Elephant Day

Union Environment, Forest and Climate Change Minister, Dr. Harsh Vardhan, launched 'Gaj Yatra', a nationwide campaign to protect elephants on the occasion of World Elephant Day.

- The campaign is planned to cover 12 elephant range states. The Environment Minister released the All India Census 2017 Report on elephants as also the Agreed Points of Action on Trans-Boundary Conservation of Elephants by India and Bangladesh and a document titled 'Right of Passage' on elephant corridors in India.
- The 'Gaju' mascot, which was released by the Ministry in 2012, will be helm the campaign. The campaign will be led by the Wildlife Trust of India.
- Actor and wildlife enthusiast, Ms. Dia Mirza, participated in the walk and run event organised on the occasion along with the children.

About World Elephant Day

- World Elephant Day is an annual global event celebrated across the world on August 12, dedicated

to the preservation and protection of elephants. African elephants are listed as "vulnerable" and Asian elephants as "endangered" in the IUCN Red List of threatened species.

Israel fence systems at Pak Borders

India is deploying along its volatile border with Pakistan a smart Israel-developed fencing system having a 'quick response team' mechanism which strikes when the CCTV-powered control room detects an infiltration attempt.



- The BSF is implementing an ambitious project called the comprehensive integrated border management system (CIBMS) as part of the Narendra Modi government's plan to completely seal the Indo-Pak and India-Bangladesh borders in the next few years.

Government launches national anthem video in sign language

Union Minister of State for HRD Mahendra Nath Pandey, on Thursday, launched an Indian National Anthem video in sign language, featuring differently-abled and partially differently-abled children.

- Directed by filmmaker Govind Nihalani, the three-minute video features Bollywood actor Amitabh Bachchan along with physically challenged children performing the anthem in sign language with the Red Fort in the background.

Indian Coast Guard ship 'Shaurya' commissioned in Goa

Indian Coast Guard ship "Shaurya", the fifth in the series of six 105-metre offshore patrol vessels (OPVs) commissioned in Goa by Union Minister for Petroleum and Natural Gas Dharmendra Pradhan.

- The OPV, which draws 2,350 tonne and is propelled by 9100 kilowatt diesel engine, has been designed and built indigenously by Goa Shipyard Ltd and is fitted with state-of-the-art navigation and communication equipment, sensors and machineries.
- The ship is designed to carry one twin engine light helicopter and five high-speed boats, including two quick reaction inflatable boats for swift boarding operations, search and rescue, law enforcement and maritime patrol.

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Centre to consider one year exemption for TN from NEET

The Central government is prepared to consider an exemption of one year from the NEET system for students of government colleges in Tamil Nadu if the state brings forward an ordinance.

- The National Eligibility cum Entrance Test or NEET-UG is an entrance examination in India, for students who wish to study any graduate medical course (MBBS/dental course (BDS) or postgraduate course (MD/MS) in government or private medical colleges in India.

15th August 2017: 71st Independence Day

India celebrates its 70th anniversary of independence and Prime Minister Narendra Modi addressed the nation from the Red Fort.

Some Important points of PM's Independence Day speech:

This is a special year- 75th anniversary of Quit India, 100th anniversary of Champaran Satyagraha, 125th anniversary of Ganesh Utsav.

We have to take the country ahead with the determination of creating a 'New India'.

In 1942, the nation's call was 'Bharat Chhoro' (Quit India).

In 2017, the nation's call is 'Bharat Jodo' (A United India)... that is our true strength. Irrespective of caste, community and religion we are one India.

Home Minister launches live twitter wall on 'Bharat Ke Veer'

The Union Home Minister Shri Rajnath Singh launched the live twitter wall for promoting Bharat Ke Veer portal here on the eve of Independence Day 2017.

Bharat Ke Veer portal was launched by the Union Home Minister and actor Shri Akshay Kumar on April 9, 2017.

This portal facilitates online donation directly to the families of CAPF Martyrs who have sacrificed their lives for the country in line of duty from January 1, 2016.

This social media awareness campaign will display all tweets with hashtag Bharat Ke Veer (#BharatKeVeer), at Connaught Place, CGO complex and Khan Market in New Delhi where huge LED display screens have been installed.

PM launches website to honour gallantry award winners

Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched a website to honour all the gallantry award winners since Independence.

Announcing the launch of the website <http://gallantryawards.gov.in> Mr. Modi said "the portal will preserve and tell the stories of our bravest men and women, civilians as well as armed forces personnel."

PM Said "If you have any information/photo that is missing and can be added to the portal, please share it through the feedback link on the site".

India's first online course on Infusion Therapy launched

Infusion Nurses Society (INS), a global authority in infusion therapy, launched India's first online course on Infusion Therapy for nurses, under which it aims to train over 3,000 nurses in the vital medical procedure.

Announcing the initiative, which will boost nurses even in rural parts of India, INS said that utilising the reach and ease of the digital platform, the course will enable members to access the various infusion therapy modules and presentations through its website.

According to President of INS India Binu Sharma "The thinking behind such initiatives is to engage healthcare professionals to intensify the best safety and quality practices in infusion management across the country".

"Fete de Puducherry" Begins

Artistes from 11 states and the union territory of Puducherry took part in 'Fete de Puducherry,' a three-day annual cultural festival organised by the government.



Department of Art and Culture said that troupes from the states would present programmes in urban and rural areas during the three days.

The festival is held in association with the South Zone Cultural Centre Thanjavur (Tamil Nadu) every year to bring to focus the multi-faceted cultural features of various states.

The Puducherry government has been holding the festival since 1985 as part of celebrating Independence Day and also Liberation Day of Puducherry (August 16).

Maharashtra CM launches 'Namo Yuva Rojgar Kendra'

Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis has launched Namo Yuva Rojgar Kendra, a farmers' market on wheels, which aims at delivering farm-fresh organic produce at reasonable prices.

A total of 125 farm-to-home delivery vans will tour the city to sell the product. The vegetables sold in the mobile vans will be priced 25% lower than the average market rate. The initiative aims to generate jobs for uneducated youth and women.

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Namo Yuva Rojgar Kendra is the brainchild of Prasad Lad, president of Mi Mumbai Abhiyan-Abhiman and Shri Swami Samarth Shetkari Utpadak. Mr. Lad said the initiative will be different from the now defunct Maharashtra Agro and Fruit Processing Corporation (MAFCO).

Indian Government asks Internet majors to remove Blue Whale links

Government has directed internet majors – Google, Facebook, Whatsapp, Instagram, Microsoft and Yahoo – to immediately remove the links of dangerous online game Blue Whale Challenge, which has led to suicide of children in India and other countries.

- The Blue Whale challenge is reportedly a suicide game in which the player is given certain tasks to complete for a period of 50 days and the final task leads to suicide. The player is also asked to share photos after finishing the challenge.

New Metro Rail Policy approved

The Union Cabinet has approved a new Metro Rail Policy that seeks to **enable realization of growing metro rail aspirations** of a large number of cities in a responsible manner.



- It focuses on compact urban development, cost reduction and multi-modal integration.
- PPP component mandatory for availing central assistance for new metro projects which is a big move for private investments across a range of metro operations.
- Seeking to ensure financial viability of metro projects, the new Metro Rail Policy requires the States to clearly indicate in the project report the measures to be taken for commercial / property development at stations and on other urban land and for other means of maximum non-fare revenue generation through advertisements, lease of space etc., backed by statutory support.
- At present, metro projects with a total length of **370 kms are operational in 8 cities** viz., Delhi (217 kms), Bengaluru (42.30 kms), Kolkata (27.39 kms), Chennai (27.36 kms), Kochi (13.30 kms), Mumbai (Metro Line 1-11.40 km, Mono Rail Phase 1-9.0 km),

Jaipur-9.00 kms and Gurugram (Rapid Metro-1.60 km).

- Metro Projects with a total length of 537 kms are in **progress in 13 cities** including the eight mentioned above. New cities acquiring metro services are; Hyderabad (71 kms), Nagpur (38 kms), Ahmedabad (36 kms), Pune (31.25 kms) and Lucknow (23 kms).

\$264 Million penalty imposed on Reliance Industries Ltd & BP

The government has imposed a penalty of 264 million dollar (about Rs 1,700 crore) on Reliance Industries Ltd and its partners for **not fulfilling the targeted production of natural gas** from **KG-D6 fields** in 2015-16.

- The total penalty imposed on the company during the six years beginning April 1, 2010, stands at **\$ 3.02 billion**.
- The Production Sharing Contract allows RIL and its **UK partner BP PLC** and **Canadian partner Niko Resources** to deduct all capital and operating expenses from the sale of gas before sharing profit with the government.

New Corpus Fund for Higher Education

The Cabinet approved creation of a single corpus fund in which all proceeds of secondary and higher education cess will be credited and utilised for the government's schemes in education sector.

- The HRD Ministry will be responsible for the administration and maintenance of the non-lapsable pool account which will be known as "Madhyamik and Uchchar Shiksha Kosh" (MUSK).
- As a percentage of GDP, the expenditure on education has dipped to 2.8 per cent in 2014-15, from 3.1 per cent during 2009-10 to 2013-14.
- This new corpus fund would be used for funding ongoing schemes as well as programmes started in the future.

President Asks Mining Companies to Make Policy for Welfare of Labourers

During the National Safety Awards (Mines)-2013 and 2014 in New Delhi, Mr Kovind asked mining companies to put in place world class safety measures in mines for prevention of accidents in mines.

- President said, the mineral sector contributes 2.6 per cent of country's GDP and provides direct employment to over 10 lakh people on a daily basis.

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- He said that the National Safety Awards in Mines will continue to be an excellent motivator for upholding safety and welfare standards in the mines of the country.
- The award for each mine is received jointly by one management representative and one workers' representative. The awards were given for the first time in 1984 for the contest years 1982 and 1983.

CCEA Approves Proposal of DIPAM for Strategic Disinvestment

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

- The department will set up an alternative mechanism comprising of the Finance Minister, Minister for Road Transport and Highways and Minister of Administrative Department, to decide on the matters relating to terms and conditions of the sale from the stage of inviting of Express of Interests till inviting of financial bid.
- DIPAM is the nodal agency of Union Finance Ministry mandated to advise the Union Government in the matters of financial restructuring of PSUs and also for attracting investment through capital markets. It will also deal with all matters relating to sale of Union Government's equity in PSUs.

NHAI Launches Mobile App MyFASTag and FASTag Partner

National Highways Authority of India launched two mobile Apps – MyFASTag and FASTag Partner in New Delhi, to facilitate the availability of FASTags for Electronic Toll Collection.

- MyFASTag is a consumer App that can be downloaded from the App Store for both Android and iOS systems. A consumer can purchase or recharge FASTags on this App. The App also helps to keep track of transactions and provides for online grievance redressal.
- FASTag Partner is a merchant App. Agencies like Common Services Centre, banking partners and vehicle dealers can sell and enroll FASTag through this App. In addition to this, the App can also be used to activate the RFID tags. These RFID tags are already fixed on the cars but are dormant. This App will convert these RFID tags into ETC Tag (FASTag).

Swachh Sankalp se Swachh Siddhi Competition

In pursuit of achieve a New India by 2022 under Sankalp se Siddhi vision, the Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation is organising countrywide Film, Essay and Painting Competition only for Primary School students between 17th August and 8th September, 2017 as another major step towards making Swachhta, a people's movement.

- The core objective is to generate mass involvement in Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM) and related issues.

The themes of the aforesaid competitions, to be held under the overall banner of Swachh Sankalp se Swachh Siddhi, are:

- Essay Competition: What can I do for making India clean?
- Film Competition: My contribution to make India clean.
- Painting Competition: Clean India of my Dreams.

Based on the aforesaid competitions, the National Swachh Bharat Awards shall be presented on 2nd October, 2017.

TRIFED Celebrates World Honey Bee Day

To create awareness about Beekeeping and uses of its products including Honey, Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India



Limited (TRIFED) is celebrated World Honey Bee Day (WHBD) on 19.08.2017 in the Country.

- The main theme of celebrating WHBD is to save Indian honey bee.
- Honeybees/ beekeeping have been recognised as one of the important inputs for sustainable development of agriculture/ horticulture.
- TRIFED is an apex organisation at National Level and functioning under the administrative control of Ministry of Tribal Affairs.
- TRIFED is serving the interests of Tribals, who are engaged in collection of NTFP and making of Tribal Art & Handicraft Products for their livelihood so as to ensure better remunerative price for their products as well as for the socio-economic betterment.

Sadbhavana Diwas: 20 August

The Sadbhavana Diwas or Harmony Day is celebrated to commemorate the birth anniversary (August 20) of Rajiv Gandhi.

- On this day national integration, peace, love, affection and communal harmony among all

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Indians is encouraged. Shri Rajiv Gandhi was born on August 20, 1944, in Bombay.

- At 40, Mr. Rajiv Gandhi was the youngest Prime Minister of India.
- Rajiv Gandhi said "India is an old country, but a young nation; and like the young everywhere, we are impatient. I am young and I too have a dream. I dream of an India, strong, independent, self-reliant and in the forefront of the front ranks of the nations of the world in the service of mankind."

Navika Sagar Parikrama

Navika Sagar Parikrama is a project wherein a team of women officers of the Indian Navy would circumnavigate the globe on an Indian-built sail boat INSV Tarini.

- This is the first ever Indian circumnavigation of the globe by an all-women crew. The project is scheduled to commence in early Sep 17.
- INSV Tarini is the sister vessel of INSV Mhadei. The project is considered essential towards promoting Ocean Sailing activities in the Navy while depicting Government of India's thrust for 'Nari Shakti'.
- The expedition has been apply titled 'Navika Sagar Parikrama', aimed at promoting women empowerment in the country and ocean sailing by the Indian Navy. The expedition would inspire the youth of our nation to develop an understanding of the sea and instill a spirit of adventure and camaraderie.

Defence Ministry Clears Proposal to Buy Six Apache Attack Helicopters for Indian Army

The Indian Army will soon get its first attack helicopters, after the Defence Ministry cleared purchase of six Apache attack choppers at a cost of around Rs 4,168 crore.

- The Defence Acquisition Council (DAC) chaired by Defence Minister Arun Jaitely also cleared another proposal for buying gas turbines from Ukraine for two Admiral Grigorovich class ships being made in Russia for India. Overall, the DAC cleared proposals worth Rs 4,600 crore.
- The six Apache AH-64E choppers will come with associated equipment which includes spares, training, weapons and ammunition.
- At present the fleet of Russian Mi-25 and Mi-35 attack helicopters are with the Indian Air Force, and used by the Indian Army.

'Champions of Change' Initiative Organised by NITI Aayog

The Prime Minister interacted with Young Entrepreneurs at the "Champions of Change" initiative organised by NITI Aayog at Pravasi Bharatiya Kendra.



- Six groups of Young Entrepreneurs made presentations before the PM on themes such as - Soft Power: Incredible India 2.0; Education and Skill Development; Health and Nutrition; Energizing a sustainable tomorrow; and Digital India; New India by 2022.
- The Prime Minister described the "Champions of Change" initiative as one effort to bring together diverse strengths for the benefit of the nation and society.

"Sankalp Se Sidhi" program being organized across the country to commemorate the 75th Anniversary of Quit India Movement

"Sankalp Se Sidhi" program is being organized across the country to commemorate the 75th Anniversary of Quit India Movement. On this occasion, the Agriculture & Farmers Welfare Ministry has planned to organize the Sankalp Se Sidhi program at 578 Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs), 29 ICAR institutes/SAUs and 53 ATMAs during 19-30 August 2017.

- The programs comprise of Kisan Film having message of Hon'ble PM to double farmers' income by year 2022, followed by pledge for Sankalp Se Sidhi, lecture by agriculture experts and address of the chief guest.

OPS sworn in as TN deputy CM

At a simple ceremony at the Raj Bhavan, Governor Ch Vidyasagar Rao administered the oath of office and secrecy to Panneerselvam.

- The former chief minister is back in his home turf finance, a portfolio he had held since 2011 when the J Jayalalithaa government was sworn-in.

Tamil Nadu

Chief Minister: K Palaniswami

Governor: Ch Vidyasagar Rao

Capital: Chennai

National Workshop on Enforcement of Intellectual Property Rights

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The Cell for IPR Promotion and Management (CIPAM), a professional body under the aegis of the Department of Industrial Policy & Promotion (DIPP), Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Government of India, is organizing a three-day workshop on Enforcement of Intellectual Property Rights (IPRs) from 22nd – 24th August, 2017, in New Delhi.

- Enforcement agencies like police, Customs, as also the prosecution wing, have a major role to play in effective enforcement of IPRs in the country. Creating awareness about IPRs amongst officials of these agencies, while strengthening the enforcement regime, will also assist them in handling cases relating to IPRs in their day to day activities.
- This workshop will help enforcement agencies across the country understand and appreciate the importance of their role in IPR enforcement. It will also act as a platform for the officials to share their experiences, exchange best practices and better inter-agency coordination with respect to enforcement of IPRs.
- Additionally, a workshop was conducted at Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel National Police Academy, Hyderabad, for IPS officers from all States and the neighboring countries of Nepal, Bhutan and Maldives.

HRD Minister Shri Prakash Javadekar launches 'Swasth Bachche, Swasth Bharat'

'Swasth Bachche, Swasth Bharat' Programme, an initiative of Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan to prepare a physical Health and Fitness Profile Card for more than 12 lakhs of Kendriya Vidyalaya students was launched in Kochi.

- Swasth Bachche, Swasth Bharat programme will provide a comprehensive and inclusive report card for children covering all age groups and children of different abilities.
- Making students, teachers and parents aware about the importance of good health and fitness and encouraging 60 minutes of play each day is an objective of the programme.
- Swasth Bachche, Swasth Bharat programme also intends to imbibe values of Olympics and Paralympics amongst students.

Commissioning of Second Ship of Landing Craft Utility MK-IV

Dr. Jagdish Mukhi, Lieutenant Governor, Andaman and Nicobar Islands, commissioned IN LCU L52 into the Indian Navy at Port Blair. IN LCU L52 is the second Landing Craft Utility (LCU) Mk-IV class to be inducted into the Indian Navy.

- The ship has been indigenously designed and built by Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers, Kolkata.
- The commissioning of L-52 is yet another manifestation of the potential of the country's indigenous design and ship building capability.
- LCU MK-IV ship is an amphibious ship with the primary role to transport and deploy Main Battle Tanks, Armoured Vehicles, troops and equipment from ship to shore.
- These ships would be based in the Andaman and Nicobar Command and can be deployed for multirole activities like beaching operations, search and rescue, disaster relief operations, supply and replenishment and evacuation from distant islands.

Home Minister Launches Digital Police Portal

Ministry of Home Affairs undertakes steps to integrate the various organs of the Criminal Justice System



such as the Police, Courts, Prisons, Prosecution, Forensic Laboratories, Finger Prints and Juvenile Homes with the Crime and Criminal Tracking Network & Systems (CCTNS) database.

- Launching the Digital Police Portal under the CCTNS project, Home Minister Rajnath Singh said this Interoperable Criminal Justice System (ICJS) will be a useful resource for all stakeholders including the policy makers.
- According to Home Ministry, the Digital Police Portal will enable citizens to register FIRs online and the portal will initially offer seven Public Delivery Services in 34 States & UTs, like Person and Address Verification e.g. of employees, tenants, nurses etc, permission for hosting Public Events, Lost & Found Articles and Vehicle theft etc.
- Besides, the portal will enable restricted access to law enforcement agencies on topics such as Antecedent Verification and make assessment of FIRs.

Cloud-Seeding Project of Karnataka Takes off at Jakkur Airfield

Cloud seeding project of the Karnataka took off at Jakkur Airfield. The project - named Varshadhare – has been fully operational and taken up for a period of 60 days.

- Cloud-seeding is a technique employed to increase precipitation in clouds. Experts say precipitation in

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clouds has been affected recently due to increase in particulate matter in the atmosphere, among other factors.

- Cloud-seeding aims at catalysing the process of precipitation, so that rainfall could be increased by 15-20 per cent in drought-affected areas of the State.
- By introducing impurities such as Silver Iodide, Potassium Chloride and others, the objective is to ensure that the size of the droplets is large enough to fall down as rain.

NITI Aayog Launched Mentor India Campaign

NITI Aayog launched the Mentor India Campaign, a strategic nation building initiative to engage leaders who can guide and mentor students at more than 900 Atal Tinkering Labs,



नीति आयोग

established across the country as a part of the Atal Innovation Mission. CEO NITI Aayog, Shri Amitabh Kant unveiled the online nationwide initiative in the capital.

- Mentor India is aimed at maximizing the impact of Atal Tinkering Labs, possibly the biggest disruption in formal education globally. The idea is to engage leaders who will nurture and guide students in the Atal Tinkering Labs. These labs are non-prescriptive by nature, and mentors are expected to be enablers rather than instructors.
- NITI Aayog's Atal Innovation Mission is among one of the flagship programs of the Government of India to promote innovation and entrepreneurship in the country to set up the Atal Tinkering Labs across the country.

SC Strikes Down Instant Triple Talaq

The Supreme Court set aside the practice of instant divorce through triple talaq among Muslims, terming it as unconstitutional, illegal and void.

