

## **GENERAL AWARENESS-CURRENT AFFAIRS**

### **MONTH OF SEPTEMBER-2017**

#### **List of Important Days**

- September 1-7** - National Nutrition Week  
(Theme - "Optimal Infant & Young Child Feeding Practices: Better Child Health")
- September 2** - World Coconut Day (Theme - "Coconut, the tree of life Sustains family well being")
- September 5** - Teachers Day
- September 8** - International Literacy Day. (Theme - "Literacy in a Digital World")
- September 9** - (2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of September) World First Aid Day. (Theme-"First aid and road safety")
- September 9** - Foundation Day of the Republic of North Korea
- September 9** - Independence Day of Tajikistan
- September 10** - World Suicide Prevention Day (Theme - "Take a Minute, Change a Life")
- September 12** - International Day for South-South Cooperation
- September 14** - National Hindi Day (Hindi Diwas)
- September 15** - International Day of Democracy (Theme - "Democracy and Conflict prevention")
- September 15** - 50<sup>th</sup> Engineer's Day (Theme - "Role of Engineers in a Developing India")
- September 16** - International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer  
(International Ozone Day) (Theme - "Caring for all life under the sun")
- September 16** - International Red Panda Day (IRPD)
- September 21** - International Day of Peace/World Peace Day  
(Themes - "Together for Peace: Respect, Safety and Dignity for All.")
- September 21** - World Alzheimer's Day. (Theme - "Remember Me")
- September 24** - (Last Sunday of September) World Rivers Day
- September 27** - World Tourism Day (Theme - "Sustainable Tourism - a Tool for Development")
- September 28** - World Rabies day (Theme - "Rabies: Zero by 30")
- September 28** - (last Thursday of September) World Maritime Day  
(Theme - "Connecting Ships, Ports and People")
- September 29** - World Heart Day (Theme - "share the power")
- September 30** - International Translation Day  
(Theme - "Let's tell the world about what we do")

#### **Reserve Bank of India**

- The RBI has announced that it is using sophisticated **Currency Verification and Processing Systems** (CVPS) for checking numerical accuracy and genuineness of the currency notes, including the demonetized notes.
- The Union Government has issued **gazette notification**, notifying that **Peer-to-peer** lending (P2P) platforms will be treated as **Non-banking financial companies** (NBFCs) and thus regulated by Reserve Bank of India (RBI).
- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has **increased corporate bond investment limit** for foreign investors by taking out **Masala bonds** (rupee-denominated bonds) from ambit of total debt investment limit.

- They will be considered as part of **External Commercial Borrowings (ECBs)** and will be monitored accordingly.
- The State Bank of India (SBI) has **reduced** the **minimum Monthly Average Balance (MAB)** on savings accounts for metros from **5,000 to 3,000**, effective from October 1.
  - Minimum balance requirement for urban, semi-urban, and rural centres stands unchanged at **3,000, 2,000 and 1,000**, respectively.
  - The bank also reduced **charges** for non-maintenance of MAB by **20-50%** and removed charges for pensioners and minors' accounts.

### State Bank of India

- The State Bank of India (SBI) announced that **cheque books** of **six banks** that merged with it in April this year would become invalid from **September 30**.
  - **IFSC codes** of these banks will also become invalid from September 30.
- State Bank of India (SBI) along with **FTSE Russell**, global index and data provider launched **FTSE SBI Bond Index series** at **London Stock Exchange (LSE)**.
  - It is India's first bond index series for overseas investors.
- In a research report, the State Bank of India (SBI) has announced that banks may lose **3,800 crore annually due to investment in card-swipe machines**, as costs outstrip revenues.