- In a 3:2 majority judgment, the apex court held that triple talaq is against the basic tenets of Quran and hence, is unacceptable. The three judges also said, triple talaq is manifestly arbitrary and violative of the constitution and must be struck down.
- While Justices Kurian Joseph, RF Nariman and U U Lalit held triple talaq as violative of the constitution, Chief Justice J.S Khehar and Justice S Abdul Nazeer were in favour of putting the practice on hold for six

months and asking the government to come out with a law.

ICMR Inks Deal to Promote Vaccine Development

The Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) has signed an MoU with the International Vaccine Institute (IVI) for collaborating on vaccine research and development.

- The MoU was signed between Soumya Swaminathan, the Director General of ICMR and Secretary, Department of Health Research, Manoj Jhalani, Additional Secretary and managing director, National Health Mission, and IVI Director General Jerome H. Kim.
- One of the most successful collaborations was with Shantha Biotech on the development of Shanchol, the world's first low-cost oral cholera vaccine.

The vaccine was licensed in India in 2009 and WHO-qualified in 2011.

PM Launches Highway Project in Rajasthan

Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated 11 National Highway projects in Rajasthan, covering a total length of about 873 km.

- The projects include a 6-lane cable stayed bridge across river Chambal at Kota; 4-laning of Gomati Chauraha-Udaipur section of NH-8, and Rajsamand-Bhilwara section of NH-758.
- He visited the Pratap Gaurav Kendra which provides information, through various exhibits, about the life, valour and achievements of Maharana Pratap, the famous King of the erstwhile kingdom of Mewar.

SC Declares Right to Privacy as Fundamental Right

The Supreme Court declared right to privacy as a Fundamental right under the Constitution.

- A nine-judge Constitution bench headed by Chief Justice J S Khehar ruled that right to privacy is protected intrinsically as part of rights guaranteed under Article 21 of the Constitution.
- Others members of the bench comprising Justices J Chelameswar, S A Bobde, R K Agrawal, R F Nariman, A M Sapre, D Y Chandrachud, S K Kaul and S Abdul Nazeer also shared the same view.

Coast Guard Ship 'Varuna' Decommissioned

Indian Coast Guard ship 'Varuna' decommissioned with full armed forces honours after an illustrious service spanning about 30 years, in a traditional military ceremony held at the naval base, Kochi.

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- The ceremony was presided over by Inspector General K R Nautiyal, Commander, Coast Guard Region (West).
- ICGS Varuna was fourth of its series, known as Offshore Patrol Vessel (OPV) and built by Mazagaon Dock, Mumbai.

Qatar Airways Enters Into Interline Partnership with Vistara

Qatar Airways entered into a new interline partnership with full-service domestic airline Vistara.

- According to the Gulf-based airline, the new interline agreement will allow Qatar Airways' passengers to travel seamlessly to and from a wide range of cities within India across Vistara's network.
- "The Indian market is very important to us, and we operate more than one hundred flights a week between Doha and 13 Indian cities. This new partnership expands Qatar Airways' presence in India and reinforces our commitment to this market," Qatar Airways Group Chief Executive Akbar Al Baker said.

Andhra Pradesh First to Implement Bharat QR Digital Payments

Andhra Pradesh's Eastern Power Distribution Company Ltd (EPDCL) and the Southern Power Distribution Corporation of AP Ltd (SPDCL) have become the first state-owned distribution companies in India to accept payments through Bharat QR, the world's first interoperable quick response code acceptance solution launched by the Reserve Bank of India.

- The Vizag Digital Dhan Sankalp project is an initiative spearheaded by the Government of Andhra Pradesh and Visa, to develop Visakhapatnam into India's first "less-cash" city.
- Bharat QR is a secure, network-agnostic interface that enables customers to use their smartphones to make payments without divulging information like card numbers and CVV.

Karnataka Ties up With Microsoft to Develop India's First Farm Price Forecasting Model

The Agriculture Department of Karnataka government has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Microsoft India to develop an unique 'farm price forecasting model' using the latest IT tools in a bid to help farmers, administrators and other stakeholders understand the market behaviour in advance.

- The proposed initiative is said to be the first-of-its-kind in the country, as it is a 'multi-variate' one that takes into consideration various factors beyond the

conventional supply-demand equation. It will examine a slew of related factors, including weather, rainfall and external factors, that impact market behaviour.

- The initiative appears to have caught the attention of the Centre, which has sought suggestions from the KAPC on the importance of price forecasting for its initiative to double farmers' incomes. Microsoft would also develop software for providing sowing advisory services to farmers.

MEA to Inaugurate First Videsh Bhavan in Mumbai

The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) has decided to integrate all its offices in Maharashtra into a single building – the "Videsh Bhavan" – for



effective management of its engagement with the State Government of Maharashtra.

- Four offices of MEA in Mumbai, namely, (i) Passport Office, (ii) Office of the Protector of Emigrants, (iii) Office of the Regional Director of ICCR, and (iv) Branch Secretariat of MEA, will be integrated and will be functioning from the newly constructed "Videsh Bhavan".

Government to Establish First National Sports Museum in New Delhi

The Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports is going to establish National Sports Museum, first of its kind, at Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium, New Delhi.

- Shri Vijay Goel said, the Museum will showcase the India's achievements in sports and also focus on the traditional sports within the country. He said, the aim of the Museum is to popularise the sports as a way of life within the country.
- Shri Vijay Goel has appealed to all past and present sports persons and members of public to contribute any memorabilia held by them for permanent display in the National Sports Museum. He said such contribution will be recognized and acknowledged.
- Museum will have audio-visual display of rules and legacy events pertaining to various sports as part of education for the budding sportspersons, a well-equipped library of sports and physical fitness, painting gallery and amphitheater for screening of legacy matches/ contests/games is also planned.

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Two RRBs Record Over Rs 150-cr Profit in FY17: RBI

Out of the 56 regional rural banks (RRBs) in the country, two notched up net profit of over ₹150 crore each during 2016-17. These are among the 49 RRBs that recorded a profit in 2016-17. Seven RRBs suffered losses during the period.

- According to the Reserve Bank of India's 'Report on Trend and Progress of Banking in India', 45 of the 56 RRBs earned profits without carrying any accumulated losses during 2015-16.
- In fact, Karnataka Vikas Grameena Bank and Andhra Pragathi Grameena Bank recorded net profit of more than Rs.150 crore during 2016-17.
- At the end-March 2017, RRBs had 21,398 branches spread across 676 districts and 28 States.

Government Sets up Task Force on Artificial Intelligence

Government has constituted a task force on Artificial Intelligence for the country's Economic Transformation.

- The 18-member panel, headed by Dr. V. Kamakoti of IIT Madras, will comprise of experts, academics, researchers and industry leaders. It will explore the possibilities to leverage Artificial Intelligence for development across various fields.
- The task force will submit concrete and implementable recommendations for government, industry and research institutions.
- Commerce and Industry Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said, with rapid development in the fields of information technology and hardware, the world is about to witness a fourth industrial revolution.

E-waste Disposal from Schools Kicks Starts in Kerala

The State wide disposal of e-Waste from Kerala schools kick-started at Thiruvananthapuram.

• The eWaste disposal from schools is a joint initiative by Kerala Infrastructure and Technology for Education (KITE), formerly IT@School project and Clean Kerala Company, and is aimed to dispose e-Waste from 10,000 odd schools and educational offices in Kerala.

• Instead of simply disposing e-Waste as garbage which create environmental issues, scientific methods are used to recycle and refurbish the e-Waste as per the norms set by Govt of India, a novel process which avoids spreading of hazardous materials like Mercury, Lead, Cadmium, Barium etc in to the environment.



Supertech Gets Green nod for Rs1,130 crore Sports Village Project in Greater Noida

Realty firm Supertech has received green nod for developing a sports-centric housing project in Greater Noida that would entail an investment of Rs1,130 crore. The proposed residential project 'Sports Village' will be launched during Diwali this year and will be completed in four years.

- The 62-acre project will be developed in Sector 27 of Greater Noida (west), known as Noida Extension.
- Besides golf, Arora of Supertech said that the project will have academies for other sports like badminton and shooting. In 2015, the company had tied up with sports personalities such as Sania Mirza, Shikhar Dhawan, Jyoti Randhawa, Pullela Gopichand and Gagan Narang for setting up training facilities in its projects.

NPCI Approves Spice Digital's Operation Under Bharat Bill Payment System

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

- The BBPS through its centralised bill payment system will allow the users to use a single website or outlet to pay all their monthly or repetitive bills such as mobile phone and electricity.
- Spice Digital forayed into FinTech space three years ago. Today, SDL's Spice Money is India's leading India stack based FinTech Company.

Arun Jaitley Hands Over LRSAM to Indian Navy

Defence Minister Arun Jaitley handed over the Long-Range Surface-to-Air Missile (LRSAM) jointly developed by India and Israel, to the Indian Navy, at Bharat Dynamics Ltd (BDL) here.



- LRSAM is an advanced combat suit for missile defence against air targets and missiles, and has full capabilities of air and surface surveillance, threat alert and fire control.
- Public sector BDL is the missile production agency for the three armed forces.
- State-of-the-art and first of its kind for a Defence production unit, the Rocket Motor Static Test Facility

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was dedicated to the nation by Arun Jaitley at BDL's Ibrahimpatnam Complex located near Hyderabad.

Gobindobhog Rice Gets Geographical Indication Status

Gobindobhog rice, a speciality from Burdwan district of West Bengal, has got the geographical indication (GI) status.

- 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 tag, as the certification is also called, rice from other regions or rice of other varieties cannot be branded as 'Gobindobhog'.

About Geographical Indication (GI)

- GI tag is an insignia on products having a unique geographical origin and evolution over centuries with regards to its special quality or reputation attributes.
- It is covered as an element of intellectual property rights (IPRs) under Paris Convention for the Protection of Industrial Property. At international level, GI is governed by WTO's Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS).
- Darjeeling tea was the first product to accord with GI tag in India.

Home Minister Inaugurates YUVA

The Union Home Minister Shri Rajnath Singh inaugurated the YUVA – a skill development programme and an initiative by Delhi



Police under Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana.

- The 'YUVA' initiative by Delhi Police aims to connect with youth by upgrading their skill as per their competencies. It will help them to get a gainful employment under Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojna under the Ministry of Skill Development.
- Delhi Police has tied up with National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) and Confederation of Indian Industry (CII).
- National Skill Development Corporation shall be providing skill training to the youth under 'Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojna' (PMKVY) and CII will provide job linked training through its Sector Skill Councils who are connected to industry and thereby provide job guarantee.



Government enters into nine UAPAs with Indian taxpayers

The Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) entered into nine Unilateral Advance Pricing Agreements (UAPAs) with Indian taxpayers.

- The APA Scheme endeavours to provide certainty to taxpayers in the domain of transfer pricing by specifying the methods of pricing and determining the Arm's Length Price of international transactions in advance for a maximum period of five future years.
- With this, the total number of APAs signed till date stands at 171 (Unilateral-159 and Bilateral-12).

RBI slaps Rs.3 cr penalty on Union Bank

The Reserve Bank of India has imposed a monetary penalty aggregating Rs. 3 crore on Union Bank of India for non-compliance with the regulatory direction on 'know-your-customer' (KYC) norms.

- KYC is a process by which banks obtain information about the identity and address of customers.
- This action is based on deficiencies in regulatory compliance and is not intended to pronounce upon the validity of any transaction or agreement entered into by the bank with its customers.

Airtel Payment Bank ties up with HPCL for ATM services

Airtel Payments Bank has partnership with Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL), to give further boost to digital payments in the country.

- All 14,000 HPCL fuel stations will act as banking points for Airtel Payments Bank.
- All Airtel Payments Bank customers would be able to access a range of convenient banking services at these 14,000 fuel stations like opening new accounts, make cash deposits and withdrawals facility, and transfer money.
- Airtel Payments Bank customers will also be able to make secure and convenient digital payments for fuel purchases across 14,000 HPCL fuel stations by using their mobile phones.

Mukesh Ambani becomes Asia's 2nd richest person

According to the Bloomberg Billionaires Index, Reliance Industries Chairman Mukesh Ambani has overtaken Hong Kong business magnate Li Ka-shing to become Asia's second-richest man.

- Ambani's wealth has seen a rise of \$12.1 billion with the oil-to telecom conglomerate's shares seeing a surge with investors.

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Third Bi-Monthly Monetary Policy

Reserve Bank of India (RBI) announced Third Bi-Monthly Monetary Policy Statement for current fiscal.2017-18 on August 2, 2017. This time, RBI has cut the policy repo rate by 25 basis points (bps) to 6 percent.

Repo Rate - 6.00% (Earlier it was 6.25%)

Reverse Repo Rate - 5.75% (Earlier it was 6.00%)

Marginal Standing Facility Rate - 6.25% (Earlier it was 6.50%)

Bank Rate - 6.25% (Earlier it was 6.50%)

Cash Reserve Ratio (CRR) - 4.00% (Unchanged)

Statutory Liquidity Ratio (SLR) - 20.00% (Unchanged)

SEBI forms committee on fair market conduct

SEBI has set up a committee on 'fair market conduct' which will suggest measures for improving surveillance of the markets and strengthen rules for algo trades, among other norms.

The panel, under the chairmanship of former law secretary T K Viswanathan,

would suggest measures for improvement in PIT (Prohibition of Insider Trading) norms, PFTUP (Prohibition of Fraudulent and Unfair Trade Practices) regulations and mainly related to 'trading plans' and handling of 'unpublished price sensitive information' during takeovers.

It would be responsible for recommending steps to align insider trading regulations with Companies Act provisions.



SBI, Samsung collaborate to advance Digital India initiative

The State Bank of India (SBI) and Samsung India announced the availability of Samsung Pay for higher variants of SBI debit card, giving a major boost to government's 'Digital India' initiative.

Samsung Pay works on 2.5 million Point of Sale (PoS) Card machines across the country through its Magnetic Secure Transmission (MST) technology.

Samsung Pay consumers holding eligible SBI Debit Cards can avail a flat Rs. 100 cash back on minimum transaction amount of Rs. 500.

The cardholder can avail maximum cashback of Rs. 500 per card, during the offer period from 1st August to 31st August.

With this collaboration, 130 million SBI debit cardholders will be able to tap and pay using a Samsung smartphone at merchant outlets having card acceptance machines.

Microsoft ties up with Telangana to use AI

Microsoft is tying up with the state of Telangana to use its artificial intelligence-based MINE platform to screen children for eye problems and prevent avoidable blindness.

MINE -Microsoft Intelligent Network for Eyecare -is a global consortium of eyecare providers, research and academic institutions that will apply artificial intelligence to help in eyecare delivery.

SBI to raise Rs. 2,000 cr. via Basel-III bonds

State Bank of India plans to raise Rs 2,000 crore by allotting Basel-III compliant bonds to various investors.

The committee of directors for capital raising accorded its approval to allot 20,000 AT1 Basel-III compliant non-convertible, perpetual, subordinated bonds in the nature of debentures.

The bonds will carry a coupon rate of 8.15% per annum with a call option after 5 years or the anniversary date thereafter.

NCLT Approves Airtel-Telenor Merger

The proposed merger between Bharti AirtelBSE and Telenor India has been approved by the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT). The companies have been instructed by tribunal to hold a meeting of equity shareholders and unsecured creditors.

- Bharti Airtel in June received nod from the Competition Commission of India (CCI), Securities & Exchange Board of India (SEBI), BSE and the National Stock Exchange of India.

Kotak Bank's New Forex Service

Kotak Mahindra Bank has launched Kotak Remit — an Aadhaar-based integrated outward forex remittance solution for both customers and non-customers.

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

L&T signs Rs.1, 050 crores EPC contract with railways

For the first time, the Railways Ministry has signed nine EPC (engineering, procurement, construction) contracts for electrification of railway lines at a cost of Rs.2,800 crores.

- This is part of a strategy to speed up the electrification of railway lines(only 42% of the lines are currently electrified).

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L&T bags Rs. 3,375-crore Mauritius metro project

Engineering conglomerate Larsen & Toubro announced a Rs 3,375 crore-worth metro order from the Mauritius government.

- L&T has won the order from Metro Express Limited which is owned by the Government of Mauritius to design and build an Integrated Rail-based Urban Transit System in the African island nation.
- The projects will be fully funded through a grant by Government of India and line of credit. The metro project comprises of a 26-km route which will connect Curepipe to Immigration Square in Port Louis and will feature 19 stations, 2 of which will be state-of-the-art elevated stations.

Government forms action plan for easy execution of WTO's TFA

The government has formulated a detailed action plan with timelines for smooth implementation of WTO's trade facilitation agreement (TFA).



- Members of the World Trade Organisation (WTO) including India has ratified TFA, which aims at easing customs procedures, expediting movement, release and clearance of consignments. For the implementation of the pact, the government has last year set up Cabinet Secretary-headed National Committee on Trade Facilitation (NCTF).

Maharashtra to raise \$270 m from Green Climate Fund

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

- The Green Climate Fund (GCF) is a new fund under the UN and is guided by the principles and provisions of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change.
- The 2030WRG is hosted by the International Finance Corporation and is public-private-civil society collaboration for water resources reform in developing economies.
- Its ultimate aim is to close the gap between water demand and supply by the year 2030.

SEBI launches online registration for custodians of securities

Securities and Exchange Board of India, SEBI, has introduced an online registration mechanism for custodians of securities to make it convenient for them to do business.

- All applicants desirous of seeking registration as a Custodian of Securities are now required to submit their applications online only, through SEBI Intermediary Portal.
- Earlier, Finance Minister Arun Jaitley in his budget speech for 2017-18 announced that the process of registration of financial market intermediaries will be made fully online by SEBI.

ICICI Bank launches instant credit cards

The country's largest private sector lender, ICICI Bank launched instant credit cards enabling its savings account customers to get a credit card instantly, in a completely digital and paperless manner.

- Currently, this facility to apply for a credit card in-a-flash is available through the Bank's internet banking platform. It will also be available shortly on iMobile, the Bank's mobile banking application.

IDFC Bank partners with Zeta for e-payments solution

For promoting an e – payments solution, private lender IDFC Bank has partnered with digital payments brand Zeta.

- The venture was initiated to launch 'IDFC Bank Benefits' - a payment solution for the corporate that digitally record their employee spends and claims, making the documentation convenient and paperless.
- The digital solution comprises an IDFC Bank Benefits Card and Zeta app which puts together allowances and reimbursements ensured by an employer into one preloaded card.

SBI merger bill passed by Lok Sabha

The Lok Sabha passed the bill to repeal the SBI (Subsidiary Banks) Act 1959, State Bank of Hyderabad Act 1956 and to further amend the State Bank of India Act, 1955, following the merger of five associates with the parent SBI.

- Minister of State for Finance Santosh Gangwar said that with this merger, the SBI has come in the list of top 50 banks globally and is ranked at the 45th position.
- The merger will bring about increased capital base and increased ability to give loans. Also, small banks will get access to products like mutual funds.
- Five associates and the Bharatiya Mahila Bank became part of State Bank of India (SBI) beginning

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April 1, catapulting the country's largest lender to among the top 50 banks in the world.

- The five associates that were merged are State Bank of Bikaner and Jaipur (SBBJ), State Bank of Hyderabad (SBH), State Bank of Mysore (SBM), State Bank of Patiala (SBP) and State Bank of Travancore (SBT).

About SBI:-

- Founded: - 1 July 1955, State Bank of India
- Nationalised:-2 June 1956
- Headquarters:-Mumbai
- Chairman:-Arundhati Bhattacharya

SEBI ties up with SEO of Iran for technical assistance

Markets regulator Securities and Exchange Board of India entered into a pact with its counterpart in Iran to promote technical assistance and facilitate cross-border co-operation in the area of securities regulations.

- The pact will facilitate mutual assistance, contribute towards efficient performance of the supervisory functions, and enable effective enforcement of laws and regulations governing the securities markets.
- The MoU was signed by SEBI chief Ajay Tyagi and SEO Iran chairman Shapour Mohammadi.

About SEBI:-

- Founded: 12 April 1992
- Headquarters: Mumbai
- Chairman: Ajay Tyagi

BitBay to launch trading platform for digital currency in India

Poland based bitcoin exchange platform Bitbay, one of the top ten cryptocurrency trading platforms in the world, has launched a dedicated platform for trade and exchange of digital currencies such as bitcoin, litecoin, ether, Lisk, monero, dash and gamecredits.

- The company will also work towards creating awareness about digital currencies and also removing misconceptions related to these currencies in a market like India.
- It will be offering six digital currencies to keep and trade with local currency and will carry out demo trading from August 10 till August 24. This would be done without real money to make users understand aspects of trading.

Odisha Government and Facebook Launches 'SheMeansBusiness' Program

Chief minister Naveen Patnaik launched 'She Means Business' programme of Facebook for women entrepreneurs in Odisha.

- Under the scheme 25,000 women entrepreneurs and self-help group (SHG) members will be given training on digital marketing skills within next one year.
- Odisha government's partnership with Facebook aimed to reduce the digital divide and empower nearly 25,000 women entrepreneurs and SHGs.
- Facebook will also make a database of entrepreneurs in the state and will monitor their growth, turnover and profit after one year.

Seven Indian companies among 200 in green energy revenues

India is among the top 11 countries as seven of its companies are among a list of the 200 largest publicly traded entities that are making significant revenue from clean energy, an international report said.

- India ranked fifth after China (68), the US (34), Japan (20) and Germany (nine).
- South Korea, Canada, Sweden, Denmark, Ireland and the UK take the spot after India as per their ranking in the list of top 11 countries compiled by As You Sow and Corporate Knights.
- While As You Sow is a non-profit organisation promoting environmental and social corporate responsibility, Corporate Knights is empowering people to harness markets for a better world.
- The seven Indian companies are Suzlon Energy Ltd, Bharat Heavy Electricals, Tata Chemicals Ltd, Exide Industries Ltd, IDFC Ltd, Thermax Ltd and Havells India Ltd.

Record 275.68 million tonnes Food grains production estimated

As per Fourth Advance Estimates for 2016-17 released by Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers, total Food grain production in the country is estimated at 275.68 million tonnes which is higher by 10.64 million tonnes (4.01%) than the previous record production of Food grain achieved during 2013-14.



- This is due to very good rainfall during monsoon 2016 and various policy initiatives taken by the Government.

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- The estimated production of major crops during 2016-17 is as under:
- **Food grains – 275.68 million tonnes (record)**
- Rice – 110.15 million tonnes (record)
- Wheat – 98.38 million tonnes (record)
- Coarse Cereals – 44.19 million tonnes (record)
- Maize – 26.26 million tonnes (record)
- **Pulses – 22.95 million tonnes (record)**
- **Oilseeds – 32.10 million tonnes**
- **Cotton – 33.09 million bales (of 170 kg each)**
- **Sugarcane – 306.72 million tones**
- Production of Sugarcane is estimated at 306.72 million tonnes which is **41.73 million tonnes (-11.98%) less** than the last year's production of 348.45 million tonnes.

SBI Gives Leg-up to CSR Initiatives

The nation's largest lender State Bank of India launched a CSR initiative, SBI Gram Seva, which will work in the areas of health, education, environment and rural infrastructure.

- The SBI Foundation will identify and partner with NGOs to carry out CSR initiatives under which it adopt five villages each from 10 village panchayats with each village getting around Rs 2.40 crore over the next three years.

RBI Makes Aadhaar Linkage Mandatory for Farmers

To ensure hassle-free benefits to farmers under Interest Subvention Scheme, the Reserve Bank of India has advised banks to make Aadhaar linkage mandatory for availing short-term crop loans up to Rs.3 lakh in 2017-18.

- This move is in line with the government's increasing emphasis on linking Aadhaar to various transactions in the economy including filing Income-Tax returns and getting direct benefit transfer.
- In order to provide short-term crop loans to farmers at an interest rate of 7 per cent (the same as in the previous year) during the year 2017-18, the RBI said it has been decided to offer interest subvention of 2 per cent to lending institutions - public sector banks, private sector commercial banks (in respect of loans given by their rural and semi-urban branches only) on use of their own resources.

BSNL Launches Digital Wallet in Partnership with MobiKwik

State-owned Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd (BSNL) went digital by launching a mobile wallet (mobile payment App) that would

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

- The wallet has been developed and issued by MobiKwik on behalf of BSNL.
- Anupam Srivastava, CMD, BSNL expressed hope that this BSNL mobile wallet will not only promote cashless economy but also enhance business for BSNL.
- Through this strategic partnership between BSNL and MobiKwik, BSNL taking another important milestone in achieving Prime Minister Modi's vision of enabling and making India a less-cash society based on the grand vision of digital India.

Tata Power, First Power Utility to Use QR Code

Tata Power has become the first power utility to introduce a QR code based bill payments system in India.



- The company said though this functionality of bill payments through a QR code has been introduced in other service industries, it will be launched in the power industry for the first time in India by Tata Power.
- According to the Company, the QR code linked to Unified Payments Interface (UPI) will be printed on the electricity bills. The customers can scan the QR code with BHIM app or any other UPI linked bank app and pay their bills without any hassle.

NABARD Sanctions Rs 1,350-cr loan to Rajasthan Government

The National Bank of Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) has sanctioned a loan assistance of Rs 1,349.55 crore to the Rajasthan government for creation of rural infrastructure in the state under the Rural Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDF).

- The sanction includes assistance for construction of two rural drinking water supply projects, strengthening/ rehabilitation of 1,614 rural roads and modernisation of three major irrigation projects.
- An amount of Rs 599.84 crore has been sanctioned for rehabilitation of 1,614 roads, covering all 33 districts of Rajasthan, Rs 469.54 crore for providing potable water to population of 419 villages of Jalore district and Rs 280.17 crore for rehabilitation and

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modernisation of 3 major irrigation projects located in Udaipur, Banswara and Dungarpur districts.

ONGC board approves HPCL takeover of 51.11% stake

The board of state-owned Oil and Natural Gas Corp, ONGC, has given 'in-principle' approval to acquire government's 51.11 per cent stake in Hindustan Petroleum Corp Ltd.

- The ONGC board at its meeting in New Delhi on Monday constituted a committee of directors to examine various aspects of the acquisition and to provide its recommendations to the board of directors.

FDI Jumps 37% to 10.4 Billion USD During April-June 2017

Foreign direct investment, FDI, into the country grew by 37 per cent to 10(point) 4 billion US Dollar during the first quarter of the current fiscal. According to the figures of the Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion, DIPP, India had received around eight billion FDI US Dollar during the same period last year.

- The main sectors which attracted the highest foreign inflows include services, telecom, trading, computer hardware and software and automobile.
- Bulk of the FDI came in from Singapore, Mauritius, the Netherlands and Japan.
- A strong inflow of foreign investments will help improve the country's balance of payments situation and strengthen the rupee value against other global currencies, especially the US dollar.

Ujjivan SFB Receives Scheduled Bank Status From RBI

Ujjivan Small Finance Bank Ltd, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Ujjivan Financial Services Ltd, has been given scheduled bank status by RBI.



- Ujjivan SFB commenced its operations as a Small Finance Bank with effect from February 1, 2017. Currently, Ujjivan SFB has 65 full-fledged brick and mortar branches in eight states and two Union Territories.
- This status will enhance the market acceptability of the bank in its effort to garner institutional deposits at a competitive price and participate more actively in the inter-bank market. It also opens the door for issuing Certificates of Deposits (CDs), which will be an important source of funding.

Freyr Energy Ties up With Axis Bank

Solar energy services company Freyr Energy has tied up with Axis Bank to offer term loans ranging from Rs.5 lakh to Rs.50 lakh for tenures up to five years, 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.
- This will help India move closer to achieving the renewable energy target of 40GW of solar rooftop installations, set by the Indian Government.
- India first' mobile application – "Freyr SunPro" eliminated all the complexity involved in system design, pricing, proposal generation etc.

Dhanlaxmi Bank, DHFL Pramerica Tie up for Bancassurance

DHFL Pramerica Life Insurance Company has signed on Kerala-based Dhanlaxmi Bank as its bancassurance partner, under which the latter will distribute retail and group life insurance products to its customers across 260 branches in India.

- The company is in a strong position to consolidate its presence in Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka.
- It has 28 life insurance products and six riders in its products basket, fulfilling a gamut of life insurance needs from child's future protection to retirement in its portfolio.
- DPLI is a Joint Venture between DHFL Investments Limited (DIL), a wholly-owned subsidiary of Dewan Housing Finance Corporation Ltd. and Prudential International Insurance Holdings Ltd (PIIH).

Airtel Ties up With Symantec

Bharti Airtel has entered into a partnership with Symantec Corporation to protect businesses in India from online threats.

- The partnership comes amid a spike in cyber attacks over the past few months, including ransomwares such as Petya and WannaCry that disrupted systems across the world.
- According to the agreement, Airtel will be the exclusive Cyber Security Services partner for Symantec in India, and will distribute the US-based software firm's enterprise security software.
- Through the partnership, the two companies will target the IT security requirements of large enterprises, small and medium businesses, as well as the government.

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Niti Aayog: Survey on Ease of Doing Business

A Niti Aayog survey on ease of doing business in India has found surprising facts about Indian enterprises.

- Report of the survey, titled “Ease of Doing Business: An Enterprise Survey of Indian States”, reveals that awareness about single window systems, instituted by states, is very low among enterprises across India.
- The Single window system allows businesses to complete regulatory formalities from a single location or institution. The lack of awareness about the presence of such a system in states is surprising.
- The survey was carried out by Niti Aayog along with along with the IDFC Institute, a Mumbai-based think tank.

India, Germany Sign Pact to Improve Grid Integration of Renewable Energy

India and Germany signed an agreement on technical cooperation under the Indo-German Energy Programme – Green Energy Corridors (IGEN-GEC).

- This relationship between GIZ and India will result in improved market mechanisms and regulations and help train manpower in India to ensure grid stability to ensure more and more integration of renewable in the country.
- Based on the Indo-German consultations held in April 2013 in Berlin, both countries confirmed collaboration on the green energy corridors.

Parliament passes Banking Amendment Bill

Parliament has passed the Banking Regulation (Amendment) Bill, 2017 with the Rajya Sabha approving it; the Lok Sabha has already passed it. The bill will replace the Banking Regulation (Amendment) Ordinance, 2017 which was promulgated on 4th of May this year.

- The legislation will enable the Central government to authorize the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to direct banking companies to resolve specific stressed assets by initiating insolvency resolution process.
- It was considered necessary to make provisions in the Banking Regulation Act, 1949 for authorizing the Reserve Bank of India to issue directions to any banking company or banking companies in this regard.
- The RBI has also been empowered to issue other directions for resolution, and appoint or approve appointment, authorities or committees to advise banking companies for resolution of stressed assets.

E-Shakti initiative of NABARD

E - Shakti is a pilot project of National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD).

- The objective of this project is digitisation of Self Help Groups (SHGs).
- It is initiated to address certain concerns like improving the quality of book keeping of SHGs and to enable banks to take informed credit decisions about the group through a Management Information System (MIS).
About NABARD:-
- NABARD was established in 1982 on the recommendations of B.Sivaraman Committee.
- Headquarters: - Mumbai, Maharashtra
- Chairman: - Dr. Harsh Kumar Bhanwala

Canara Bank launched two new digital services

State-run Canara Bank launched two new digital services for online payments.

- "Bharat QR (Quick Response) is for payment settlement at merchant locations and Bharat Bill Payment System (BBPS) is an integrated bill payment system for net banking customers,”.
- The first service is a mobile application, which enables a merchant to accept payments as settlement for sale of goods or services.
- The second product (BBPS), an initiative of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and managed by the National Payments Corp of India (NPCI), offers bill payment services to the bank's net banking customers with network of agents.
- **About Canara Bank:-**
- Founded:-1969
- Headquarters:- Bengaluru
- Chairman:-Shri T. N. Manoharan
- MD & CEO:-Shri Rakesh Sharma

India one of the most open economies globally for FDI: Survey

According to the Economic Survey, India has now emerged as one of the most open economies in the world for receiving foreign direct investments



(FDI), on the back of a host of liberalisation measures.

- In terms of the sectors receiving FDI equity inflows, Services (finance, banking, insurance etc) sector

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received the highest (19.9%) followed by telecommunications (12.8%) and computer software and hardware (8.4%), the Survey added.

- Mauritius, Singapore and Japan have been top three source countries of FDI inflows to India contributing 36.2%, 20% and 10.8%, respectively, during 2016-17, according to the survey.



ISRO to develop full-fledged Earth observation satellite

Hyperspectral Imaging Satellite (HySIS) is a full-fledged earth observation satellite, to be developed by ISRO.



- It will enable distinct identification of objects on earth by reading the spectrum for each pixel of a scene from a space.
- It can be used for a range of activities including monitoring of environment finding oil and minerals apart from military surveillance.
- The satellite has the Hyperspectral imager which can identify 55 spectral or colour bands from 630 km above ground.
- Hypspx was first tried out in Chandrayaan-1 mission who mapped the lunar mineral resources.

About ISRO:-

- Established:-15 August 1969(1962 as INCOSPAR)
- Headquarters:-Bangalore
- Founder: Vikram Sarabhai
- Director: A. S. Kiran Kumar
- ISRO built India's first satellite, Aryabhata, which was launched by the Soviet Union on 19 April 1975.

Common mosquito can carry Zika virus

According to Brazilian scientists' research, the common Culex mosquito is able to transmit the harmful Zika virus.

- Until now it was believed that the virus is spread by the Aedes Aegypti, a less common variety of mosquito that also carries the diseases dengue and chikungunya.
- Zika can lead to infants with microcephaly, or abnormally small heads, and to a sometimes debilitating condition known as Guillain-Barre syndrome in adults who have been bitten.

Space Station to get 1st supercomputer

The International Space Station is expected to get its first supercomputer next week. Hewlett Packard Enterprise (HPE)

will launch a supercomputer into space on the SpaceX Dragon spacecraft, as part of a joint experiment with the US space agency NASA,

- The system, called the Space borne Computer, is designed to last for a year, which the company said is roughly the amount of time it will take to travel to Mars.
- To meet these requirements, we need to improve technology's viability in space in order to better ensure the mission's success. By sending a supercomputer to space, HPE is taking the first step in that direction.

First plant-based vaccine against Zika virus

Scientists have developed the world's first plant-based Zika vaccine that may be more effective, safer and cheaper than other vaccines against the mosquito-borne virus.

The vaccine developed by researchers from Arizona State University (ASU) in the U.S. works against a part of a Zika viral protein, called DIII, that plays a key role for the virus to infect people.

The worldwide Zika threat first emerged in 2015, infecting millions as it swept across the Americas. It struck great fear in pregnant women, as babies born with severe brain birth defects.

Japan Launches New Satellite to Improve Country's GPS

Japan launched the third satellite in its effort to build a homegrown geolocation system aimed at improving the accuracy of car navigation systems and Smartphone maps to mere centimeters.



- An H-IIA rocket blasted off from the Tanegashima space centre in southern Japan, according to the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA).
- The rocket successfully released the "Michibiki" No.3 satellite about 30 minutes after launch.
- Japan relies on the US-operated Global Positioning System (GPS).
- The first satellite was put into orbit in 2010 and the second was launched in June. The fourth is to be launched by March 2018 to start up the service.
- Michibiki, meaning "guidance" in Japanese, will cover the Asia-Oceania region and is intended for civilian use.

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- Japan plans to boost the number of its satellites in orbit to seven by around 2023.

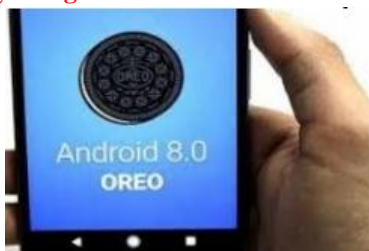
US based Indian doctor discovers new way to prevent sepsis in new born babies

Dr Pinaki Panigrahi, a US-based doctor has discovered an inexpensive prevention technique against sepsis. He along with members of his team has found that feeding babies with probiotic bacteria dramatically reduces the risk of sepsis in newborns.

- This is a breakthrough study and going to be an inexpensive treatment that could possibly save hundreds of thousands of newborns from a top killer-Sepsis.
- Sepsis is a life-threatening illness caused by your body's response to an infection.

Android Oreo Released by Google

Google has released the latest version of its Android mobile operating system (OS), which is named after Oreo chocolate biscuits.



- It adds a new "picture-in-picture" mode that lets some apps run in a small corner of the screen.
- Google's own Nexus and Pixel phones are expected to be the first to receive the software update.
- New versions of Android can be slow to roll out, and just 14% of Android devices run the previous OS, Nougat.
- Android Oreo introduces measures to help people manage the volume of notifications on their devices, which has been described as "notification diarrhoea".

Unicity Launches World's First Ever Genomeceuticals Range of Products in India

Unicity International, headquartered in Orem, Utah, United States has launched world's first ever Genomeceutical (gene controlling) range of products to India.

- Product 'Genomeceutical' is a ground-breaking, patent-pending, technology whereby certain secondary metabolites found in nature can help maintain the gene response whenever needed by the body and help maintain overall metabolic health.
- Unicity uses advanced Genomeceutical technology in its products to support proper gene expression, which

helps maintain healthy body function at their most basic levels.

"Pharma Jan Samadhan" App to Help Athletes Identify Prohibited Medicines

Drug pricing regulator National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) joined hands with National Anti-Doping Agency (NADA) to help athletes understand medicines that could contain prohibited substances in sports through its app 'Pharma Jan Samadhan'.

- Through NPPA's app every consumer can know ingredients in a medicine. This will now have an additional feature, which will make it easy for athletes to keep away from medicines that have prohibited substances.
- NPPA, drug price regulator has played an immense role in making essential medicines available to common man at affordable rates. It has also taken extraordinary steps in protecting public interest and ensuring that price control is not limited only to medicines but also extends to medical devices.



Sameer Garde named Cisco president for India, SAARC region

Networking giant Cisco has appointed Sameer Garde as President for its India and SAARC operations.

- A former Philips Healthcare executive, Garde joined the company on August 1. He replaced Dinesh Malkani.



Lt Gen Abhay Krishna new chief of Eastern Command

Lt. Gen. Abhay Krishna has been appointed as head of the Army's crucial Eastern Command which guards a major part of Sino-India border including the Sikkim sector where armies of India and China have been locked in a face-off.

- Lt. Gen. Krishna, who was heading the Army's South Western Command succeeds Lt. Gen. Praveen Bakshi .

Dhirendra Swarup as chairman of BSE

BSE Ltd announced that market regulator Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has approved the appointment of Dhirendra Swarup as the chairman of the board of directors of the company.

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Swarup was public interest director of BSE, was also chairman of the Cash and Debt Management Committee of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) from 2000 to 2003.

Sanjaya Baru new secretary general of FICCI

Sanjaya Baru, who was media advisor to former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, has been named new secretary general of the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI). He will replace A. Didar Singh.

"FICCI has completed 90 years of its glorious existence growing from strength to strength.

Established in 1927, on the advice of Mahatma Gandhi by GD Birla and Purushottam Das Thakurdas, it is the largest, oldest and the apex business organisation in India.

Headquarters - New Delhi, India

Members - over 250,000 companies

Iran's Hassan Rouhani sworn in for second term

Iran's President Hassan Rouhani was officially sworn in for a second term at a ceremony overseen by supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamanei.

Rouhani won the re-election in May 2017, after securing 57% of the votes. He defeated his main contender Ebrahim Raeisi.

Iran

Capital: Tehran

Currency: Rial

President: Hassan Rouhani

InCred ropes in Rahul Dravid as brand ambassador

Fintech startup InCred has signed up former Captain of Indian Cricket Team, Rahul Dravid, as its brand ambassador.

The Mumbai-based start-up has raised \$85 million, one of the largest rounds of funding of a start-up in the Indian financial services industry recently.

The company gives loans in four categories – affordable housing loans, consumer loans, education loans and SME loans.

Mohammad Mustafa Appointed CMD of SIDBI

Senior bureaucrat Mohammad Mustafa appointed as Chairman and Managing Director in Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI).

- Mustafa, a 1995 batch IAS officer of Uttar Pradesh cadre, is at present Joint Secretary in Department of Financial Services.

- The Appointments Committee of the cabinet has approved his appointment to the post for three years, an order issued by the Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT).

Venkaiah Naidu became 13th Vice-President of India

Venkaiah Naidu became the 13th Vice-President of India by defeating opposition candidate Gopalkrishna Gandhi.



- Naidu has secured 516 votes while Gandhi got only 244 votes. 771 parliamentarians has casted their vote on Saturday, which turned out as a record of 98 percent voting in the vice-presidential election.
- However, 11 votes were found to be invalid, Polling officials said this was the highest turnout in the vice-presidential election.

Payback announces Gautam Kaushik as new CEO

Payback India has appointed Gautam Kaushik as the new Chief Executive Officer.

- Gautam Kaushik will spearhead the India operations and lead all the critical business areas including Strategic Business Planning and Development, Partner Management & Acquisitions and Customer Engagement.
- Prior to joining PAYBACK, Gautam was working with American Express (AMEX) as Vice President (VP) and Chief Financial Officer (CFO), wherein he drove several potential acquisitions and strategic partnerships.

Akshay Kumar appointed brand ambassador for Swachh Bharat Mission in UP

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath today announced the appointment of Bollywood actor Akshay Kumar as the brand ambassador of the Swachh Bharat Mission in the state.

- The national award winning actor promised to proactively work towards making UP the open defecation free (ODF) state, a cause in line with the theme of his upcoming movie "Toilet Ek Prem Katha".
- The Chief Minister also announced to make the film tax-free in the state.

Economist Rajiv Kumar to Be New Vice Chairman of NITI Aayog

Economist Dr. Rajiv Kumar has been appointed as the new vice-chairman of the government think tank NITI Aayog.

- Present vice-chairman Arvind Panagariya had stepped down earlier this month.

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- Dr. Kumar, who holds a DPhil in economics from Oxford and a Ph.D from Lucknow University, has served as director and chief executive of the Indian Council for Research on International Economic Relations (ICRIER), and has earlier worked with the Asian Development Bank.

S. Aparna appointed as Executive Director of World Bank

S. Aparna, an IAS officer from Gujarat cadre has been appointed as Executive Director, World Bank to represent the constituency of India, Bangladesh, Bhutan and Sri Lanka for three years.