### Other Banks

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has listed **HDFC Bank** as a **Domestic Systemically Important Bank (DSIB)** under the bucketing structure identified last year.
  - **State Bank of India** and **ICICI Bank** were already identified as DSIBs under the RBI rules in 2015.
- The CEO of **Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI)**, **Ajay Bhushan Pandey** has announced that the banks that fail to open **Aadhaar enrolment centres** in a stipulated 10% of branches till September 30 will be fined **Rs. 20,000 per uncovered branch** every month.
- **Paytm Payments Bank** has raised \$9.3 million from founder **Vijay Shekhar Sharma** and investors including the parent company **One97 Communications**.
- **Bharat Financial Inclusion (BFIL)** has entered into an exclusivity agreement with private lender **IndusInd Bank** to evaluate a **merger** between the two companies.
- Starting **October 1**, the customers of **Punjab National Bank (PNB)** will be charged **10 per transaction** beyond a limit of **five times a month**, even if a PNB cardholder makes the transaction from PNB ATM.
- **Indian banks** will need additional capital of **\$65 billion** to meet **Basel III capital standards** by **March 2019**, with state-run lenders accounting for 95% of the requirements, Fitch Ratings announced.
- **India Post Payments Bank (IPPB)** will provide its **financial services** through all of the 1.55 lakh **post offices** and 3 lakh employees by the end of 2018, CEO **AP Singh** announced.
  - This will create India's second-largest payments bank in terms of reach.
- India's first payments Bank, **Airtel Payments Bank** launched **Unified Payments Interface (UPI)** on its digital platform, enabling customers to instantly transfer money to and from any bank a/c without paying any transaction fee.

### Election Commission

- The Union Government has appointed former Information and Broadcasting secretary **Sunil Arora** as **Election Commissioner** for tenure of 4 years.
  - He is going to replace Nasim Zaidi who was retired in July 2017

- **Gujarat** will become first big state to use **Electronic Voting Machine (EVMs) equipped with Voter Verifiable Paper Audit Trail (VVPAT)** in coming Assembly elections to make election process more transparent.
  - Gujarat will be second state after **Goa** to use VVPAT system for the Assembly elections in entire state.

### Central Government

- The central government extended the deadline for linking **Aadhaar** with **PAN** by four months to **December 31** this year.
- The government issued an alert for '**Locky**' ransom ware that locks all files on a computer and demands 0.5 Bitcoins (around 1.5 lakh) to unlock them.
- The government has issued India's first '**No-Fly List**' rules with three levels of '**unruly**' behaviour.
  - Level 1 includes **unruly verbal behavior**, for which passengers can be banned for up to **3 months**.
  - Level 2 includes **physically abusive behavior**, inviting a ban of up to **6 months**.
  - Level 3 includes **life-threatening behavior**, inviting a minimum ban of 2 years.
- The government is going to deactivate **SIM cards not linked to Aadhaar** number by **February 2018**.
- The Union Cabinet approved a **1% hike** in **Dearness Allowance (DA)** to **central government employees** and **pensioners**, with effect from **July 1, 2017**.
  - The hike in DA from **4% to 5%** is based on the recommendations of the 7<sup>th</sup> Central Pay Commission.
- The central government has decided to grant citizenship to nearly **one lakh Chakma** and **Hajong refugees** who have been settled in **Arunachal Pradesh** since the 1960s.
- The **Indian** government is considering a proposal to introduce its **own crypto currency 'Lakshmi'** similar to **Bitcoin**.
- The central government has exempted **import duty** on **sports items** and a wide range of goods for the upcoming **Under-17 football World Cup India**, which will run from October 6 to 28.
- The Union Cabinet has given its approval for the Merger and Modernization plan of **17 Government of India Presses (GIPs)** into **5 GIPs**.
  - The five GIPs are located at Rashtrapati Bhavan, Minto Road and Mayapuri in New Delhi; Nashik (Maharashtra) and Temple Street (Kolkata, West Bengal).
- The government launched a mobile **application** for **central government employees** who are about to retire to help them monitor the progress of their **pension settlement cases**.
- The government has decided to **increase the retirement age** of central government doctors to **65 years** from the current 60 years.
- Government has extended the deadline for sale of **pre-GST goods** with stickers of revised rates by three months to **December 31**.

### States

- The **Uttar Pradesh** Cabinet approved a proposal to **end interviews** for recruitment of **class II** (non-gazetted), **III and IV** state government employees.
- The **Gujarat** government banned the **Blue Whale Challenge** in the state, citing increased incidents of suicide because of the game.
- **Manipur's Nungthang Tampak village** has become the 1<sup>st</sup> in the **northeast region** to achieve **100% computer literacy**.
- To patrol **Noida** and **Greater Noida**, the **Police** launched **two bike squads**.

- They are: **Shakti** - The **female squad**. This squad would be responsible for ensuring women's safety.
- **Garuda** - The **male squad**. This squad would monitor traffic.
- **Maharashtra** government has announced plans to launch **112** as a **single integrated helpline number** for **police, fire brigade, and ambulance services**.
- The **Maharashtra** government is going to completely ban **plastic bags** from **Gudi Padwa** (festival falling in March-April period) next year.
- **Kerala** will soon open **India's first transgender-exclusive clinics** at government **medical colleges** across the state.
- **Karnataka** has become the first Indian state to have an **electric vehicle policy** after the state Cabinet approved the **Karnataka Electric Vehicle and Energy Storage Policy**.
  - The policy aims to encourage production of electric vehicles to reduce pollution and promote research and development of electric mobility.
- The **Haryana** council of ministers decided to create one **Wi-Fi zone** in all **6,078 Gram Panchayats** within two years and provide **4G services** in **every village** in the next three years.
- The **Karnataka government** has **banned** the **possession and acquisition** of arms, including swords, machetes, kirpans, and batons, without a license in **Bangalore**.
- The Centre has approved a **300-crore** plan for improving **solid waste** management in **Delhi**, Housing and Urban Affairs Minister **Hardeep Singh Puri** announced.
- Aiming at developing villages of freedom fighters in the state, the **Jharkhand** Government has launched **Shaheed Gram Vikas Yojana**.
  - It was launched from **Ulihatu Village**, birth place of freedom fighter **Birsa Munda**.
- India's first **electric bus service** was launched at **Rohtang Pass** area in **Himachal Pradesh**.
  - It is first of its kind electric bus service for tourist spot in India and first in world at an altitude of 13,000 feet.
- The 6<sup>th</sup> edition of **VASTRA 2017** (an International Textile and Apparel Fair) was held at **Jaipur, Rajasthan**.
  - More than 50 countries and 13 Indian States participated in VASTRA 2017.
- To meet the nutritional needs of pregnant and lactating women in rural areas, the **Karnataka** government is going to launch a scheme titled '**Mathru Purna**' on October 2.
- In order to restrict smoking in public spaces, the **Karnataka** government has **banned the sale of loose cigarettes, beedis and chewing tobacco** products.
- The **Haryana** government has decided to use drones to **monitor illegal construction** in **urban areas** and their **peripheries**.
- The **Maharashtra** government is going to acquire the decommissioned aircraft carrier **INS Viraat** and convert it into a Naval Museum.

#### **Place in the News**

- The **Louvre Abu Dhabi museum** is opening on **Saadiyat Island** in November, 10 years after the project was announced.
  - This museum was designed by: **Jean Nouvel** (French architect)
- The 2<sup>nd</sup> edition of **India-Afghanistan Strategic Partnership Council** was held at **New Delhi**.
- The **International Olympic Committee (IOC)** officially awarded the **2024 Summer Olympic Games to Paris** and the **2028 edition to Los Angeles** following a vote in Peru's capital **Lima**.

## Personalities

- The **Vatican** declared **Mother Teresa** a **Patron saint** of the **Archdiocese of Calcutta**, 16 months after Pope Francis declared her a saint.
- **Prince Charles** became the **Longest-serving Prince of Wales**, breaking the record of Queen Victoria's eldest son **Albert** who held the title for more than 59 years before becoming king.
- **Pakistan PM Shahid Abbasi** became the country's first premier to fly in a US-made **F-16 fighter aircraft**.
- Nation paid homage to great freedom fighter **Shaheed Bhagat Singh** on his 110<sup>th</sup> Birth Anniversary.
- A stadium in **Kentucky, USA**, is set to be named after former Indian captain **Sunil Gavaskar**, who will head to Louisville to inaugurate the '**Sunil Gavaskar Field**'.
- **John Davison Rockefeller**, industrialist, philanthropist, and founder of **Standard Oil Company**, became the world's first billionaire on 29<sup>th</sup> September in the year 1916.