- A 1988-batch IAS, she is currently Principal Secretary to Gujarat Chief Minister Vijay Rupani. At the World Bank, she will replace Subhash Garg, who was recently appointed Economic Affairs Secretary, Ministry of Finance.

Justice Dipak Misra as the next Chief Justice of India

Justice Dipak Misra will be the next Chief Justice of India. The Law Ministry notified the appointment of Justice Misra.



- He will replace Chief Justice J S Khehar, who will retire on the 27th of this month. Justice Misra is the senior-most judge of the Supreme Court after Justice Khehar.
- He will have tenure of nearly 13 months. Justice Misra will be sworn in as the 45th Chief Justice of India by President Ram Nath Kovind on August 27.

David Rasquinha appointed MD of Exim Bank

David Rasquinha appointed as Managing Director of Export-Import Bank of India (Exim Bank).

- The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet has approved his appointment to the post for three years, an order issued by the Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT) said.
- Rasquinha is at present Deputy Managing Director of the Exim Bank.

I V Subba Rao appointed secretary to Vice President

Retired IAS officer I V Subba Rao was appointed secretary to Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu.

- Rao, a 1979 batch IAS officer of Andhra Pradesh cadre, retired from service as special chief secretary last year.

- He held several important posts in Andhra Pradesh and later served the UNESCO.

Vempati given additional charge of RS TV

Shashi Shekhar Vempati, chief executive officer (CEO) at public broadcaster Prasar Bharati has been appointed as the chief of Rajya Sabha TV.

- Founded in 2008, Rajya Sabha TV is owned and operated by Rajya Sabha and covers the proceedings of the upper house of the Parliament. Prasar Bharati runs Doordarshan television and All India Radio.
- Vempati will replace Gurdeep Singh Sappal who has been serving as the CEO and editor-in-chief of Rajya Sabha TV since 2011.
- Vempati, who was recently appointed as the CEO of Prasar Bharati, is the first non-Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officer ever to head the public broadcaster.

Sankara Rao to be IFCI Chief Executive

IFCI Ltd, a government company, is set to have a new Managing Director & CEO in E Sankara Rao, who is currently Chief General Manager at India Infrastructure Finance Company Ltd (IIFCL).

- The Appointments Committee of Cabinet has given its nod for the Department of Financial Services (DFS) proposal to appoint E Sankara Rao as Managing Director & Chief Executive Officer of IFCI Ltd.
- Rao's appointment will be valid for three years. Rao is also currently a director and chief executive officer at IIFCL Asset Management Company Ltd.

Santosh Sharma appointed CMD of Hindustan Copper Limited

Santosh Sharma appointed as Chairman and Managing Director of Hindustan Copper Limited (HCL).

- He is at present Director (Operations) in the HCL.
- The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) has approved his appointment to the post for a period of five years, an order issued by the Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT) said.

Dr. Mamta Suri takes charge of Executive Director, IBBI

Dr. Mamta Suri has taken charge of Executive Director of Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI).

- Dr. Suri was serving as Chief General Manager, Insurance Regulatory Development Authority of India before assuming the charge.

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- She has obtained her Ph.D. in Finance from University of Delhi and M. Sc. in Insurance Risk and Management from City University, London. She is a Chartered Financial Analyst (CFA) from the Institute of Chartered Financial Analysts of India.

Karur Vysya Bank Appoints P R Seshadri as MD and CEO

The Reserve Bank of India has accorded their approval for the appointment of Shri P R Seshadri as Managing Director & Chief Executive Officer of Karur Vysya Bank Ltd for a period of three years from the date of his taking charge.

- The P R Seshadri has replaced K Venkataraman. He was MD & CEO of the Bank since 6th June 2011.

About Karur Vysya Bank

- Karur Vysya Bank is an Indian private-sector bank, headquartered in Karur, Tamil Nadu.
- It was set up in 1916 by M. A. Venkatarama Chettiar and Athi Krishna Chettiar.

Vishal Sikka Resigns as MD and CEO of Infosys

Vishal Sikka has resigned as the Chief Executive Officer and Managing Director of Infosys. Pravin Rao has been appointed as the interim CEO.

- Sikka has been appointed executive vice chairman effective from August 18, and will hold office until the new permanent Chief Executive Officer and Managing Director takes charge, which should be no later than March 31, 2018.
- U B Pravin Rao is currently the Chief Operating Officer responsible for the entire portfolio of the company's offerings.

Sohail Mahmood- Pakistan's High Commissioner to India

Sohail Mahmood assumed his charge as the Pakistan's High Commissioner to India, after his predecessor Abdul Basit announced retirement before his tenure was scheduled to end.

- Mahmood, who joined Pakistan's Foreign Service in 1985, had discharged his responsibilities in Islamabad's diplomatic mission in Washington, New York, Ankara and Bangkok.
- He is taking charge of his office at the time when bilateral ties between the two countries are tense.

GM India Appoints Sanjiv Gupta as President, MD

General Motors India announced the appointment of Sanjiv Gupta as the new President and Managing Director of the company.

- The current President and Managing Director Kaheer Kazem will hand over the reins of the company to

Gupta, who is Chief Financial Officer, effective September 1.

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

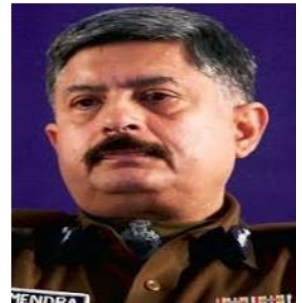
Nikolay Kudashev as Russia's New Ambassador to India

Russian President Vladimir Putin appointed career diplomat Nikolay Kudashev as Russia's new ambassador to India.

- Russian embassy in New Delhi said Kudashev, a specialist in South East Asia, is currently the Deputy Director General Secretariat of the Ministry of foreign Affairs of Russia.
- The appoint of Kudashev comes nearly seven months after the death of Russia's previous ambassador to India Alexander Kadakin.

Dharmendra Kumar appointed as DG, Railway Protection Force

Dharmendra Kumar, IPS (AGMU:84) appointed as the Director General, Railway Protection Force, Railway Board. Presently he is working in CISF as Additional DG.



- The appointment of Dharmendra Kumar will be effective from the date of assumption of charge of the post or until further orders, whichever is earlier.

I & B Ministry Constituted 40-Member Preview Panel for IFFI

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

- Film editor Aarti Bajaj, film critic and screenwriter Khalid Mohamed, and film director Aniruddha Roy Chowdhury are among the other members of the newly-constituted committee.
- The International Film Festival of India (IFFI) will be held in Goa from November 20 to 28.
- I and B Ministry had constituted the steering committee and the technical committee for the IFFI.
- Filmmaker Jahnu Barua was appointed as the convener of the new 13-member steering committee,

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while filmmaker and screenwriter Nagesh Kukunoor was made the head of the 12-member technical committee.

Rajiv Gauba Takes Charge as Union Home Secretary

Senior IAS officer Rajiv Gauba took charge as the Union Home Secretary.

- Gauba, a 1982 batch officer of the Jharkhand cadre, joined the Home Ministry as Officer on Special Duty on June 27 and took charge as the Union Home Secretary. He has replaced Rajiv Maharishi.
- Earlier this, Gauba was Secretary in the Urban Development Ministry.
- Gauba also served in the International Monetary Fund representing the country for four years on the board of IMF.

BSE Board Approves Another 5-year Term for CEO Ashish Chauhan

Leading stock exchange BSE has received markets regulator SEBI's no-objection for another five-year term for its chief Ashishkumar Chauhan, who has steered a strong turnaround and a highly successful IPO of the bourse with strong business expansion.

- Chauhan, who joined BSE as Deputy CEO in 2009, was made MD and CEO for a period of five years with effect from November 2, 2012.
- At a meeting held earlier this month, the board approved re-appointment of Chauhan as BSE's Managing Director and CEO for a further period of five years from November 2, 2017 to November 1, 2022.
- Chauhan also happens to be one of the founding team members of National Stock Exchange (NSE) where he worked from 1992 to 2000.

PV Sindhu Named First Brand Ambassador of Bridgestone India

Badminton ace PV Sindhu, who recently won Silver at the World Championship, was appointed the first brand ambassador of tyre maker Bridgestone India.

- The shuttler has signed a three year deal with Bridgestone India, a subsidiary of Bridgestone which is one of the sponsors for the Olympics 2020 in Japan.
- Bridgestone announced its Worldwide Olympic Partnership in 2014, making a long-term commitment to the International Olympic Committee that continues through 2024.

Ashwani Lohani: New Railway Board Chairman

Ashwani Lohani will be the new Chairman of Railway Board following the resignation of the incumbent A K Mittal owning moral responsibility for Muzzafarnagar train accident.



- The appointment of Mr Lohani was cleared by Appointments Committee of the Cabinet. He was serving as the Chairman and Managing Director of Air India.
- Additional Secretary and Financial Advisor in Petroleum Ministry, Rajiv Bansal has been given additional charge of Chairman and Managing Director Air India.

Nilekani as Chairman of Infosys

Infosys co-founders led by N R Narayana Murthy had their way as they got their peer Nandan Nilekani appointed the chairman of the IT major in place of R Seshasayee, who quit under their pressure.



- Nilekani, 62, who was CEO of the company between 2002 and 2007 and is credited as the architect of the world's largest biometric ID card programme Aadhaar, will take over as Chairman of Infosys with immediate effect.
- Co-chairman Ravi Venkatesan has also resigned, although he would continue as an independent director. Two other independent directors -- Jeffery S Lehman and John Etchemendy -- also quit the Infosys board with immediate effect.

Justice Dipak Misra is new CJI

Justice Dipak Misra, who was part of the bench that confirmed the death sentence of the four convicts in the December 16 gangrape case and passed the order for mandatory singing of the national anthem in cinema halls, was sworn in as the 45th Chief Justice of India.

- At a brief ceremony in the Darbar Hall of Rashtrapati Bhawan, President Ramnath Kovind administered the oath of office to Misra.
- Justice Misra will remain in office till October 2, 2018.

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Uber Selects Dara Khosrowshahi as Its New CEO

Uber's board of directors selected Expedia's Dara Khosrowshahi as the company's new CEO.

- Khosrowshahi, a surprise candidate, will replace former CEO and co-founder Travis Kalanick, who resigned more than two months ago amid a series of scandals and controversies that have rocked the ride-hailing company for much of this year.
- Khosrowshahi, who is 48, has led Expedia since 2005, through a period of rapid expansion.



Dev Patel to be honoured with Asia Society Game Changers Award

Dev Patel who became popular with his debut film *Slumdog Millionaire*, will be felicitated with the Asia Society 2017 Asia



Game Changers Award at a ceremony to be held at the United Nations, New York.

- The Asia Game Changer lifetime achievement award will be given to Aga Khan, Founder of the Aga Khan Development Network for using philanthropy to lift millions of Asia's most vulnerable.

The Hindu Playwright Award 2017 presented

The Hindu Playwright Award 2017 went to Gerish Khemani and Akshat Nigam for their play 'In Search of Dariya Sagar'.

- The award, instituted in 2008 to reward the best new unpublished and unperformed play-script in English.
- The other shortlisted works included Deepika Arwind's 'The Playwright is Dead' and K. Madavane's '1947 - The Man from Lahore'.

N.K. Jemisin's 'The Obelisk Gate' wins Best Novel 2017

The Hugo Award for Best Novel 2017 was given to Nora K. Jemisin, an American speculative fiction writer for her work 'The Obelisk Gate'.

- The award was presented at the 75th World Science Fiction Convention in Helsinki.
- The fantasy novel tells a story about the life on a planet where the inhabitants would undergo a "Fifth Season" of catastrophic climate change every a few centuries.

India Honours Its Bravehearts on 71st Independence Day

On the eve of 71st Independence Day, President Ram Nath Kovind honoured the bravehearts of India.

Kovind, who is also a Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces, had approved 112 gallantry awards to Armed Forces Personnel and members of Paramilitary Forces which includes five Kirti Chakras, 17 Shaurya Chakras, 85 Sena Medals, three Nao Sena Medals (Gallantry) and two Vayu Sena Medals (Gallantry).

Five bravehearts who have awarded Kirti Chakra include Major Preetam Singh Kunwar of the Garhwal Rifles; Havildar Giris Gurung (Posthumous) from the First Gorkha Rifles; Major David Manlun (Posthumous), of the Naga Regiment; Pramod Kumar (Posthumous), Commandant, 49 Battalion, Central Reserve Police Force and Chetan Kumar Cheeta, Commandant, CRPF.

Kirti Chakra is the second highest gallantry award given to armed forces officials in peace time.

Telangana CM Chosen for Agriculture Leadership Award

Telangana Chief Minister K Chandrashekhara Rao has been selected for the prestigious Agriculture Leadership Award-2017, according to a statement from the Chief Minister's Office.



- A Committee headed by agriculture scientist MS Swaminathan has recommended the CM's name. The award will be presented on September 5 at Taj Palace Hotel in New Delhi.
- The Chief Minister has been selected for the award for his innovative services rendered to the welfare of farmers and the farm sector. The award, instituted by Indian Council of Food and Agriculture in 2008, is presented every year since then.

National Sports Awards 2017 Announced

Para Olympian Devendra Jhajharia and Hockey player Sardar Singh have been selected for this year's Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna Award. This award is given to sportsperson for spectacular and most outstanding performance in the field over a period of four year.

- Cricketers Harmanpreet Kaur and Cheteshwar Pujara, shooter PN Prakash, pugilist L. Devendro Singh and Tennis player Saketh Myneni are among the 17 sportspersons who will be given Arjuna Awards this year.
- The Dronacharya awardees are R. Gandhi (athletics), Heera Nand Kataria (kabaddi), G.S.S.V. Prasad

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(badminton), Brij Bhushan Mohanty (boxing), P.A. Raphel (hockey), Sanjoy Chakraverty (shooting) and Roshan Lal (wrestling).

- The Dhyan Chand Award will be given to Bhupender Singh (athletics), Syed Shahid Hakim (football) and Sumarai Tete (hockey).
- Apart from a medal and a citation, the Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna awardees will receive a cash prize of Rs 7.5 lakh. Arjuna, Dronacharya and Dhyan Chand awardees will receive statuettes, certificates and cash prize of Rs five lakh each.
- The Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna and Arjuna Award are given for performance over a period of four years. The Dronacharya Award honours coaches for producing medal winners at the international level while the Dhyan Chand Award is given for life time contribution to sports development.

India Football Star Oinam Bembem Devi Receives Arjuna Award

Oinam Bembem Devi, the flagbearer of Indian women's football for over the past two decades was named the winner of the prestigious Arjuna Award.

- Bembem becomes the second Indian woman footballer to win the award, the first being Shanti Mullick in 1983.
- Bembem made her international debut in 1995 and bowed out on a high after winning the SAF Games Gold Medal in Shillong in February 2015.
- She has hence been closely associated with All India Football Federation (AIFF) for spreading awareness about women's football in India and is actively involved as a scout and Brand Ambassador for FIFA Live Your Goals, India.

UNESCO Announces Winners of 2017 International Literacy Prizes

The UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) has announced the winners of the 2017 International Literacy Prizes, which honours excellence and innovation in the field of global literacy.

- The awards will be handed out to five laureates from Canada, Colombia, Jordan, Pakistan and South Africa on the occasion of International Literacy Day.
- The prizes are divided into two categories, namely the UNESCO Confucius Prize for Literacy sponsored by China, and the King Sejong Literacy Prize sponsored by South Korea.

- This year's Confucius Prize, which rewards projects that benefit rural populations and out-of-school youth, particularly girls and women, is given to the AdulTICo Program from Columbia, The Citizens Foundation from Pakistan, and the FunDza project from South Africa.
- The King Sejong prize, dedicated to mother-tongue literacy education, is shared by the Centre for the Study of Learning and Performance from Canada and the We Love Reading programme from Jordan.
- Since 1967, the UNESCO International Literacy Prizes have been awarded to more than 475 projects led by governments, non-governmental organizations and individuals around the world.

Biju Patnaik Award for Scientific Excellence

Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik conferred the Biju Patnaik Award for Scientific Excellence for the year 2016 to Prof Digambar Behera.

- Behera is senior professor and Head, Department of Pulmonary Medicine, Postgraduate Institute of Medical Education and Research (PGIMER) in Chandigarh.
- Instituted by Odisha Bigyan Academy (OBA), the award is given to an Odia Scientist working anywhere in India or abroad each year for his/her lifetime research contributions in the field of science and technology.

Ronaldo Becomes UEFA Player of the Year

Real Madrid's star forward Cristiano Ronaldo deserves the UEFA Player of the Year Award. He achieved this achievement by



overthrowing Lionel Messi and Juventus's keeper Gianluigi Buffon.

- 32-year-old Ronaldo has given Real Madrid the second consecutive Champions League title, as well as the top scorer of the tournament with 12 goals in the previous season.
- This prestigious award is being given from 2011.
- Portuguese veteran Ronaldo was successful in achieving this award for the third time. He left behind Barcelona's rival, Forward Messi, 30, who has two nominations.

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- Earlier, Ronaldo won the award in 2013, 2014 and 2015-16.

Nitasha Biswas, The Winner of Miss Transqueen India 2017

Nitasha, a trans woman who hails from Kolkata, was named the first Miss Transqueen India in Gurgaon on Sunday.



- Nitasha, 26, is currently pursuing Masters in Business Management in Kolkata.
- Loiloi from Manipur bagged the first runner-up position and Ragasya from Chennai was crowned the second runner-up.

NITI Aayog Announces Women Transforming India Awards 2017

Celebrating the outstanding achievements of women in India, NITI Aayog, in partnership with MyGov and the United Nations, announces winners of the Women Transforming India Awards, 2017.

- Awards ceremony recognizes the exceptional work of 12 women in critical areas such as preventing violence against women; bridging the gender gap in education; providing healthcare; building livelihoods and enterprises for women; and promoting inclusion for persons with disabilities.
- The awardees included Lakshmi Agrawal a champion of violence against women, goat veterinarian Sunita Kamble for creating alternative livelihood opportunities for women, Raji Borthakur for creating a smart glove which can predict epileptic seizures before they occur, Safeena Husain for her work to transform girls' education in rural areas and Arunima Sinha for being India's first amputee to climb Mount Everest Jamuna Tudu for conserved 50 hectares of forest land around her village in Jharkhand.



Rahul, Manu-Sumeeth clinch titles at Lagos Open

Indian shuttler C Rahul Yadav and men's doubles pair of Manu Attri and B Sumeeth Reddy clinched the men's singles and men's doubles title respectively at Lagos International

challenge in Nigeria.

- Fourth-seeded Rahul surpassed compatriot Karan Rajan Rajarajan 21-15 21-13 in the summit clash to lay claim to the title at the Molade Okoya-Thomas Hall of the Teslim Balogun Stadium, Nigeria.

India bags 24 medals at Jordan Open TT

India has bagged total 24 medals at the Jordan Junior and Cadet Open table tennis tournament. The event held in Amman the capital of Jordan.

- The tally includes 7 Gold, 7 Silver and 10 Bronze medals. In the event India was the second best finishers.

Points To Remember

Jordan :

- Capital: Amman
- Currency: Jordanian dinar
- King: Abdullah II of Jordan

Sebastian Vettel wins Hungarian Grand Prix

Sebastian Vettel won Hungarian Grand Prix and his team mate Kimi Raikkonen came second while Mercedes' Lewis Hamilton came third.

- This is his fourth win of the season and 46th of his Formula One career.

Jadeja maintains top position ICC Test Rankings

According to the latest ICC Test Rankings Ravindra Jadeja maintained his top position in the bowlers' list while Indian skipper Virat Kohli remained stayed at fifth place in the batting charts.

- The batting list is being topped by Australia captain Steve Smith followed by England's Joe Root and New Zealand's Kane Williamson.
- In the bowlers' chart, Ravichandran Ashwin replaced Sri Lanka captain Rangana Herath to claim the second spot back. Herath is third in the rankings.
- In the all-rounders' list Bangladesh's Shakib Al Hasan is still maintained at the top, Jadeja and Ashwin also maintained second and third ranks respectively.

Summer Olympics Host : Paris , Los Angeles

Paris will host the 2024 Summer Olympic Games. Los Angeles will host the 2028 Summer Olympics after reaching a deal with Olympic organisers.

- The Los Angeles Olympics and Paralympics bid committee in cooperation with the International Olympic Committee (IOC).
- IOC president- Thomas Bach

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Neymar signs world record deal with PSG

Neymar has become the most expensive player in football history after completing his blockbuster transfer to Paris Saint-



Germain from Barcelona for 222 million Euros (\$262 million).

- PSG said in a statement that the 25-year-old Neymar had signed a five-year contract, until June 2022.

Joshna and Dipika get bronze at World Doubles Squash Championship

Indian doubles pair of Joshna Chinappa and Dipika Pallikal Karthik settled for a bronze medal after losing to English duo of Jenny Duncalf and Alison Waters in the semifinals of the WSF World doubles squash championship.

- The second seeded Indian combo squandered an advantage to suffer a 11-6, 6-11, 8-11 loss to Jenny and Alison.

Manju Kumari secures bronze at Junior World Wrestling

India's Manju Kumari won the bronze medal with a 2-0 victory over Iona Prokopeniuk of Ukraine in the Junior World Wrestling Championship in Tampere, Finland.

- However, Divya Tomar (44kg), Nandini Salokhe (51kg) and Pooja Devi (67kg) failed to make it to the medal round.
- In the men's 74kg freestyle category at the Junior World Wrestling Championships, Veer Dev Gulia won bronze medal after defeating Yamasaki Yajuro of Japan by 8-5 in the bronze medal play-off bout.

Ankur Mittal Wins Gold in Asian Shotgun Championship

Indian shooter Ankur Mittal clinched the individual as well as the team gold medal in men's double trap at the 7th Asian Shotgun Championship in Astana, Kazakhstan on Saturday.

- Mittal shot 71 in the six-man final to finish at the top of the podium. Mittal had won a gold medal at the International Shooting Sport Federation World Cup in Acapulco, Mexico, earlier this year.
- Dahiya had to contend with the fourth position in the individual event, whereas Asab finished in the fifth place.
- Before that, he had bagged silver in season's inaugural World Cup in New Delhi.

Vijender Singh wins WBO Asia Pacific Super Middleweight title

The legend of Vijender Singh continued to grow as the Indian boxing star outslugged his Chinese opponent Zulpikar Maimaitali in a close bout to retain the WBO Asia Pacific Super Middleweight title in Mumbai.



- It was double delight for the fans as Singh also snatched the WBO Oriental Super Middleweight title from the Chinese.
- It was the 32-year-old Beijing Olympic bronze medallist's ninth successive win in his professional career.

Usain Bolt Finishes 3rd in 100 Meters at World Athletics Championship

Fastest man on earth, Usain Bolt has been stunned as he finished third in the 100 meters Final of World Athletics Championship at London.

- In his farewell 100 meters, Bolt clocked a time of 9.95 seconds but was left behind by veteran American sprinter Justin Gatlin who clocked 9.92 seconds to claim Gold, his compatriot Christian Coleman came second with 9.94 seconds.
- Since 2008, when Bolt set his first world record, he had not lost a championship race, and collected 19 gold medals in 100, 200 and 4x100 meters.

Hockey tournament: ONGC wins Murugappa Gold Cup

Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) has beaten Bengaluru Hockey Association (BHA) by 4-2 in the final in 91st All-India MCC-Murugappa Gold Cup hockey tournament.

- It was held at Mayor Radhakrishnan stadium, Egmore Chennai.
- The ONGC team received Rs 5, 00,000 prize money while BHA got Rs 2.5 lakh. Murugappa Group executive chairman A Vellayan gave away the prizes in the presence of MCC president Srivatsan Subramaniam.

Ravindra Jadeja tops ICC ranking among all-rounders in Test Cricket

India's Ravindra Jadeja edged out Bangladesh's Shakib Al Hasan to claim the top-rank among all-rounders apart from

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maintaining top position in the bowlers' chart in the latest ICC test match rankings.

- Jadeja currently has 438 points among the all-rounders while Shakib has 431 points.
- Cheteshwar Pujara gained a place to be third among batsmen while Virat Kohli maintained his fifth position.
- Steve Smith and Joe Root are still at No 1 and 2 position in batsmen rankings.

Kynan Chenai wins bronze at 7th Asian Shotgun

Indian shooter Kynan Chenai won a bronze in men's trap event, at the 7th Asian Championship Shotgun at Astana, Kazakhstan.

- Kynan first shot 116 out of 125 to qualify for the six men final round in third spot and then held on to the position till the end of the finals.
- He shot a score of 30 to finish behind gold medallist Abdulrahman Al Faihan of Kuwait, who shot 39 for a new Asian finals record and another Kuwaiti Talal Al Rashidi, who bagged the silver with an effort of 38.

Wayde Van Niekerk retains men's 400m title

In World Athletics Championships, Olympic Champion **Wayde Van Niekerk** won the men's **400 meters** event and retained his title in London.

- The World Record holder South African Niekerk, clocked 43.98 seconds to finish at the top of podium.
- **Steve Gardiner** of Bahamas finished second in the event while **Abdalelah Haroun** of Qatar claimed the Bronze.

Chenai and Shreyasi win mixed team trap bronze

Kynan Chenai and Shreyasi Singh of India have won bronze in mixed team trap event in Asian Shotgun Shooting Championship in Astana, Kazakhstan.



- The Indian pair defeated Lebanon shooters 40-38. It is India's 4th medal in the Championship.

Prannoy jumps to world no 15 in badminton ranking

Indian shuttler HS Prannoy improved two places to reach the 15th spot in the latest BWF rankings. Prannoy clinched the US Open title last month, had reached the quarterfinals at New Zealand Grand Prix Gold at Auckland last week.

- Kidambi Srikanth, who clinched successive titles at Indonesia and Australia, remained at the eighth spot.
- In women's singles, Olympics silver medallist PV Sindhu and London Games bronze winner Saina Nehwal continue in their same places. Sindhu is in the 5th spot while Saina remains at the 16th spot.

About BWF:-

- The Badminton World Federation (BWF) is the international governing body for the sport of badminton recognised by the International Olympic Committee (IOC).
- Formation: - 1934.
- Headquarters:-Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
- Membership:-176 member associations
- President:-Poul-Erik Høyer Larsen

Anand jumps to joint top position in Sinquefield Cup

Five-time world champion Viswanathan Anand has jumped to the joint top position in the Sinquefield Cup, which is a part of the Grand Chess tour.

- In the seventh round of the competition at St Louis in the United States, Anand defeated Ian Nepomniachtchi of Russia in a game that lasted 40 moves.
- World Champion Magnus Carlsen of Norway remained within striking distance of the three leaders following an easy draw against Peter Svidler of Russia. Carlson now has four points in his bag.

Los Angeles approves host city contract for 2028 Games

Los Angeles city council rubber-stamped the host city contract today, paving the way for bringing the 2028 Summer Olympics to southern California and ceding the 2024 Games to Paris.

- The members voted 12-0 in favour of signing off on the memorandum of understanding and host city contract documents which would see the city host the Summer Games for the third time in history.

About Olympic:-

- The first modern Olympics were held in Athens, Greece, in 1896.
- The official symbol of the modern Games is five interlocking colored rings, representing the continents of North and South America, Asia, Africa, Europe and Australia.
- Motto:-Citius, Altius, Fortius (Faster, higher, stronger)
- President:-Thomas Bach

Maheshwari bags memorable bronze at Asian Shotgun Championship

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Shooter Maheshwari Chauhan bagged a bronze medal at the Asian Shotgun Championship to earn India's first women's skeet individual medal at a top international competition in Astana.

- India's tally now stands at two gold, silver and three bronze medals.

About Asian Shotgun Championship:-

- The Asian Shooting Championships are governed by the Asian Shooting Confederation. Asian Shooting Championships began in 1967.
- 7th Asian Shotgun Championship 2017 is hosted by Astana, Kazakhstan.
- ASC President:-Sheikh Ali Al Khalifa

India drop place to 97th in FIFA rankings

India dropped a place in the latest FIFA rankings released to stand at number 97.



- In July, India had reached their best FIFA ranking in the last 21 years as they stood at 96, the second highest ranking for the country ever. India currently stands at 341 points on the 97th position, four points behind 96th placed Zambia.
- The team has progressed brilliantly under the English manager Constantine, who started coaching the team when it was ranked 171st in the world.
- India will now play a three-nation tournament with Mauritius and St. Kitts and Nevis at the Jawaharlal Nehru stadium in Chennai from August 19th to 27th.

About FIFA:-

- Motto:-For the Game, For the World.
- Founded:-21 May 1904
- Headquarters: -Zürich, Switzerland

U-19 cricket Asia Cup shifted

The Under-19 cricket Asia Cup, scheduled to be held in Bengaluru, has been moved to Malaysia following the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB)'s objection to the tournament being held in India. The tournament will now be held in November in Malaysia.

- The matter of shifting the tournament to Malaysia was amicably agreed by all participants in the development and executive committees.

Mairaj-Rashmi pair bags gold at Asian Shotgun Championship

On the concluding day of the 7th Asian Championship Shotgun in Astana, India bagged a gold medal in the skeet mixed team event.

- The Indian duo of Mairaj Ahmad Khan and Rashmi Rathore eked out a narrow 28-27 win over the Chinese pair of Liu Jiangchi and Gao Jianmei.
- India finished the championship with a total of eight medals.
- Ankur Mittal had earlier won a gold in the men's double trap and had also helped India bag the team gold in the event. Kynan Chenai won a bronze in the men's trap and also partnered Shreyasi Singh to claim the trap mixed team bronze.
- Maheshwari Chauhan clinched a bronze in the women's skeet, along with team silver in the event before the men's skeet team picked up another bronze.

World Athletics Championships; Usain Bolt and Mo Farah bid farewell

In World Athletics Championships, sprint superstar Usain Bolt could not finish the last race of his illustrious career in London.



- Bolt, was on tracks in the 4x100 meters Final, anchoring one last time for his country Jamaica. The event was won by hosts Great Britain, who clocked 37.47 seconds.
- Another shocking farewell was that of Mo Farah the greatest distance runner, as he finished 2nd place in the 5000 meters event.

India beat SL Test Series 2017

India claimed their first ever 3-0 series win overseas, beating Sri Lanka in the third and the final Test at Pallekele International Cricket Stadium, Pallekele by an innings and 171 runs.

Earlier, India won the first Test against Sri Lanka in Galle by 304 runs and the second by an innings and 53 runs in Colombo.

Hardik became the first Indian batsman to score 26 runs in an over in test match and surpassed the previous record of 24 runs which was scored by Sandeep Patil off Bob Willis in Manchester in 1982 and by Kapil Dev off Eddie Hemmings at Lord's in 1990.

Indian boxers clinch 10 medals at Serbian tourney

India won 10 medals, including two gold, in the 6th Golden Glove women's Boxing Tournament at Vojvodina, Serbia.

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- In all, India won two gold, four silver and four bronze medals.
- The gold-medallists were Jyoti (51kg) and Vanlalharitpuii (60kg).
- The silver medals were clinched by Anjali (48kg), Sakshi (54kg), Ashtha (69kg) and Anupama (81kg)
- Mandeep (57kg), Nisha (64kg), Shruti (75kg) and Neha (81+kg) settled for bronze medals after losing in the semi-finals.

ICC Under-19 Cricket World Cup 2018 in New Zealand

New Zealand will host ICC Under-19 Cricket World Cup 2018



- India and Australia have been placed in the same Group in ICC U-19 cricket World Cup to be played in New Zealand from January 14, 2018.
- **Former champions India** will play its first match against Australia on January 14.
- Zimbabwe and East Asia Pacific qualifier Papua New Guinea are the other teams in this group.
- A total of **16 teams** will participate in the World Cup.

Real Madrid Beats Barcelona to Win 2017 Spanish Super Cup

Real Madrid won the Spanish Super Cup for the 10th time with a 2-0 win over rivals Barcelona at a joyous Santiago Bernabeu to complete a 5-1 aggregate victory that underlined their new status as Spain's dominant force.

- In Cristiano Ronaldo's absence, Marco Asensio and Karim Benzema scored for Real Madrid to secure a 2-0 win over Barcelona in the Spanish Super Cup second leg, and win the tie 5-1 on aggregate.
- Last season's Liga and Champions League winners, Madrid also beat Manchester United to win the European Super Cup last week.

Lakshya Sen Wins Bulgaria Open International Series

Young Indian shuttler Lakshya Sen clinched the Bulgaria Open International Series title after notching up a hard-fought win over Croatia's Zvonimir Durkinjak in the men's singles final in Sofia, Bulgaria.

- In two months time, he will be playing Vietnam Grand Prix and then it would be junior World championship.

- Last year, the Indian had won the India International Series and clinched a bronze at the CPB Badminton and Sports Science Training Center in Thailand.

Virat Kohli Continues to Top ICC ODI Rankings for Batsmen

India captain Virat Kohli continued to be the world's top-ranked One-day batsman in the latest ICC ODI rankings, released in Dubai.

- Having 873 points in his kitty, Kohli will have a chance to increase the 12-point lead over second-placed Australian David Warner at the upcoming five-match ODI series against Sri Lanka, starting in Dambulla.
- Other Indian batsmen in the top-15 are former skipper Mahendra Singh Dhoni 12th, Shikhar Dhawan 13th and vice-captain Rohit Sharma 14th.
- However, no Indian bowler figures in the top-10 list.
- Pacer Bhuvneshwar Kumar 13th is the lone Indian in top 15.
- As for the ICC ODI Team Rankings, India are currently at number three.

Shapath Bharadwaj Wins Bronze at Junior Shotgun World Cup

Shapath Bharadwaj won a bronze medal in the double trap event while Lakshay Sheoran and Manisha Keer combined to win a bronze in the mixed team trap competition at the ISSF Junior Shotgun World Cup in Porpetto, Italy.

- The 15-year old Bharadwaj, from Meerut, shot a 48 in the final to finish behind gold-medal winning Briton James Dedman and silver medalist Finland's Miki Ylonen.
- This was India's first medal in the competition apart from the bronze won by Sheoran and Keer in the mixed team trap competition.

PV Sindhu, Saina Nehwal & K Srikanth to Lead India in World Badminton Championships

India's PV Sindhu, Saina Nehwal and Kidambi Srikanth will be in focus when the World Badminton Championships begin at Glasgow in UK.

- In the women's singles event, 4th seeded Sindhu has got a bye in the opening round and will meet the winner between South Korea's Kim Hyo Min and Egypt's Hadia Hosny for a place in the pre-quarterfinals. 12th seeded Saina, who also got a bye in the first round, will meet either Switzerland's

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Sabrina Jaquet or Ukraine's Natalya Voytsekh in the Round of 32.

- In the men's singles, 8th seeded Srikanth will open his campaign against Russia's Sergey Sirant. B. Sai Praneeth will face Hong Kong's Wei Nan in the first round, while Sameer Verma will meet Spain's Pablo Abian in the opening round. Ajay Jayaram, 13th seeded, will battle Austrian Luka Wraber in the first round.

Sakshi Malik & Bajrang Punia to Lead Indian Challenge at World Wrestling Championships

Olympic medallist Sakshi Malik and Asian champion Bajrang Punia will spearhead the Indian challenge at the World Wrestling Championships, starting in Paris today.



- Asian Championship Silver medalist, Sakshi will be on the mat on Thursday in 58kg category. Vinesh Phogat, another silver medallist at the Asian Championship, will also fancy her chances in women's 48kg.
- Meanwhile, Bajrang who had won bronze in the 2013 Budapest edition, in 60kg freestyle, has now climbed up a division to 65kg.

Subroto Cup International Football Tournament Began in Delhi

58th edition of Subroto Cup International Football Tournament began in Delhi.

- A total of 99 teams from India and abroad are participating across three categories in this edition of famous inter-school football tournament. Teams from Bangladesh, Indonesia, Nepal, Afghanistan and Singapore are participating in this edition.
- The one month long football carnival will be played in three categories Sub-Junior boys (Under-14), Junior Girls (Under-17), Junior Boys (Under-17).
- This season seems to be more promising with a special emphasis on "BETI-BACHAO, BETI-PADHAO, BETI-KHILAO".

London to Host 2018 Table Tennis Team World Cup

England has been awarded the right to host the 2018 Table Tennis Team World Cup, which will be held in London.

- The event will take place at the Copper Box Arena in the Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park from 22-25 February.

- It will be the first major table tennis-only event to be held in London since Wembley hosted the 1954 World Championships.
- The last team World Cup was held in Dubai in 2015, in which 12 men and 12 women teams took part.

Saina Nehwal Won Bronze in World Badminton Championship

Saina Nehwal finished with a bronze medal as her impressive run at the World Championship came to an end after loss against Rio Olympics bronze medallist Nozomi Okuhara of Japan in the women's singles semifinals in Glasgow.

- It was the World No. 12 Japanese who managed to eke out a come-from-behind 12-21, 21-17, 21-10 win over the Indian to become the first shuttler from her country to reach the finals of World Championship.

India Wins U-15 SAFF Football Championship

The India football team came from behind to defeat Nepal 2-1 to win the South Asian Football Federation (SAFF) Under-15 Championship.

- The South Asian Football Federation (SAFF) Under-15 Championship for boys kick started on August 18, 2017, at Nepal. As many as six nations participated in the tournament where each of the sides was divided into two pools comprising three teams each.
- The SAFF Under-15 Championship is a continuity of the earlier SAFF Under-16 Championship. The motive behind the change is to allow teams to be better prepared for the Asian Football Confederation (AFC) Under-16 qualifiers to be held later this year.

Sindhu Loses Epic Final, Settles for Silver at World Ch'ship

PV Sindhu's gallant effort to become India's first ever World Champion ended in a heart-wrenching defeat against Japan's Nozomi Okuhara in an epic final, here today.



In the longest match of the tournament, which tested the physical and mental strength of both the players, Sindhu lost 19-21 22-20 20-22 after battling hard for one hour and 49 minutes.

- For India, it still is a historic edition since for the first time country's shuttler are returning with two medals.

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- Saina Nehwal won a bronze yesterday after losing her semifinal.
- India had one silver and four bronze in the World Championships before this edition.

Hamilton Wins Belgian Grand Prix

Louise Hamilton won the Belgian Grand Prix Formula One race, beating Sebastien Vettel.

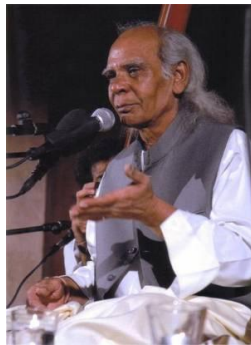
- With this victory, he reduced the gap between him and the top of the championship table and top-ranked Sebastien Vettel.
- 32-year-old Hamilton of Britain won the pole position for the 68th time.
- Four-time champion Vettel finished second. Redbull's Australian Daniel Ricardo III, Finland's Ferrari driver Kimberly Rank in fourth and his compatriot, but Mercedes driver Velteri Botas finished fifth.



Eminent Dhrupad singer Ustad Dagar passes away

Ustad Hussain Sayeeduddin Dagar, maestro and custodian of the venerable Dhrupad tradition of Hindustani classical music and a member of the eminent Dagar family, passed away.

• Dhrupad - a Sanskrit portmanteau of Dhruva (immovable) and Pad (verse) has its roots since ancient times, mentioned as early as the 3rd Century B.C. in the Natyashastra.



Sam Shepard, Pulitzer-Winning Playwright, Is Dead

Sam Shepard, the Pulitzer Prize-winning playwright and Oscar-nominated actor passed away. Shepard was from Fort Sheridan, Illinois U.S.A.

He authored more than 40 plays and he also won the Pulitzer Prize for drama in 1979 for his play Buried Child. He also received an Oscar nomination for best supporting actor for his portrayal of pilot Chuck Yeager in the 1983 astronaut drama "The Right Stuff."

Pushpa Bhargava, Scientist and Activist, Dies

Veteran molecular biologist and a vehement critic of genetically modified crops, Pushpa Mittra Bhargava, died.

He brought modern cell and molecular biology to India when there was no lab for research on cell, DNA and molecular biology.

In 2015, Bhargava was among the scientists who returned his Padma Bhushan.

Harry Potter actor Robert Hardy dies

Robert Hardy, screen actor who played Minister for Magic Cornelius Fudge in the Harry Potter movies, has died.

Between 1978 and 1990 he played eccentric veterinarian Siegfried Farnon in All Creatures Great and Small, a popular show based on James Herriot's books.

BJP MP from Ajmer & former Union minister Sanwar Lal Jat passes away

BJP's Member of Parliament from Ajmer and former Union minister Prof Sanwar Lal Jat passed away in New Delhi today. He was 62.

- Prof Sanwar Lal Jat was member of the Rajasthan Legislative Assembly for five terms. He also served as Minister in the Rajasthan Government thrice.
- In 2014, he was elected to the Lok Sabha from Ajmer. He served as Union Minister of State for Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation till July last year.

Pakistan's 'Mother Teresa' Dr Ruth Pfau dies

Dr Ruth Pfau, a German doctor popularly known as Pakistan's 'Mother Teresa' for dedicating her life to eradicate leprosy in the country, died. She was 87.

- Dr. Pfau first visited Pakistan in 1960 and was so touched by the plight of leprosy victims that she decided to stay forever in the country to treat them.
- The nun founded the Marie Adelaide Leprosy Centre in Karachi in 1962 and later set up its branches in all provinces of Pakistan, including Gilgit-Baltistan, and treated over 50,000 families.
- Due to her tireless efforts, the World Health Organisation in 1996 declared Pakistan one of the first countries in Asia to be free of leprosy.

Theatre personality Shobha Sen dies

Shobha Sen, veteran theatre personality and wife of late thespian Utpal Dutt, passed away here this morning. She was 93.

- She had acted in many productions of the group, including "Barricade", "Tiner Taloyar" and "Titumir".

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- Sen had also starred in films such as Mrinal Sen's "Ek Adhuri Kahani" and "Ek Din Pratidin", Gautam Ghose's "Dekha" and Basu Chatterjee's "Pasand Apni Apni".