## Defence and National Security

- The **Royal Air Force (RAF)** has become the first branch of **Britain's military** to open every role to **female personnel**.
  - The decision comes after Britain lifted the ban on women serving in combat roles last year.
- **Swedish** defence giant **SAAB** and Indian conglomerate **Adani** group have announced collaboration in defence manufacturing entailing billions of dollars of investment, mainly eyeing a contract for Single-engine **fighter jets** for the **Indian Air Force**.
- **Iran** has tested the **Bavar 373 missile** which is a part of its homegrown air defence system.
- The 12<sup>th</sup> edition of **India-Nepal** joint military exercise - **Surya Kiran XII** was started at **Nepal Army Battle School (NABS)** in **Saljhandi, Nepal**.
  - The 14 day exercise was held from 3<sup>rd</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> September 2017.
- **French** Defence Minister **Florence Parly** has announced that the country is going to begin arming its **surveillance and intelligence drones**, saying the move will help France's military become "more effective".
- **India** handed over an offshore patrol vessel, **Varuna**, to **Sri Lanka**.
  - This handover is a part of India's efforts towards strengthening ties between the two countries.
- The 7<sup>th</sup> edition of **India-Sri Lanka** joint maritime naval exercise **SLINEX 2017** was started at near **Vishakhapatnam** (Andhra Pradesh) in Bay of Bengal.
  - Aim: To reinforce strong neighborly ties between India and Sri Lanka by extensive maritime interaction and improved understanding.
- **India** and **Japan** have agreed to collaborate closely in defence production, including on dual-use technologies.
  - Decision in this regard was taken at the **India-Japan annual defence ministerial dialogue** held in **Tokyo**.
  - Aim: To further strengthen defence and security cooperation under the framework of the 'Japan-India Special Strategic and Global Partnership'.
- The **Indian Army** has finalized plan to induct **women in military police**. The plan is seen as major step towards breaking gender barriers in force.
  - Under this plan 800 women will be inducted initially with yearly intake of 52.
- **South Korea** deployed four **Terminal High Altitude Area Defence (THAAD)** rocket launchers amid rising tensions on the Korean Peninsula.

- Defence minister **Nirmala Sitharaman** flagged off **Navika Sagar Parikrama** in Goa, a circumnavigation programme by **women naval officers**.
- Indigenously developed third-generation **Anti Tank Guided Missile (ATGM) Nag** was successfully flight tested by the **Defence Research and Development Organization**.
- **India** and **Russia** have begun discussions to work out modalities for conducting their first tri-service military exercise **INDRA 2017** in October 2017 in **Russia**.
  - It will be India's first bilateral military exercise with any country involving all three services.
- The **External Affairs Ministry** has launched **Operation Insaniyat** to provide **humanitarian assistance** to **Bangladesh** on account of the large influx of Rohingya Muslims in the country.
- The **Indian Air Force (IAF)** successfully conducted developmental trials of indigenously developed **Astra Beyond Visual Range Air-to-Air Missile (BVRAAM)** over the Bay of Bengal, off the coast of **Chandipur** in **Odisha**.
- The 13<sup>th</sup> edition of **Yudh Abhyas 2017**, an annual bilateral military exercise between **India** and **United States** was took place at Joint Base Lewis McChord, **Washington, US**.
- The **United States** opened its 1<sup>st</sup> **permanent military base** in the middle of the **Negev desert, Israel**.
  - The base will host the US troops and systems to identify and intercept various aerial threats.
- **Russia** and **China** began the 2<sup>nd</sup> stage of the **Joint Sea-2017 naval drills** in waters near the Korean Peninsula.
- The first of the six Scorpene-class submarines, **INS Kalvari**, was delivered to the **Indian Navy** by the ship manufacturers **Mazagon Dock Limited** headquartered in **Mumbai**.
  - The submarine, designed by **French naval defence and Energy Company DCNS**, has superior stealth features and can attack the enemy using precision-guided weapons.
- **Pakistan** announced that it has successfully test fired an air-to-sea anti-ship missile in the **North Arabian Sea**.
- **Russia** and **Pakistan** began the two-week long joint military exercise titled **DRUZBA**, in the Russian town of **Mineralnye Vody**.
  - Aim: To enhance military ties between the two countries and to focus on counterterrorism, hostage and rescue, cordon and search operations.
- **INS Tarasa**, a Water Jet Fast Attack Craft intended for extended coastal and offshore surveillance and patrolling, was commissioned into the Indian Navy at **Mumbai**.
- **Indian Army** is planning to develop the **Pinaka guided rockets** to counter **Pakistan's threat of using tactical nuclear weapons**.