Australia's Olympic champion Stephen Wooldridge died

Australia's former Olympic and world cycle champion Stephen Wooldridge died at the age of just 39.

- The former star team pursuiter, from New South Wales state, who won gold for Australia in the 2004 Athens Olympics, was also a four-time world champion in the discipline and the 2002 Commonwealth Games champion.

Veteran Photographer S Paul Died

Veteran photographer S Paul died in New Delhi at the age of 88.

- Paul received recognition and fame as a professional photographer when his pictures were selected for publication in three renowned British publications -- Amateur Photographer, Miniature Camera and Miniature Camera World.
- B&W Magazine of US had described him as 'The Henry Cartier-Bresson of India'.
- Apart from other recognitions, Paul was the first Indian to be profiled by The British Journal of Photography in 1967.
- He was the first Indian to win the Nikon International Photo Contest in 1971.

Media Advisor to Former PM P V Narasimha Rao Died

Retired IAS officer P V R K Prasad, who was Additional Secretary and Media Advisor to former Prime Minister P V Narasimha Rao, passed away. He was 77.

- Prasad, who served as Media Advisor to Narasimha Rao, was a close aide of the former Prime Minister.
- Prasad authored several popular books in Telugu, including 'Naham Kartha', 'Asalem Jarigindante' (Wheels behind the veil), 'Tirumala Leelamrutham' and 'Tirumala Charitamrutam'.

Comedy legend Jerry Lewis dead at 91

Legendary comic artiste Jerry Lewis, who was known for his brash slapstick humour, has died at the age of 91.

- He was one of Hollywood's most entertaining comedians, whose career spanned for more than six decades. He starred in films such as "The Delicate Delinquent", "Rock-a-Bye Baby" and Martin Scorsese's "The King of Comedy".

Former Manipur CM Rishang Keishing Died

Former Manipur Chief Minister and a member of the first Lok Sabha Rishang Keishing passed away following brief illness in Imphal. He was 96.



- Veteran Congress leader Keishing, served as the chief minister of Manipur from 1980 to 1988 and from 1994 to 1997.

About Manipur

- Manipur is a state in northeastern India. It is bounded by Nagaland to the north, Mizoram to the south, and Assam to the west; Burma (Myanmar) lies to its east.
- Formation: - 21 January 1972
- Capital:-Imphal
- Governor:-Najma Heptulla
- Chief Minister:-N. Biren Singh

Brian Aldiss, British Science Fiction Writer Died

Brian Aldiss, the "grand old man" of science fiction whose writing has shaped the genre since he was first published in the 1950s, has died at the age of 92.

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

'Hero' of Paris Climate Agreement Died

Tony de Brum, the former Marshall Islands foreign minister who became a leading advocate for the landmark Paris Agreement and an internationally recognised voice in the fight against climate change, has died aged 72.

- De Brum was also the Pacific nation's climate ambassador.
- During the negotiations for the Paris accord, de Brum helped form the High Ambition Coalition of 100 rich and poor nations and helped secure a global commitment to try to limit Earth's warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius (2.7 degrees Fahrenheit) compared to pre-industrial times.

India's Oldest Cinematographer Ramananda Sengupta Died

Country's oldest cinematographer Ramananda Sengupta, who worked with legends like Jean Renoir, Ritwik Ghatak and Mrinal Sen, died in Kolkata. He was 101 year old.

- His first film as a full-time cinematographer was in 'Purbaraag' directed by Ardhendu Mukherjee in 1946.

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- Mr. Sengupta was also a founding member of the Technicians' Studio in South Kolkata's Tollygunge.

Olympian Footballer Ahmed Khan Dies

Ahmed Khan, a member of India's gold winning football team at the first Asian Games in 1951, passed away at the age of 91.



- A prolific striker, Khan represented India in two Olympic Games -- 1948 in London and 1952 in Helsinki apart from two Asian Games in Delhi and 1954 in Manila.
- He played for East Bengal from 1949 to 1959 and captained the club in 1954. He scored 62 goals for the red and gold having won the IFA Shield four times; the Calcutta League, the Durand Cup and the DCM Trophy thrice each; and Rovers Cup, the PK Nair Gold Cup and the HK Mookherjee Shield once each.



World's Shortest Woman Unveils 51-Foot High Book

The world's shortest woman Jyoti Amge today unveiled a 51-foot high book at a programme.



- The book 'Kadve Vachan' written by Jain saint Acharya Tarun Sagar Maharaj was unveiled by her in the presence of BJP state president Ashok Parnami.
- Amge is considered to be the world's shortest woman alive by the Guinness World Records at 62.8 cm. The book contains various "bitter" discourses about life and guides people for better living.

Left, Right and Centre: The Idea of India

Highlighting numerous cultures, languages, traditions, customs and controversies Nidhi Razdan, a well-known television journalist, has made an attempt to bring to the fore our understanding of India, in the latest book titled Left, Right and Centre: The Idea of India.

- In all there are 12 chapters that give insight into a variety of significant issues and each chapter critically analyses various facets of India.
- Eminent people like Yashwant Sinha, Derek O'Brien, Shashi Tharoor, Aruna Roy and Shabana Azmi have contributed to this book.

Book chronicles 70 years of India's independence

Puffin Books' "India at 70: Snapshots since Independence", written by Roshen Dalal, provides glimpses of the country's vast and rich culture, its diversity and many languages, its eminent personalities and its achievements in all spheres.

- From Partition to the Sino-India war, from the Emergency to the Kalam years, from the Jan Lokpal Bill to the recent demonetisation move, the book touches almost all important topics.
- Dalal says she wrote this book in a short and easy-to-read format, to provide youngsters with an overview of India after Independence.
- Culture is the main focus of the book.

'I am HIV positive, so what?'

"I am HIV Positive, so what"? Claims Mr World bronze medal winner, Pradikumar Singh, a bodybuilder hailing from Manipur. The Manipuri bodybuilder announced his condition in his new book documenting his career.

- This new book documents the career of the brave man and his continuous struggle against the hideous HIV virus. Having been a victim of the virus for over a decade now, the brave man's one ambition in life is to be a role model for all HIV sufferers.
- Currently, the brand ambassador of HIV/AIDS for the Manipur State AIDS Control Society, Pradipkumar Singh, was first detected as being HIV positive in the year 2000. He had contracted the virus from a shared syringe, a result of being a drug addict during his youth.

Amish Tripathi's Immortal India

Amish Tripathi, one of India's well-regarded authors, shares his perspectives on these contemporary issues in his latest book Immortal India.

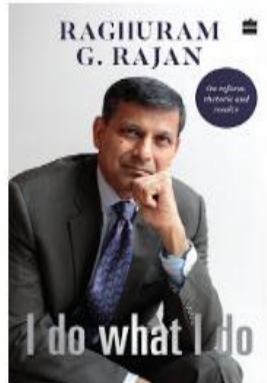
- The book contains a collection of the author's thoughts on various subjects and gets conveyed by articles, nuanced speeches and debates. He provides his standpoint on these topics by taking the readers through the history as well.
- In Immortal India, he has touched upon serious topics like LGBT rights and Section 377, Uniform Civil

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Code, bane of casteism, religious violence and many more.

Raghuram Rajan Pens Book 'I Do What I Do'

Raghuram Rajan is all set to publish a book 'I Do What I Do' about his tenure as Governor of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) where he explains economic concepts and talks of issues like tolerance and connection between political freedom and prosperity.



- The book is a collection of essays and speeches during his stint as RBI head.
- This is not Mr. Rajan's first book. He co-authored "Saving Capitalism from the Capitalists" with Luigi Zingales and wrote "Fault Lines: How Hidden Fractures Still Threaten the World Economy", for which he was awarded the Financial Times-Goldman Sachs prize for best business book.

Current Affairs Question

1. Recently, Longest hanging pedestrian bridge opens in which country?
(A) China
(B) USA
(C) Japan
(D) Switzerland
(E) India
2. Minister of Housing & Urban Affairs launched the Swachh Survekshan-2018. Which of the following person is the Minister of Housing & Urban Affairs?
(A) Narendra Singh Tomar
(B) Anant Geetey
(C) Ravi Shankar Prasad
(D) Prakash Javadekar
(E) M. Venkaiah Naidu
3. Union Minister of state for Minority Affairs and Parliamentary Affairs Shri Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi launched "JIYO PARSI PUBLICITY PHASE – 2 in which city?
(A) Delhi
(B) Mumbai
(C) Bengaluru
(D) Kolkata
4. 'Rajaswa Gyansangam' will be held at Vigyan Bhawan in New Delhi. It will Inaugurated by which personality?
(A) Arun Jaitley
(B) Sushma Swaraj
(C) Rajnath Singh
(D) Narendra Modi
(E) Urjit Patel
5. What is the full form of NMCG?
(A) National Mines & Controlling Gas
(B) National Mission for Clean Ganga
(C) Namami Mission for Clear Ganga
(D) National Motive to Clean Ganga
(E) None of these
6. Reserve Bank of India has imposed a monetary penalty aggregating Rs. 3 crore on which of the following bank?
(A) SBI
(B) PNB
(C) AXIS bank
(D) ICICI
(E) Union Bank of India
7. Manu Attri is affiliated with which of the following sport?
(A) Tennis
(B) Table Tennis
(C) Archery
(D) Badminton
(E) Athletics
8. India has bagged how many medals at the Jordan Junior and Cadet Open table tennis tournament?
(A) 25
(B) 24
(C) 35
(D) 14
(E) 29
9. World breastfeeding week 2017 is being celebrated from 1st to 7th August 2017 What is the theme of World breastfeeding week 2017?
(A) Sustaining Breastfeeding Together
(B) Breastfeeding: a key to Sustainable Development
(C) Breastfeeding and work
(D) Breastfeeding: lets make it work
(E) None of these
10. China has formally opened its first overseas military base in which country?
(A) Ethiopia
(B) Eritrea
(C) Somalia
(D) Djibouti

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- (E) Vietnam
11. What is the full form of NCBC?
- (A) National commission for Banking Company
(B) National Commission for Backward Classes
(C) National Committee of Banking & Commerce
(D) National Committee to Backward Classes
(E) None of these
12. Airtel Payments Bank has partnership with which company to boost digital payments in the country?
- (A) NPCI
(B) BHEL
(C) NSDL
(D) HPCL
(E) SBI
13. Which personality has becomes Asia's 2nd richest person?
- (A) Jack Ma
(B) Tadasi Yanai
(C) Mukesh Ambani
(D) Lee-Shau-Kee
(E) Li-ka-Shing
14. Which of the following person has appointed as President of Cisco for its India and SAARC operations?
- (A) R Subramania kumar
(B) Sunil Mehta
(C) R. A. Sankara Narayanan
(D) Ajay Tyagi
(E) Sameer Garde
15. According to the latest ICC Test Rankings who has been topped the batting list ?
- (A) Steve Smith
(B) Joe Root
(C) Kane Williamson
(D) Virat Kohli
(E) Rangana Herath
16. Which country will host the 2024 Summer Olympic Games?
- (A) London
(B) Paris
(C) Los Angels
(D) China
(E) Brazil
17. The Indus Waters Treaty was signed between India and Pakistan in which year?
- (A) 1958
(B) 1966
(C) 1960
(D) 1948
(E) 1952
18. Who among the following will head a Committee of experts which would study various issues relating to data protection in the country?
- (A) Justice B N Srikrishna
(B) Justice Rajendra Mal Lodha
(C) Justice H. L. Dattu
(D) Justice T. S. Thakur
(E) Justice Jagdish Singh Khehar
19. The government launched which of the following portal to provide a platform to sell agricultural produce?
- (A) e-RaKAM
(B) e-Mandi
(C) e-AGRO
(D) e- Mart
(E) None of these
20. What is the current Marginal Standing Facility rate according to the third bi-monthly monetary policy?
- (A) 6.00%
(B) 5.75%
(C) 6.25%
(D) 4.00%
(E) 6.50%
21. SBI has done collaboration with which of the following company to promote Digital India initiative?
- (A) Paytm
(B) Samsung Pay
(C) Amazon Pay
(D) Paisabazar.com
(E) Mobikwik
22. Who among the following is appointed as chairman of BSE?
- (A) Ashok Chawla
(B) T. V. Mohandas Pai
(C) Sunita Sharma
(D) Ravi Narain
(E) Dhirendra Swarup
23. FICCI was established, on the advice of Mahatma Gandhi by GD Birla and Purushottam Das Thakurdas in which year?
- (A) 1920
(B) 1935
(C) 1927
(D) 1944
(E) 1938
24. What is the full form of FICCI?
- (A) Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry
(B) Federation of Indian Chambers of Companies and Industry

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- (C) Federation of Indian Companies of Commerce and Infrastructure
(D) Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Infrastructure
(E) None of these
25. The Indian Army has developed which of the following mobile application for serving soldiers to track their details ?
(A) Humraaz
(B) Army cloud
(C) Soldiers budy
(D) Sanya bandhu
(E) None of these
26. Navigation with Indian Constellation (NavIC) has been developed by which organization?
(A) DRDO
(B) NASA
(C) ISRO
(D) NASA & ISRO
(E) ISRO & DRDO
27. Recently Microsoft has been ties up with which state government to use Artificial Intelligence?
(A) Uttarakhand
(B) Tamilnadu
(C) Telangana
(D) Maharashtra
(E) Kerala
28. Who has been sworn-in as the new President of Iran?
(A) Mohammad Khatami
(B) Hassan Rouhani
(C) Ayatollah Ali Khamanei
(D) Sadeq Larijani
(E) None of these
29. Which bank has plans to raise Rs 2,000 crore by allotting Basel-III compliant bonds?
(A) PNB
(B) AXIS
(C) ICICI
(D) SBI
(E) IOB
30. Fintech startup InCred has signed up whom as its brand ambassador?
(A) Sachin Tendulkar
(B) Rahul Dravid
(C) Virat Kohli
(D) Shahrukh Khan
(E) Amitabh Bacchhan
31. What is the full Form of USISPF?
(A) US- India Strategic Partnership Forum
(B) US- India Systematic Partnership Forum
(C) UK- India Strategic Partnership Forum
(D) UK- India Systematic Partnership Forum
(E) None of these
32. Recently, which of the following Satellite has been launched by Israel to monitor climate change and vegetation?
(A) Skylab
(B) Mir
(C) Telstar
(D) Molniya
(E) Venus
33. The first meeting of the Japan-India Coordination Forum (JICF) for Development of North-Eastern Region was held in which city?
(A) Mumbai
(B) Tokyo
(C) New Delhi
(D) Nagasaki
(E) Chennai
34. What is the main objective of 2nd AGRI-UDAAN program?
(A) To establish maximum numbers of AGRI Market.
(B) To diagnose soil fertility related constraints with standardized procedures.
(C) To provide modern infrastructure facilities for the food processing.
(D) To promote innovation and entrepreneurship in agriculture.
(E) None of these
35. ETF Bharat- 22 comprises shares of how many companies?
(A) 84
(B) 96
(C) 22
(D) 50
(E) 25
36. India's first private sector missile sub-systems manufacturing facility unveiled in which city?
(A) Mumbai
(B) New Delhi
(C) Chennai
(D) Bengaluru
(E) Hyderabad
37. Which state government launched MahaDBT portal to give direct benefits with 'Aadhaar' authentication?
(A) Maharashtra
(B) Tamil Nadu
(C) Haryana

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- (D) Madhya Pradesh
(E) Karnataka
38. Recently, NCLT Approves Airtel-Telenor Merger. What is the full form of NCLT?
(A) New Company Legal Tender
(B) National Company Legal Tribunal
(C) National Corporation Legal Tribunal
(D) National Company Law Tribunal
(E) National Corporation Legal Tender
39. Hiroshima day is celebrated on which date?
(A) 6-Aug
(B) 7-Aug
(C) 8-Aug
(D) 5-Aug
(E) 9-Aug
40. Venkaiah Naidu became the _____ Vice-President of India by defeating opposition candidate Gopalkrishna Gandhi.
(A) 12th
(B) 14th
(C) 13th
(D) 15th
(E) 11th
41. Which International Airport became the first airport in the world, to be completely powered by solar energy?
(A) Indira Gandhi International Airport
(B) Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel International Airport
(C) Birsa Munda Airport
(D) Mangalore International Airport
(E) Cochin International Airport
42. Who appointed brand ambassador for Swachh Bharat Mission in UP?
(A) Salman Khan
(B) Amitabh Bachchan
(C) Ranbeer Singh
(D) Akshay Kumar
(E) John Abraham
43. Railways Ministry has signed nine EPC (engineering, procurement, construction) contracts for electrification of railway lines with which company?
(A) Tata Consultancy Services
(B) Larsen & Turbo
(C) BHEL
(D) NTPC
(E) PGCIL
44. Who is appointed as new CEO of Payback India?
(A) Ashwani Kumar
(B) Gautam Kaushik
(C) Animesh Chauhan
- (D) Sunil Mehta
(E) Arun Tiwari
45. Who has sealed a landslide victory in presidential elections of Rwanda?
(A) Serzh Sargsyan
(B) Charles Michel
(C) Paul Kagame
(D) Joseph Kabila
(E) Michel Aoun
46. Which of the following players get bronze at World Doubles Squash Championship?
(A) Joshna Chinappa & Dipika
(B) Siddharth Suchde & Janet Vidhi
(C) Joshna Chinappa & Janet Vidhi
(D) Dipika & Janet Vidhi
(E) Siddharth Suchde & Joshna Chinappa
47. Which of the following entities merged with bureau of police research?
(A) NCRB
(B) NSDL
(C) CVC
(D) BPR&D
(E) None of these
48. Which Navy has commissioned an India-built state-of-the-art Advanced Offshore Patrol Vessel (AOPV)?
(A) Vietnam Navy
(B) Royal Navy
(C) Sri Lanka Navy
(D) Bangladesh Navy
(E) None of these
49. Who among the following is Armed Forces commander-in-chief of Sri Lanka?
(A) Mahinda Rajapaksa
(B) Maithripala Sirisena
(C) Chandrika Kumaratunga
(D) D. M. Jayaratne
(E) Ranil Wickremesinghe
50. National Handloom day is celebrated on which date?
(A) 6-Aug
(B) 7-Aug
(C) 8-Aug
(D) 5-Aug
(E) 9-Aug
51. The main event of third National Handloom Day celebrated in which state?
(A) West Bengal
(B) Gujarat
(C) New Delhi
(D) Rajasthan

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- (E) Assam
52. Government has revised the base year of All-India Wholesale Price Index (WPI) from 2004-05 to_____.
- (A) 2010-2011
(B) 2009-2010
(C) 2011-2012
(D) 2014-2015
(E) 2012-2013
53. How many items are considered to decide new series of All-India Wholesale Price Index (WPI)?
- (A) 649
(B) 697
(C) 676
(D) 628
(E) 639
54. Who among the following wins gold in the 100 meters Final of World Athletics Championship at London?
- (A) Christian Coleman
(B) Justin Gatlin
(C) Usain Bolt
(D) Alicia Weber
(E) None of these
55. Who among the following is Director General of BPR&D?
- (A) Manoj Bhatt
(B) Anant Kumar
(C) Meera C Borwankar
(D) Swapnil Singh
(E) Nirmala Dutt
56. Which of the following institution's researchers have developed a highly sensitive nanometer-scale carbon monoxide sensor by employing an innovative fabrication technique?
- (A) IIT Kharagpur
(B) IIT Bombay
(C) IIT Delhi
(D) ISM Dhanbad
(E) IISC Bengaluru
57. Which of the following High Courts gave order to Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) to lift lifetime ban imposed on cricketer S Sreesanth ?
- (A) Madras High Court
(B) Kerala High court
(C) Calcutta High court
(D) Guwahati High Court
(E) Rajasthan High Court
58. India, along with ten other WHO South East Asia Region member countries, have resolved to eliminate measles and control rubella/congenital rubella syndrome (CRS) by_____.
- (A) 2022
(B) 2020
(C) 2030
(D) 2025
(E) 2028
59. Which of the following is not the aim of ratified TFA ,passed by members of the World Trade Organisation (WTO) including India ?
- (A) Easing customs procedures
(B) Expediting movement
(C) Release and clearance of consignments
(D) Agriculture Box Subsidies
(E) None of these
60. Who is appointed as Executive Director of World Bank?
- (A) S. Aparna
(B) Junaid Kamal Ahmad
(C) Arvind Pangariya
(D) Kushal Mathur
(E) Subhash Garg
61. 8th Meeting of Regional Technical Group of the Heart of Asia – Istanbul Process held in which city?
- (A) Ahmedabad
(B) Bhopal
(C) Panaji
(D) New Delhi
(E) Bhubaneswar
62. Under which initiative NITI Aayog announces partnership with 6 states to transform Health & Edu sectors?
- (A) SAMPANN
(B) KHUSHI
(C) SAKSHAM
(D) SAMARPAN
(E) SATH
63. What is the main theme of the 75th anniversary of the Quit India Movement?
- (A) SANKALP SE SAMRIDHI
(B) SAMRIDHI SE SIDDHI
(C) SANKALP SE SIDHI
(D) SIDDHI SE SAMRIDHI
(E) None of these
64. Who among the following is not elected as a member of Rajya Sabha from Gujarat?
- (A) Smriti Irani
(B) Sankar Singh Baghela
(C) Amit Shah
(D) Ahmed Patel