### **Committees/Commissions**

- The **Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports** has approved constitution of 13-member **Empowered Steering Committee (ESC)** to shape and influence India's preparation for multi-disciplinary events, including **2020 Tokyo Olympic Games**.
  - The decision to form ESC was taken on basis of recommendations made by **Olympic Task Force** headed by **Abinav Bindra** in its interim report.
- The **Union Ministry of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation** has constituted **task force** for speedy implementation of various ongoing Namami Gange programme.
- The **NITI Aayog** has constituted **Expert Task Force** to provide major thrust to job creation by enhancing **India's exports**.
  - Head of this Taskforce: **Dr Rajiv Kumar** (NITI Aayog Vice Chairma)

- The **Union Finance Ministry** has constituted **Group of Ministers (GoM)** to **monitor and resolve IT challenges faced in implementation of Goods and Services Tax (GST)**.
  - It was formed after states had raised issue of glitches being faced by taxpayers in filing their GST returns on GSTN.
  - Head of this GoM: **Sushil Kumar Modi** (Bihar Deputy Chief Minister)
- **Non-resident Indians (NRIs)** who harass their wives or desert them could face impoundment or cancellation of their passport, according to the recommendations of a high-level panel.
  - Headed of this committee: **Arvind Kumar Goel** (Retired Judge and Former chairman of Punjab's state commission for NRIs)
- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** has constituted an **Economic Advisory Council** to analyze and advise on policy matters referred by PM Modi.
  - The 5-member body will comprise **Surjit Bhalla, Rathin Roy, and Ashima Goyal** as part-time members, and includes **Ratan Watal**, the Principal Advisor of NITI Aayog as Member-Secretary of the panel.
  - Head of the Council: **Bibek Debroy** (NITI Aayog member)
- An expert committee, set up by the **Union Home Ministry** to suggest ways to tackle **online hate speech**, has recommended appointing **cybercrime coordinators in all states** and establishing cybercrime cells in each district.
  - The committee was headed by: **TK Viswanathan** (ex-Lok Sabha secretary general)

### Schemes/Initiatives

- Minister for Women and Child Development **Maneka Gandhi** launched **Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana (PMMVY)**, a maternity benefit program run by the government of India, at a function in **New Delhi**.
- Home Minister **Rajnath Singh** and Uttar Pradesh CM **Yogi Adityanath** inaugurated the first phase of **Lucknow Metro**.
- The official song of the **FIFA Under-17 World Cup**, **Kar Ke Dikhla De Goal**, has been formally launched.
- To provide digital platform to teacher and make their lifestyle more digital, the **Union Ministry of Human Resource and Development (HRD)** launched **Diksha Portal** ([diksha.gov.in](http://diksha.gov.in)).
  - This portal will serve as **National Digital Infrastructure for Teachers**.
- India's zero-subsidy **UJALA Scheme** was launched in **Melaka State of Malaysia** by **Efficiency Services Limited (EESL)**, under Union Ministry of Power.
  - UJALA - Unnat Jyoti by Affordable Lighting for All
- The CEO of Food regulator **FSSAI** (Food Safety and Standards Authority of India), **Pawan Kumar Agarwal** inaugurated **Nestle's first food safety institute** in India at **Manesar, Haryana**.
- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** and Japanese PM **Shinzo Abe** laid the foundation stone of the proposed **High Speed Rail Network**, or Bullet Train, between **Mumbai and Ahmedabad** on September 14.
  - The project, partially funded by Japan, will cost over 1 lakh crore.
- To bring in transparency in food safety inspection and sampling, food regulator **Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI)** launched a nationwide online platform '**FoSCoRIS**'.
- A **Karnataka-Finland Innovation Corridor** was launched in **Bangalore** by the state's IT and Biotechnology Department and the Embassy of Finland.
- The **Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA)** approved **Dairy Processing & Infrastructure Development Fund (DIDF) Scheme** with an outlay of Rs. 10,881 crore to boost dairy sector.

- It will be managed by **National Dairy Development Board (NDDB)** and shall be implemented from 2017-18 to 2028-29.
- India's first state of art **virology laboratory** was inaugurated at **Dr. Anjali Chatterjee Regional Research Institute for Homoeopathy in Kolkata, West Bengal**.
  - The lab will play important role in developing new drugs and technologies in Homoeopathy to combat emerging challenges of viral diseases.
- The **Union Ministry of Environment and Forests and Climate Change (MoEFCC)** has launched "**Wood is Good Campaign**" under Partnership for **Land Use Science (Forest-Plus)**.
  - Aim of this campaign: To promote wood as climate friendly resource and substitute to materials like steel and plastic as it is carbon neutral unlike others materials which leave carbon footprint in their production.
- President **Ram Nath Kovind** launched a fortnight-long '**Swachhta Hi Seva**' (Cleanliness is Service) sanitation campaign at **Kanpur, Uttar Pradesh**.
  - Objective of the campaign: To mobilize people and reinforce the Jan Aandolan for sanitation to contribute to **Mahatma Gandhi's dream of a Clean India**.
- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** inaugurated **Sardar Sarovar Dam** at **Gujarat's Kevadia**.
  - This is India's biggest and the world's **second-biggest dam**.
- Vice President **M. Venkaiah Naidu** released commemorative coins of **Rs. 100** and **Rs. 10** denomination on the occasion of **101<sup>st</sup> Birth Centenary** of noted Carnatic musician **Dr. MS Subbulakshmi**.
- **NITI Aayog's SATH** (Sustainable Action for Transforming Human capital) **Program** was launched at **Guwahati, Assam**.
  - This program aims to provide structured support to Assam in identifying key health priorities and implement the solutions towards transforming the health and improving the well-being of people of state.
  - NITI - National Institution for Transforming India
- With the support of at least 40,000 drivers, the former **Karnataka Chief Minister HD Kumaraswamy** launched an app-based cab-hailing service called **Namma TYGR** in **Bangalore**.
- To distribute LPG connections among rural areas where conventional fuel is used for domestic purposes, the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas launched a country-wide scheme titled **Pradhan Mantri LPG Panchayat scheme**.
  - The scheme was launched by Union Petroleum and Natural Gas Minister Dharmendra Pradhan at **Mota Ishanpur village** in **Gandhinagar** district in **Gujarat**.
  - Pradhan Mantri LPG Panchayat Scheme is a backup scheme to existing Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana.
- **Pralay Sahayam**, a 2 day multi-Agency humanitarian assistance and disaster relief exercise, was held in **Hyderabad**.
  - Aim: To create public awareness about man-made and natural climate change and urban disasters including flooding.
  - This exercise was jointly organized by **Telangana** state government in association with all central and state agencies **National Disaster Relief Force (NDRF)** and **Armed Forces**.
- The Minister of Science & Technology, Earth Sciences and Environment, Forest & Climate Change, **Dr. Harshvardhan** launched "**Pt Deen Dayal Upadhyay Vigyan Gram Sankul Pariyojana**" which will experiment and endeavour to formulate and implement appropriate S&T Interventions for Sustainable Development through cluster approach in **Uttarakhand**.
- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** launched the **Saubhagya - Pradhan Mantri Sahaj Bijli Har Ghar Yojana**.
  - Aim: To Provide **electricity to all rural and urban households**.

- Union Home Minister **Rajnath Singh** launched a web portal called '**PENCIL**' for effective implementation of the **National Child Labor Project** (NCLP).
  - PENCIL is an **electronic platform for no child labor** in the country is being developed by the Labour Ministry.
  - PENCIL - Platform for Effective Enforcement for No Child Labor
- Karnataka CM **Siddaramaiah** launched a **Vision- 2025 project** to provide a governance strategy for state's development over the next seven years.
- The **Ministry for Social Justice and Empowerment** has launched **Divyang Sarathi** – The accessible and comprehensive mobile application for easy dissemination of information to 'Divyangjans'.
- The **Karnataka** government launched '**Puneeta Yatre**', to provide subsidized tour packages for promoting religious tourism in the state.