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- (E) None of these
65. Which state Government raise \$270 million from the Green Climate Fund, which will be invested in integrated watershed programmes such as Jalyukt Shivar Yojana?
- (A) Rajasthan
(B) Madhya Pradesh
(C) Maharashtra
(D) Andhra Pradesh
(E) Telangana
66. Who among the following will be the next Chief Justice of India?
- (A) Ranjan Gogoi
(B) Dipak Misra
(C) Kurian Joseph
(D) Jasti Chelameswar
(E) Navin Sinha
67. Who among the following will be honoured with the Asia Society 2017 Asia Game Changers Award?
- (A) Aisholpan Nurgaiv
(B) Leng Ouch
(C) Aga Khan
(D) Sonita Alizadeh
(E) Dev Patel
68. Who among the following cricketers has topped as all-rounder in ICC Test ranking?
- (A) Shakib Al Hasan
(B) Ravindra Jadeja
(C) Hardik Pandya
(D) Andrew Flintoff
(E) R. Ashwin
69. Who among the following wins Gold medal at the 7th Asian Championship Shotgun at Astana, Kazakhstan?
- (A) Talal Al Rashidi
(B) Abdulrahman Al Faihan
(C) Yair Davidovitz
(D) Zhanel Serikbayeva
(E) Kynan Chenai
70. According to a new study from Oxford Economics which of the following non-Indian city is in the Asia's fastest top five growing cities list?
- (A) Lanzhou
(B) Xiamen
(C) Ho Chi Minh
(D) Nha Trang
(E) Laem Chabang
71. Which country has announced scrapping of visa requirements for visitors from 80 countries including India?
- (A) United Arab Emirates
(B) Lebanon
(C) Bahrain
(D) Egypt
(E) Qatar
72. Kyoto Protocol was entered into force in _____.
- (A) 2004
(B) 2005
(C) 2003
(D) 2001
(E) 2007
73. How many countries including India has accepted the amendment relating to the second commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol, the international emissions reduction treaty?
- (A) 85
(B) 80
(C) 88
(D) 92
(E) 94
74. PM discussed the New India initiative with the district magistrates. What was the theme of this Initiative?
- (A) New India – Manthan
(B) Good Governance
(C) New India – Samarpan
(D) New India – Udan
(E) None of these
75. Who is the Minister of State for Human Resource Development?
- (A) Anand Kumar
(B) Upendra Kushwaha
(C) Prakash Javadekar
(D) Manoj Sinha
(E) Radhamohan Singh
76. Which of the following state has topped in Sanitation Survey, released by Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation?
- (A) Kerala
(B) Karnataka
(C) Sikkim
(D) Himachal Pradesh
(E) Assam
77. Which of the following institution launched online registration for custodians of securities?
- (A) RBI
(B) SEBI
(C) NICL
(D) IRDA
(E) Finance Ministry

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78. Which one of the following Banks launches instant credit cards?
- (A) HDFC
 - (B) IBDI
 - (C) ICICI
 - (D) IDFC
 - (E) YES Bank
79. National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) is the implementation wing of National Ganga Council which was set up in_____.
- (A) 2014
 - (B) 2015
 - (C) 2016
 - (D) 2017
 - (E) 2013
80. Consider the following statements:-
1. M Venkaiah Naidu sworn in as the 16th Vice President of India.
 2. The Vice-President of India is also ex officio Chairperson of the Rajya Sabha.
 3. Article 63 of the Indian Constitution states the manner of election of the Vice-President.
- Which of the above statement/statements is/are correct?
- (A) Only 1
 - (B) Only 2
 - (C) Only 3
 - (D) Only 1 & 2
 - (E) Only 1 & 3
81. Consider the following statements:-
1. National Rural Livelihoods Mission was launched by the Ministry of Rural Development in 2011.
 2. In 2016, the program was renamed Deendayal Antayodaya Yojana (DAY-NRLM).
 3. A new sub-scheme named "Aajeevika Grameen Express Yojana" as part of the DAY-NRLM launched by Government of India.
- Which of the above statement/statements is/are correct?
- (A) Only 1
 - (B) Only 2
 - (C) Only 3
 - (D) Only 1 & 2
 - (E) Only 1 & 3
82. Recently, Parliament has passed the Banking Regulation (Amendment) Bill; 2017. Which of the following is not true about it?
- (A) It will replace the Banking Regulation (Amendment) Ordinance, 2017.
 - (B) It authorizes the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to direct banking companies to resolve specific stressed assets.
 - (C) It makes provisions in the Banking Regulation Act, 1949 for authorizing the Reserve Bank of India to issue directions to any banking companies.
 - (D) All of the above
 - (E) None of these
83. E - Shakti is a pilot project of which of the following entities?
- (A) SEBI
 - (B) NHBC
 - (C) NABARD
 - (D) RBI
 - (E) SBI
84. Which of the following bank launched "Bharat QR" and Bharat Bill Payment System (BBPS)?
- (A) PNB
 - (B) SBI
 - (C) ICICI
 - (D) HDFC
 - (E) Canara
85. Consider the following statements:-
1. Hyperspectral Imaging Satellite (HySIS) is a full-fledged earth observation satellite, to be developed by ISRO.
 2. Hypsrex was first tried out in Mangalyan-1 mission who mapped the Mars mineral resources.
 3. ISRO built India's first satellite, Aryabhata in 1975.
- Which of the above statement/statements is/are correct?
- (A) Only 1
 - (B) Only 2
 - (C) Only 3
 - (D) Only 1 & 2
 - (E) Only 1 & 3
86. Who among the following Indian shuttlers jumps to world no 15 in badminton ranking?
- (A) HS Prannoy
 - (B) Kidambi Srikanth
 - (C) PV Sindhu
 - (D) Saina Nehwal
 - (E) Ajay Jayaram
87. Who among the following is author of a book titled Left, Right and Centre: The Idea of India?
- (A) Anita Desai
 - (B) Arundhati roy
 - (C) Sashi Deshpandey
 - (D) Nidhi Razdan
 - (E) Romila Thapar
88. 15th BIMSTEC Ministerial meeting 2017 held in which city?
- (A) Naypyidaw
 - (B) Kathmandu

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- (C) Thimphu
(D) Amritsar
(E) Dhaka
89. Which of the following country is not a founding member of BIMSTEC?
(A) Bangladesh
(B) India
(C) Sri Lanka
(D) Myanmar
(E) Thailand
90. In Kenya, Uhuru Kenyatta has been re-elected as President. Which of the following country not share its border with Kenya?
(A) Tanzania
(B) Uganda
(C) Ethiopia
(D) Somalia
(E) Chad
91. Who among the following is appointed as chairman of CBFC?
(A) Gautami Tadimalla
(B) Prasoon Joshi
(C) Narendra Kohli
(D) Naresh Chandra Lal
(E) Vivek Agnihotri
92. What was the growth percent projected by Economic Survey 2016-2017 volume1?
(A) 6.5%-7.2%
(B) 6.2%-7.0%
(C) 6.75%-7.25%
(D) 6.5%-7.0%
(E) 6.75%-7.5%
93. SEBI entered into a pact with _____ to promotes technical assistance and facilitate cross-border co-operation in the area of securities regulations.
(A) DAB-Afganistan
(B) ASIC-Australia
(C) ISC-Iraq
(D) SEO-Iran
(E) None of these
94. Which of the following entities has launched trading platform for digital currency in India?
(A) Murex
(B) Coinigy
(C) Bitbay
(D) Poloniex
(E) Bitfinex
95. Which of the following city will host 2028 Olympic Games?
(A) Tokyo
(B) Paris
(C) Los Angeles
(D) Glasgow
(E) Sydney
96. Who among the following known as Pakistan's 'Mother Teresa'?
(A) Janet yellen
(B) Meg Whitmen
(C) Sheryl Sandberg
(D) Ruth Pfau
(E) Ginni Rometty
97. For which play script in English ,The Hindu Playwright Award 2017 went to Gerish Khemani and Akshat Nigam?
(A) In Search of Dariya Sagar
(B) The Playwright is Dead
(C) 1947 - The Man from Lahore
(D) Lord of the Flies
(E) None of these
98. Who among the following awarded with The Hugo Award for Best Novel 2017 for her work 'The Obelisk Gate'?
(A) J.K.Rowling
(B) Aghatha Christie
(C) N. K. Jemisin
(D) Angela Carter
(E) Enid Blyton
99. Who among the following appointed as Managing Director of Export-Import Bank of India (Exim Bank)?
(A) Debasish Mallick
(B) Samuel Joseph
(C) David Sinate
(D) Prahalathan Iyer
(E) David Rasquinha
100. Who among the following appointed secretary to Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu.
(A) K. M. Chandrasekhar
(B) I V Subba Rao
(C) Pradeep Kumar Sinha
(D) Vishnu Sahay
(E) T. Swaminathan
101. Union Environment, Forest and Climate Change Minister, Dr. Harsh Vardhan, launched _____ a nationwide campaign to protect elephants on the occasion of World Elephant Day.
(A) Gaj Yatra
(B) Gaju mark
(C) Gaj Bachao
(D) Save White tusks

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- (E) None of these
102. India is deploying fence system at Pak borders which is developed by _____.
(A) Palestine
(B) Israel
(C) Saudi Arabia
(D) Mexico
(E) Germany
103. Government launches national anthem video in sign language which is directed by filmmaker_____.
(A) Anurag Kashyap
(B) Shyam Benegal
(C) Ram Gopal Verma
(D) Mrinal Sen
(E) Govind Nihalani
104. In October, with which country India will hold a mega war game?
(A) USA
(B) South Africa
(C) Japan
(D) Australia
(E) Russia
105. Which of the following country will be chaired Indian Ocean Naval Symposium (IONS), 2017?
(A) Sri Lanka
(B) India
(C) Bangladesh
(D) Vietnam
(E) Singapore
106. Indian Ocean Naval Symposium (IONS) was launched in _____.
(A) 2009
(B) 2011
(C) 2008
(D) 2013
(E) 2015
107. India-ASEAN Youth Summit to be held in which city?
(A) Delhi
(B) Jaipur
(C) Lucknow
(D) Bhopal
(E) Mumbai
108. For which state's students gave consider one year exemption from NEET?
(A) Kerala
(B) Tamil Nadu
(C) Telangana
(D) Gujarat
(E) Andhra Pradesh
109. Which of the following players' pair bags gold at Asian Shotgun Championship ?
(A) Mairaj-Rashmmi
(B) Ankur Mittal- Rashmmi
(C) Kynan Chenai- Rashmmi
(D) Mairaj- Ankur Mittal
(E) None of these
110. World Athletics championship held in which city?
(A) Ufa
(B) Paris
(C) New York
(D) Chicago
(E) London
111. Who among the following has been appointed as the chief of Rajya Sabha TV?
(A) Gurdeep Singh Sappal
(B) Shashi Shekhar Vempati
(C) Aashish Joshi
(D) Mukesh Iyer
(E) None of these
112. Which of the following company will launch a supercomputer into space on the SpaceX Dragon spacecraft?
(A) HP
(B) Samsung
(C) Lenovo
(D) Dell
(E) Sony
113. Recently, Shobha Sen has died. She belonged to which of the following field?
(A) Theatre
(B) Literature
(C) Astronomy
(D) Education
(E) None of these
114. Recently, which of the following country has been declared Polio free by World Health Organisation?
(A) Sudan
(B) Malaysia
(C) Namibia
(D) Somalia
(E) Egypt
115. Quit India Movement was started in which year?
(A) 1942
(B) 1946
(C) 1947
(D) 1945
(E) None of these

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116. Which of the following ministry launches live twitter wall on 'Bharat Ke Veer'?
- (A) Ministry of Finance
 - (B) Ministry of Defence
 - (C) Ministry of Home Affairs
 - (D) Ministry of External Affairs
 - (E) Ministry of Information and Broadcasting
117. Who among the following launched a website to honour all the gallantry award winners since Independence?
- (A) Home Minister
 - (B) Finance Minister
 - (C) Defence Minister
 - (D) Prime Minister
 - (E) None of these
118. Which of the following authority launched India's first online course on Infusion Therapy for nurses?
- (A) The Roxbury Institute
 - (B) Infusion Nurses Society
 - (C) Medstar Infusion Therapy
 - (D) Ranbaxy Infusion Therapy
 - (E) None of these
119. Which of the following government has launched 'Namoi Yuva Rojgar Kendra'?
- (A) Madhya Pradesh
 - (B) Andhra Pradesh
 - (C) Gujarat
 - (D) Rajasthan
 - (E) Maharashtra
120. How many Gallantry Awards had honoured to Armed Forces Personnel and members of Paramilitary Forces on occasion of 71st Independence Day?
- (A) 116
 - (B) 115
 - (C) 98
 - (D) 112
 - (E) 104
121. Which of the following country is not a member of TAPI gas Pipeline?
- (A) Tazakistan
 - (B) Turkmenistan
 - (C) Afghanistan
 - (D) Pakistan
 - (E) India
122. Which of the following country will host the next steering committee meeting of the TAPI gas pipeline?
- (A) Tazakistan
 - (B) Turkmenistan
 - (C) Afghanistan
 - (D) Pakistan
 - (E) India
123. Which of the following session of the India-Turkmenistan Inter-Governmental Commission (IGC) on Trade, Economic, Scientific and Technological Cooperation held on August 14?
- (A) 5 th
 - (B) 7 th
 - (C) 6 th
 - (D) 4 th
 - (E) None of these
124. Recently, Indian Government asks Internet majors to remove Blue Whale challenge links. What is the Blue Whale challenge?
- (A) Anti- Virus
 - (B) Game
 - (C) Spam
 - (D) Technical Software
 - (E) You tube Channel
125. Which of the following government launched 'SheMeans Business' programme of Facebook for women entrepreneurs?
- (A) Maharashtra
 - (B) Madhya Pradesh
 - (C) West Bengal
 - (D) Odisha
 - (E) Andhra Pradesh
126. How many Indian Companies are among a list of the 200 largest publicly traded entities that are making significant revenue from clean energy?
- (A) 6
 - (B) 9
 - (C) 8
 - (D) 7
127. Who among the following appointed MD & CEO of IFCI Ltd?
- (A) Shantanu Narayen
 - (B) E Sankara Rao
 - (C) Tapan Singhel
 - (D) Syed B. Ali
 - (E) Kushal Pal Singh
128. Who among the following appointed CMD of Hindustan Copper Limited?
- (A) Ashok Vemuri
 - (B) Vishal Sikka
 - (C) A M Naik
 - (D) Santosh Sharma
 - (E) None of these

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129. Recently India has signed Memorandum of Understanding in the field of Intellectual Property Rights with which of the following countries?
- (A) New Zealand
(B) England
(C) Switzerland
(D) The USA
(E) None of these
130. How much will be the production of food grains as per the Fourth Advance Estimates for 2016-17 ?
- (A) 257.68 million tones
(B) 275.68 million tones
(C) 269.58 million tones
(D) 264.28 million tones
(E) None of these
131. As per Fourth Advance Estimates for 2016-17, production of which item will be less than the production in the previous year?
- (A) Oilseed
(B) Pulse
(C) Sugarcane
(D) Coarse cereals
(E) None of these
132. How many cities have metro rail projects in operation?
- (A) 5
(B) 13
(C) 8
(D) 11
(E) None of these
133. Dr. Mamta Suri has taken charge of Executive Director of which of the following institution?
- (A) IBBI
(B) ICICI
(C) IFCI
(D) IDBI
(E) None of these
134. The Union Government has imposed \$264 Million penalty on Reliance Industries for not fulfilling the targeted production of natural gas from which of the following oil field?
- (A) KG-D2 fields
(B) KG-D4 fields
(C) KG-D3 fields
(D) KG-D6 fields
(E) None of these
135. Niko Resources, the partner of Reliance Industries belongs to which country?
- (A) UK
(B) Canada
(C) USA
(D) France
(E) None of these
136. Total penalty imposed on Reliance Industries for not fulfilling the targeted production of natural gas since April 1, 2010 is
- (A) \$ 3.02 billion
(B) \$ 2.64 billion
(C) Rs 3.02 billion
(D) Rs 2.64 billion
(E) None of these
137. Which of the following country will host G-7 Interior ministers' summit?
- (A) Italy
(B) Canada
(C) Japan
(D) Germany
(E) France
138. Which of the following two states Signed Global Environment Facility (GEF) Grant Agreement to improve forest quality and sustainable land management with World Bank?
- (A) Odisha & West Bengal
(B) Andhra Pradesh & Odisha
(C) Madhya Pradesh & Chhattisgarh
(D) Maharashtra & Karnataka
(E) Tamil Nadu & Telangana
139. Which of the following two countries have agreed to boost defence cooperation with India, S Korea, and Australia?
- (A) China & Japan
(B) Russia & Japan
(C) France & Russia
(D) U.S. & France
(E) U.S. & Japan
140. Consider the following statements:-
1. Cabinet approved a single corpus fund in which all proceeds of secondary and higher education cess will be credited.
 2. Finance Ministry will be responsible for the administration and maintenance of this fund.
 3. New corpus fund would not be used for funding educational programmes started in the future.
- Which of the above statement/statements is/are not correct?
- (A) Only 1
(B) Only 2
(C) Only 3
(D) Only 2 & 3
(E) Only 1 & 3

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141. What is the contribution of mineral sector in the Country's GDP?
- (A) 2.20%
(B) 2.60%
(C) 3.40%
(D) 4.50%
(E) 3.80%
142. CCEA has approved the proposal of DIPAM for the strategic disinvestment. What is the full form of DIPAM?
- (A) Department of Interest and private Asset Management
(B) Department of Investors and Private Acquired Management
(C) Department of Investment and public Asset Management
(D) Department of Investors and public Acquired Management
(E) None of these
143. Which of the following bank launches its first CSR initiative "Gram Seva"?
- (A) NABARD
(B) State Bank of India
(C) Punjab National Bank
(D) Union Bank of India
(E) Canara Bank
144. Who among the following appointed as MD & CEO of Karur Vysya Bank?
- (A) V.G. Mathew
(B) K Venkataraman
(C) B Swaminathan
(D) P R Seshadri
(E) G. Rajasekaran
145. Who among the following named as 2017's Highest-Paid Female Actor?
- (A) Jennifer Lawrence
(B) Angelina Jolie
(C) Emma Stone
(D) Amy Adams
(E) Deepika Padukone
146. Which of the following authority launched two mobile Apps – MyFASTag and FASTag Partner?
- (A) TRAI
(B) IRDAI
(C) NHAI
(D) SEBI
(E) None of these
147. Swachh Sankalp se Swachh Siddhi Competition is organized by _____.
- (A) Ministry of Urban Development
(B) Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation
(C) Ministry of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation
(D) Ministry of Finance, Corporate Affairs
(E) Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare
148. Consider the following statements:-
1. TRIFED is celebrating World Honey Bee Day (WHBD) on 19.08.2017 in the Country.
2. Main theme of celebrating WHBD is to save Indian honey bee.
3. TRIFED is an apex organisation at National Level and functioning under the administrative control of Ministry of Consumer Affairs.
- Which of the above statement/statements is /are correct
- (A) Only 1& 2
(B) Only 3
(C) Only 2&3
(D) Only 1&3
(E) Only 2
149. Which of the following company has become the first power utility to introduce a QR code based bill payments system in India?
- (A) NTPC Limited
(B) Reliance Power
(C) Essar Energy
(D) TATA Power
(E) CESC Limited
150. Who among the following is appointed as Pakistan's High Commissioner to India?
- (A) Abdul Basit
(B) Sohail Mahmood
(C) Salman Bashir
(D) Aziz Ahmed Khan
(E) Riaz Khokhar
151. Who among the following is appointed as President and Managing Director of GM India?
- (A) Kaher Kazem
(B) Mary Barra
(C) Sanjiv Gupta
(D) Arvind Sexana
(E) Prateek Talesara
152. Navika Sagar Parikrama is a project wherein a team of women officers of the Indian Navy would circumnavigate the globe on an Indian-built sail boat
- (A) INSV Sarayu
(B) INSV Mhadei
(C) INSV Tarini
(D) INSV Nirdeshak
(E) INSV Shakti