### Summit/Conference

- 9<sup>th</sup> **BRICS Summit** was started at **Xiamen, China**. Chinese President, **Xi Jinping** called on BRICS countries to adopt a holistic approach to fight terrorism in all its forms and ensure that terrorists have no place to hide.
  - Motto: BRICS: Stronger Partnership for a Brighter Future.
- The **Rajaswa Gyan Sangam 2017**, a two-day annual conference of **senior tax administrators** was held at **Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi**.
  - Objective: To enable two-way communication between policymakers and senior officers in field offices with view to increase revenue collection and facilitate effective implementation of law and policies in key result areas.
  - The conference was jointly organized by **Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT)** and **Central Board of Excise & Customs (CBEC)**.
- **India - Japan Annual Summit** began at **Mahatma Mandir, Gandhinagar**.
  - PM Narendra Modi and his Japanese counterpart Shinzo Abe are sharing dais of the Summit.
  - During this summit, both PMs will review the progress in the multifaceted co-operation between India and Japan under the framework of their '**Special Strategic and Global Partnership**'.
- **India** is going to conduct 1<sup>st</sup> **BIMSTEC Disaster Management Exercise 2017** (BIMSTEC DMEx-2017) at **New Delhi** from **10<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup> October 2017**.
  - BIMSTEC - Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation.
- **India** is going to host **International Solar Alliance summit** in **December 2017**.

### Agreement/Deal/Signed

- **India** and **Switzerland** have signed 2 MoUs for exchanging technical cooperation in the field of **Railways**.
- **Five banks** of the **BRICS Interbank Cooperation Mechanism (ICM)** have signed an agreement to establish **local currency credit lines** and **develop cooperation on credit ratings** in the run-up to the **BRICS summit in China**.
  - The five banks are: Brazilian Development Bank, Vnesheconom bank (Russia), Export-Import Bank of India (EXIM), China Development Bank, Development Bank of South Africa.
- The **leaders of BRICS Countries** have signed **4 MOUs** during the 9<sup>th</sup> **BRICS Summit**, which was recently held at **Xiamen, China**.
  - The Signed MOUs are: BRICS Action Agenda on Economic and Trade Cooperation BRICS Action Plan for Innovation Co-operation (2017-2020) MoU between BRICS Business Council and New Development Bank on Strategic Cooperation Strategic Framework of BRICS Customs Cooperation.

- The **Andhra Pradesh** government signed a MoU with the US-based **Hyperloop Transportation Technologies** to build India's first **Hyperloop system**.
  - The planned project is aimed at connecting cities **Amaravati** and **Vijayawada** in Andhra Pradesh, supposedly covering the distance of over 35 km in just five minutes.
- **India** and **Myanmar** have signed **11 MOUs** in range of sectors, including one on **maritime security cooperation**.
- The **Central Ground Water Board (CGWB)** has inked a MoU with **Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bangalore** for Development of ground water flow models and preparation of aquifer management plans for parts of Karnataka.
- **India** and **Belarus** signed 10 MoUs in various sectors.
- The **Union Cabinet** has approved MoU between **India** and **Japan** for collaborative research in the field of **silkworm** and **silk industries**.
- Indian PM **Narendra Modi** and his Japanese counterpart **Shinzo Abe** signed **15 agreements** on strategic, financial, and development cooperation between the two nations during the 12<sup>th</sup> annual bilateral summit.
- The **Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA)** and **Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT)** have signed a MOU for automatic and regular exchange of **tax information**.
- **India** and **Japan** have agreed to ink open **sky arrangement** to allow **airlines** from both countries to operate unlimited number of flights.
- The **Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India Limited (TRIFED)** has inked MoU with ecommerce giant **Amazon** for selling **tribal products**.
  - The aim of initiative is to promote tribal handicrafts like handloom products, cane and bamboo products, tribal jewellery, Dhokra craft, tribal weaves and embroidery, tribal paintings etc.
  - **TRIFED** already has tied-up with **Snapdeal**.
- **India** has signed **Letter of Intent (LoI)** with **Norway** to extend cooperation within **health sector** through Norway India Partnership Initiative (NIPI) for period of three years starting from 2018.
  - Letter of Intent - A document containing a declaration of the intentions of the writer
- Domestic telecom equipment provider **Vihaan Networks Limited (VNL)** signed MoU with Indian state-owned telecommunications company **Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL)** to launch an integrated disaster response solution Relief 123 service to provide disaster management in India.