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153. Who has been appointed as Russia's new ambassador to India ?
(A) Alexander Kadakin
(B) Albert Chernyshev
(C) Vassily Rykov
(D) Viktor Isakov
(E) Nikolay Kudashev
154. Which new satellite has been launched by Japan to improve country's GPS System?
(A) Hitomi
(B) Hisaki
(C) Osumi
(D) Michibiki
(E) Tenma
155. Who is the chairman of Defence Acquisition Council (DAC) of India ?
(A) Arun Jaitley
(B) Narendra Modi
(C) Manohar Parrikar
(D) Rajnath Singh
(E) Vipin Rawat
156. The Sadbhavana Diwas or Harmony Day is celebrated Anchoron
(A) 18-Jul
(B) 20-Aug
(C) 18-Aug
(D) 20-Jul
(E) 8-Jul
157. Who is the president of Venezuela?
(A) Rafael Caldera
(B) Nicolas Maduro
(C) Hugo Chavez
(D) Jaime Lusinchi
(E) None of these
158. Who has been selected for the prestigious Agriculture Leadership Award-2017 ?
(A) K Chandrashekhara Rao
(B) N. Chandrababu Naidu
(C) Pema Khandu
(D) Sarbananda Sonowal
(E) Nitish Kumar
159. Who among the following won a bronze medal in the double trap event at the ISSF Junior Shotgun World Cup ?
(A) Lakshay Sheoran
(B) Manisha Keer
(C) Bajrang Punia
(D) Shapath Bharadwaj
(E) None of these
160. For which state NABARD has sanctioned a loan assistance of Rs 1,349.55 crore for creation of rural infrastructure in the state under the Rural Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDF)?
(A) Gujarat
(B) Haryana
(C) Maharashtra
(D) Madhya Pradesh
(E) Rajasthan
161. Champions of Change" initiative has been organized by which ministry/institution?
(A) Finance Commission
(B) Election Commission
(C) Home ministry
(D) Finance ministry
(E) NITI Aayog
162. Where the first regional centre of the New Development Bank has been opened?
(A) Johannesburg
(B) New Delhi
(C) Beijing
(D) Shanghai
(E) Cape Town
163. Where the World Badminton Championships has been begun?
(A) Glasgow
(B) Paris
(C) London
(D) Shanghai
(E) Cape Town
164. Who among the following is the author of the book 'Naham Kartha'?
(A) P V R K Prasad
(B) Hussain Sha
(C) C. Narayana Reddy
(D) Muddupalani
(E) None of these
165. Who is the President of South Africa ?
(A) Jacob Zuma
(B) Nelson Mandela
(C) Kgalema Motlanthe
(D) Thabo Mbeki
(E) None of these
166. Who appointed as the Director General of Railway Protection Force, Railway Board ?
(A) Pradeep Kumar Sinha
(B) K. K. Venugopal
(C) Anoop Mishra
(D) Dharmendra Kumar

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- (E) Rajiv Kumar
167. Jerry Lewis was recently died, with which field he was related?
- (A) Literature
(B) Science
(C) Education
(D) Sports
(E) Comedy
168. Which company's board has given 'in-principle' approval to acquire government's 51.11 percent stake in Hindustan Petroleum Corp Ltd?
- (A) SAIL
(B) BHEL
(C) GAIL
(D) ONGC
(E) NTPC
169. Where has been the National Workshop on Enforcement of Intellectual Property Rights organized?
- (A) New Delhi
(B) Mumbai
(C) Chennai
(D) Bangalore
(E) Pune
170. Where was the Swasth Bachche, Swasth Bharat' Programme, an initiative of Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan launched?
- (A) Kochi
(B) Chennai
(C) Bangalore
(D) Mumbai
(E) Pune
171. Which of the following Landing Craft Utility (LCU) Mk-IV class has been inducted into the Indian Navy?
- (A) IN LCU L25
(B) IN LCU L36
(C) IN LCU L52
(D) IN LCU L63
(E) IN LCU L47
172. Dr Pinaki Panigrahi, a US-based doctor has discovered an inexpensive prevention technique against.....
- (A) Sepsis
(B) Rickets
(C) Roseola
(D) Rubella
(E) Tetanus
173. Recently in which of the following city Festival of India is being organized?
- (A) Baidoa
(B) Balikesir
(C) Cote d'Ivoire
(D) Baoji
(E) Bandung
174. Consider the following statement:-
1. Ministry of Home Affairs launched digital police portal .
 2. Digital police portal integrate the various organs of the Criminal Justice System with the CCTNS database.
 3. Digital Police Portal will enable citizens to register FIRs online.
- Which of the above statement/statements is /are correct?
- (A) Only 1
(B) Only 3
(C) Only 1 & 2
(D) Only 2 & 3
(E) All of the above
175. Which of the following is the name of Cloud seeding project of the Karnataka?
- (A) Hoysala
(B) Varshadhare
(C) Sky Water
(D) Vasundhara
176. Which of the following governmental institution launched the Mentor India Campaign?
- (A) Election Commission
(B) Ministry of Finance
(C) PMO
(D) NITI Aayog
(E) Ministry of Home Affairs
177. Who among the following Judges has not given his verdict that Triple Talaq is Unconstitutional?
- (A) Kurian Joseph
(B) RF Nariman
(C) U U Lalit
(D) J.S Khehar
(E) None of these
178. Who among the following is convener of a 40-member preview committee, which is constituted by Information and Broadcasting Ministry to select movies for IFFI?
- (A) Aarti Bajaj
(B) Khalid Mohamed
(C) Vivek Agnihotri
(D) Jahnu Barua
(E) Nagesh Kukunoor
179. Who among the following players has been selected for this year's Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna Award?
- (A) Harmanpreet Kaur
(B) Devendra Jhajharia
(C) Cheteshwar Pujara
(D) Saketh Myneni

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- (E) P.A. Raphel
180. Who among the following has not been selected for this year's Dhyan Chand Award?
- (A) Bhupender Singh
(B) Syed Shahid Hakim
(C) Sumarai Tete
(D) Heera Nand Kataria
(E) None of these
181. In which country meeting of Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) organized?
- (A) China
(B) Kyrgyz Republic
(C) Kazakhstan
(D) Pakistan
(E) Tajikistan
182. Consider the following statements:-
1. Seventeenth Meeting of the Financial Stability and Development Council (FSDC) was held in New Delhi.
 2. Meeting is chaired by Prime Minister.
 3. Council deliberated on strengthening the regulation of the Credit Rating Agencies (CRAs).
- Which of the above statement/statements is/are not correct?
- (A) Only 1
(B) Only 1 & 2
(C) Only 2 & 3
(D) Only 2
(E) Only 3
183. Consider the following statements:-
1. CCEA, chaired by the Prime Minister has approved the renaming of the new Central Sector Scheme - SAMPADA as "PMKSY".
 2. Objective of PMKSY is to supplement agriculture, modernize processing and decrease Agri-Waste.
 3. Implementation of PMKSY will provide a big boost to the growth of food processing sector in the country.
- Which of the above statement/statements is/are correct?
- (A) Only 1&2
(B) Only 2&3
(C) Only 1&3
(D) None of these
(E) All of the above
184. How many Public Sector Banks other than SBI in India?
- (A) 27
(B) 19
(C) 20
(D) 21
(E) 25
185. Which of the following Indian Coast Guard ships decommissioned?
- (A) Virat
(B) Vishwast
(C) Samartha
(D) Varun
(E) Samrat
186. Who among the following is not a deputy governor of Reserve Bank of India?
- (A) BP Kanungo
(B) S S Mundra
(C) Mukesh Patil
(D) N S Vishwanathan
(E) Viral Acharya
187. Which of the following International Airways entered into a new interline partnership with full-service domestic airline Vistara?
- (A) Virgin Atlantic Airways
(B) Cathay Pacific Airways
(C) Thai Airways
(D) Qatar Airways
(E) Qantas Airways
188. Who among the following has been appointed as the Chairman of Railway Board?
- (A) Rajiv Bansal
(B) Ashwani Lohani
(C) A K Mittal
(D) P J Kurean
(E) Umesh Sinha
189. Biju Patnaiak Award is given to Odia person for his/her lifetime contributions in _____.
- (A) Journalism
(B) Literature
(C) Science
(D) Economics
(E) Social Services
190. Which of the following country has signed 8 MoUs with India to get aid for the recovery from its disastrous earthquakes?
- (A) Bhutan
(B) Bangladesh
(C) Sri Lanka
(D) Nepal
(E) Afghanistan
191. According to Forbes, who among the following is Asia's Richest Man?
- (A) Jack Ma
(B) Ma Huateng
(C) Lee Shau Kee
(D) Li Ka-shing
(E) Wang Jianlin

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192. Which of the following bridge is constructed at India – Nepal border to improve regional connectivity and cross border trade between both the countries?
- (A) Bhupen Hazarika Bridge
(B) Mechi Bridge
(C) Bogibeel Bridge
(D) Sharavathi Bridge
(E) None of these
193. In which country, Festival of India is being organized from 31 August-9 September 2017?
- (A) South Africa
(B) Sri Lanka
(C) Brazil
(D) Australia
(E) Afghanistan
194. In which city International Military Music Festival "Spasskaya Tower" takes place every year?
- (A) Vienna
(B) Paris
(C) Moscow
(D) Beijing
(E) Jerusalem
195. Which of the following state has become first state to Implement Bharat QR Digital Payments?
- (A) Gujarat
(B) Karnataka
(C) Andhra Pradesh
(D) Telangana
(E) Tamil Nadu
196. Which of the following state government has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Microsoft India to develop an unique 'farm price forecasting model'?
- (A) Gujarat
(B) Karnataka
(C) Andhra Pradesh
(D) Telangana
(E) Uttar Pradesh
197. In which country Google has brought its public Wi-Fi programme 'Google Station'?
- (A) Australia
(B) Japan
(C) Malaysia
(D) Indonesia
(E) Myanmar
198. Government has constituted a task force on Artificial Intelligence for the country's Economic Transformation. It is headed by _____.
- (A) Vivek Agnihotri
(B) V.K. Santhanam
(C) V. Kamakoti
(D) K.Nanawati
(E) None of these
199. 23rd edition of Annual Delhi Book Fair begins at Pragati Maidan in the national capital. What is the theme of this fair?
- (A) Sampurna Saksharta
(B) Padhe Bharat, Badhe Bharat
(C) Sab Padhe, Sab Badhe
(D) Beti Bachao, Beti padhao
(E) Sarva Siksha, Sarv Unnati
200. _____ has signed with DHFL Pramerica for bancassurance.
- (A) Axis Bank
(B) Muthoot Finance
(C) Dhanlakshmi Bank
(D) Diwan Finance Limited
(E) Yes Bank
201. Which of the following country has launched Formosat-5, the first homegrown observation satellite?
- (A) Taiwan
(B) Philippines
(C) Indonesia
(D) Sri Lanka
(E) Vietnam
202. Who among the following players awarded with UEFA Player of the Year for third time?
- (A) Lionel Messi
(B) Gianligi Buffon
(C) Javier Zanetti
(D) Roberto Carlos
(E) Cristiano Ronaldo
203. Which of the following country will host 2018 Table Tennis Team World Cup?
- (A) England
(B) France
(C) United state of America
(D) Brazil
(E) Austria
204. Book 'I Do What I Do' is written by _____.
- (A) Luigi Zingales
(B) Chetan Bhagat
(C) Raghuram Rajan
(D) Sachin Tendulkar
(E) P. Chidambaram
205. Which of the following village is the country's first 100 percent computer literate village?
- (A) Kasaragod
(B) Chamravattom

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- (C) Eranakulam
(D) Pathanamthitta
(E) Kozhikode
206. Recently, in which state e –Waste disposal from school started?
(A) Karnataka
(B) Andhra Pradesh
(C) Maharashtra
(D) Tamil Nadu
(E) Kerala
207. Namaskar Africa is a regional flagship programme where _____ in partnership with the ministry of commerce and industry will create awareness in Africans about the best Indian technologies in Africa.
(A) Asian Development Bank
(B) African Development Bank
(C) United Nations
(D) World Trade Organization
(E) FICCI
208. Who among the following Indian women shuttlers won a bronze medal at the World badminton Championship 2017?
(A) P.V.Sindhu
(B) Saina Nehwal
(C) Ruthvika Shivani Gadde
(D) Jwala Gutta
(E) Rituparna Das
209. India wins U-15 SAFF football Championship. In which country U-15 SAFF football Championship organized?
(A) Nepal
(B) Myanmar
(C) Bangladesh
(D) Sri Lanka
(E) Singapore
210. In which city first edition of Rural Games or Grameen Khel Mahotsav has been organised?
(A) Delhi
(B) Mumbai
(C) Bhubaneswar
(D) Chennai
(E) Hyderabad
211. Recently, US impose financial sanctions on Venezuela. Who is the president of Venezuela?
(A) Nicolás Maduro
(B) Mauricio Macri
(C) Evo Morales
(D) Michel Temer
(E) Juan Manuel Santos
212. In which city proposed residential project ‘Sports Village’ will be launched?
(A) Delhi
(B) Guru gram
(C) Greater Noida
(D) Ghaziabad
(E) Kanpur
213. Which of the following entities has given a nod to Spice Digital Ltd. for processing bill payments under the Bharat Bill Payment System (BBPS)?
(A) NPCL
(B) Ministry of Finance
(C) NPCI
(D) NBFC
(E) None of these
214. Who among the following has taken oath as 45th Chief Justice of India?
(A) Dipak Misra
(B) Arjan Kumar Sikri
(C) Madan Lokur
(D) Uday U. Lalit
(E) Ashok Bhushan
215. Who among the following won first Miss Transqueen India 2017?
(A) Nitasha Biswas
(B) Loiloi
(C) Ragasya
(D) Dimpal Singh
(E) None of these
216. Who among the following won silver medal in world badminton championship 2017?
(A) P.V.Sindhu
(B) Saina Nehwal
(C) Jwala Gutta
(D) Ruthvika Shivani
(E) Rituparna Das
217. Who among the following won Gold medal in world badminton championship 2017?
(A) Carolina Marin
(B) Nozomi Okuhara
(C) Cheung Ngan Yi
(D) TAI Tzu Ying
(E) Akane Yamaguchi
218. In which city two-day Indian Ocean Conference (IOC) scheduled to be held?
(A) Dhaka
(B) Mumbai
(C) Kuala Lumpur
(D) Colombo

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- (E) Sumatra
219. International Atomic Energy Agency's Low Enriched Uranium Bank opens in _____.
- (A) Uzbekistan
(B) Turkmenistan
(C) Kazakhstan
(D) Tajikistan
(E) Iran
220. With the help of which country India developed Long-Range Surface-to-Air Missile (LRSAM) for Indian Navy?
- (A) Russia
(B) France
(C) Japan
(D) Israel
(E) United state of America
221. Which of the following telecom company has entered into a partnership with Symantec Corporation to protect businesses in India from online threats?
- (A) Idea Cellular
(B) BSNL
(C) Vodafone India
(D) Aircel
(E) Bharti Airtel
222. Who among the following is appointed as UBER'CEO?
- (A) Pierre Nanterme
(B) Evan G. Greenberg
(C) Garo H. Armen
(D) Dara Khosrowshahi
(E) Jeff Bezos
223. Who among the following players won Belgian Grand Prix Formula One race?
- (A) Sebastien Vettel
(B) Daniel Ricardo
(C) Louise Hamilton
(D) Velteri Botas
(E) None of these
224. Which of the following government has declared the referendum on independence of the semi-autonomous region of Kurdistan unconstitutional?
- (A) Iraq
(B) Iran
(C) Afghanistan
(D) Syria
(E) Turkey
225. Which state has got the geographical indication (GI) status for Gobindobhog rice?
- (A) Tamil Nadu
(B) Bihar
(C) Orissa
(D) West Bengal
(E) Punjab
226. Which of the following was the first product to accord with GI tag in India?
- (A) Ambala Wheat
(B) Surat Diamond
(C) Kanchipuram Silk
(D) Darjeeling Tea
(E) None of these
227. YUVA – a skill development programme under Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana , an initiative of _____.
- (A) Central Industrial Security Forces
(B) Central Reserve Police Force
(C) Delhi Police
(D) Border Security Force
(E) Maharashtra Police
228. Which of the following Institution releases the survey, titled "Ease of Doing Business: An Enterprise Survey of Indian States"?
- (A) Ministry of Consumer Affairs
(B) Ministry of Corporate Affairs
(C) Assocham
(D) NITI Aayog
(E) FICCI
229. For which exceptional work Arunima Sinha awarded with Women Transforming India Awards, 2017?
- (A) To prevent violence against women
(B) Bridging the gender gap in education
(C) To providing healthcare services
(D) To build livelihoods and enterprises for women
(E) For being India's first amputee to climb Mount Everest
230. Who among the following is Chairman and Managing Director of National Research Development Corporation?
- (A) H Purushotham

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- (B) Nand Kumar Sai
(C) V. S. Chauhan
(D) Yaduvendra Mathur
(E) Ganesh Mali
231. Olympian Ahmed Khan passed away. He belonged to which of the following sports?
- (A) Boxing
(B) Football
(C) Wrestling
(D) Swimming
(E) Javelin Throw
232. Prime Minister launched a 6-lane cable stayed bridge project in Rajasthan. This project is built on which river?
- (A) Luni
(B) Mahi
(C) Chambal
(D) Kali Sindh
(E) Parvati
233. Freyr Energy has tied up with which bank to offer term loans ranging from Rs.5 lakh to Rs.50 lakh, for solar rooftop installations?
- (A) Canara Bank
(B) HDFC Bank
(C) Yes Bank
(D) Axis Bank
(E) Allahabad Bank
234. Which of the following company has launched world's first ever Genomeceutical (gene controlling) range of products to India?
- (A) Unicity
(B) Novartis
(C) Astra Zeneca
(D) Actavis
(E) None of these
235. With which of the following authority, National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority joined hands to help athletes understand medicines through its app 'Pharma Jan Samadhan'?
- (A) International Cricket Council
(B) National Anti Doping Agency
(C) International Olympic Association
(D) World Anti Doping Agency
(E) Board of cricket for control in India
236. Who among the following took charge as the Union Home Secretary?
- (A) Vishnu Sahay
(B) Pradeep Rai
(C) Rajiv Gauba
(D) Dinesh Saini
(E) Mukesh Sharma
237. Who has been appointed as BSE's CEO for next five year?
- (A) Ashish Chauhan
(B) U.K. Sinha
(C) J. Ravichandran
(D) Ajay Tyagi
(E) B P Kanungo
238. Who among the following player has been appointed as the first brand ambassador of tyre maker Bridgestone India?
- (A) Saina Nehwal
(B) Sakshi Malik
(C) P.V.Sindhu
(D) Devendra Jhajharia
(E) Virat Kohli
239. Which of the following international institution announced the winners of the 2017 International Literacy Prizes?
- (A) World Bank
(B) International Monetary Fund
(C) United Nations World Tourism Organization
(D) United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
(E) United Nations Institute for Training and Research
240. Who among the following wrote a book "Immortal India"?
- (A) Chetan Bhagat
(B) Amish Tripathi
(C) Arundhati Roy
(D) Salman Rushdie
(E) Amitav Ghosh

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Answer Key

1.	D	2.	A	3.	B	4.	D	5.	B	6.	E	7.	D	8.	B	9.	A	10.	D
11.	B	12.	D	13.	C	14.	E	15.	A	16.	B	17.	C	18.	A	19.	A	20.	C
21.	B	22.	E	23.	C	24.	A	25.	A	26.	C	27.	C	28.	B	29.	D	30.	B
31.	A	32.	E	33.	C	34.	D	35.	C	36.	E	37.	A	38.	D	39.	A	40.	C
41.	E	42.	D	43.	B	44.	B	45.	C	46.	A	47.	A	48.	C	49.	B	50.	B
51.	E	52.	C	53.	B	54.	B	55.	C	56.	E	57.	B	58.	B	59.	D	60.	A
61.	D	62.	E	63.	C	64.	B	65.	C	66.	B	67.	E	68.	B	69.	B	70.	C
71.	E	72.	B	73.	B	74.	A	75.	B	76.	A	77.	B	78.	C	79.	C	80.	B
81.	B	82.	E	83.	C	84.	E	85.	E	86.	A	87.	D	88.	B	89.	D	90.	E
91.	B	92.	E	93.	D	94.	C	95.	C	96.	D	97.	A	98.	C	99.	E	100.	B
101.	A	102.	B	103.	E	104.	E	105.	C	106.	C	107.	D	108.	B	109.	A	110.	E
111.	B	112.	A	113.	A	114.	D	115.	A	116.	C	117.	D	118.	B	119.	E	120.	D
121.	A	122.	E	123.	C	124.	B	125.	D	126.	D	127.	B	128.	D	129.	E	130.	B
131.	C	132.	C	133.	A	134.	D	135.	B	136.	A	137.	A	138.	C	139.	E	140.	D
141.	B	142.	C	143.	B	144.	D	145.	C	146.	C	147.	B	148.	A	149.	D	150.	B
151.	C	152.	C	153.	E	154.	D	155.	A	156.	B	157.	B	158.	A	159.	D	160.	E
161.	E	162.	A	163.	A	164.	A	165.	A	166.	D	167.	E	168.	D	169.	A	170.	A
171.	C	172.	A	173.	C	174.	E	175.	B	176.	D	177.	D	178.	C	179.	B	180.	D
181.	B	182.	D	183.	E	184.	C	185.	D	186.	C	187.	D	188.	B	189.	C	190.	D
191.	A	192.	B	193.	C	194.	C	195.	C	196.	B	197.	D	198.	C	199.	B	200.	C
201.	A	202.	E	203.	A	204.	C	205.	B	206.	E	207.	E	208.	B	209.	A	210.	A
211.	A	212.	C	213.	C	214.	A	215.	A	216.	A	217.	B	218.	D	219.	C	220.	D
221.	E	222.	D	223.	C	224.	A	225.	D	226.	D	227.	C	228.	D	229.	E	230.	A
231.	B	232.	C	233.	D	234.	A	235.	B	236.	C	237.	A	238.	C	239.	D	240.	B