### **Meet/Visit**

- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** takes a 2 Nation tour to **China** and **Myanmar**.
  - In the first leg of his three day tour to **China**, he visited coastal and commercial town of Xiamen to attend the 9<sup>th</sup> **BRICS Summit**.
  - During his first bilateral visit to **Myanmar**, PM **Narendra Modi** has announced that '**Gratis visas**' will be issued to all **Myanmar citizens**.
  - Gratis visas are currently issued free of charge to diplomats and people of 12 nationalities including **Bangladesh, Afghanistan, and South Africa** among others.
- External Affairs Minister **Sushma Swaraj** was visited to **Russia** for a 3-day tour.
  - During this visit, she was attended the 3<sup>rd</sup> **Eastern Economic Forum** which will deliberate on pressing issues relating to global trade.
- **Afghanistan** Foreign Minister **Salahuddin Rabbani** was visited to **India**.
  - The visit comes weeks after US President Donald Trump announced a new policy on Afghanistan and sought more help from India in Afghanistan.
- The **President of Belarus, Alexander Lukashenko**, was visited to **India**.

- Along with PM Modi, Lukashenko has released a commemorative stamp to mark **25 year** of **India-Belarus** relations.
- **Japanese** Prime Minister **Shinzo Abe** was visited to **India**. During this visit he held talks with Prime Minister Narendra Modi and both laid the **foundation stone** of the ambitious Rs 1.08 lakh crore (\$17 billion) **Ahmedabad-Mumbai bullet train project**.
- External Affairs Minister **Sushma Swaraj** was visited to **New York (US)**.
  - During this visit, she was attending the **UN General Assembly** that was begun on 19<sup>th</sup> September 2017.
- During a trilateral meeting with **US** and **Japan**, **India** sought probe into **North Korea's** nuclear proliferation linkages to countries like **Pakistan**, asserting that those who are involved must be held accountable.
- President **Ram Nath Kovind** will visit **Africa** in the first week of **October**.
- During a high-level meeting at the **UN** on '**Preventing Terrorist Use of Internet**' hosted by the **UK** and **Italy**, **India** called for a global action to counter the use of Internet for radicalization and terror financing.
- US Defence Secretary **Jim Mattis** was visited to **India**.

### **Bills**

- For the first time in 27 years, the **Assam** government has extended the **Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act** for six months, declaring the state a "disturbed area".
- The **Maharashtra** government has drafted a bill to make it **illegal for doctors to refer patients to healthcare centres**, including hospitals and laboratories, in exchange for 'cuts' or commissions.
- **Jharkhand** Governor **Draupadi Murmu** gave her assent to the **Jharkhand Religious Freedom Bill, 2017**.
  - With this bill, Jharkhand becomes 7<sup>th</sup> state in the country to have anti-conversion law. Other six states are: Maharashtra, Chhattisgarh, Odisha, Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat and Himachal Pradesh.
- The Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** has given its approval for introduction of the **Payment of Gratuity (Amendment) Bill, 2017** in the Parliament.
  - The Bill seeks to amend **Payment of Gratuity Act, 1972**.
- Prime Minister **Theresa May**-led UK government passed a motion to grant itself the **power** to pursue its **Brexit agenda** without **parliamentary input**.
  - The motion, which was passed by 320 votes to 301, gives the government the power to hold a decisive majority on committees which scrutinize draft Brexit laws.
- **Iraq's Parliament** voted against the **Kurdish independence referendum** to be held later this month, claiming it will affect the war against ISIS and cause instability in the country.
- Aiming to provide social security to people after **retirement**, the Centre has approved an **amendment bill** that seeks to double **tax-free gratuity ceiling** for **private and public sector employees to 20 lakh**.
- To empower government to confiscate property of economic offenders and defaulters who flee India, the **Union Law ministry** has approved **Fugitive Economic Offenders Bill, 2017**.
  - The Bill seeks to deter economic offenders from evading the process of Indian law by fleeing the country.
- **Saudi Arabia's King Salman** issued a royal decree **allowing women to drive**, ending its status as the only country in the world to impose such a ban.

- **Ukraine's President Petro Poroshenko** has signed a law that makes the **Ukrainian language** the **main medium** of instruction in **state schools**.

### Fund

- **World Bank** provides **1100 crore rupees** to **Indian Council for Agricultural Research (ICAR)** to undertake research work on agriculture this year.
- **World Bank** President **Jim Yong Kim** has announced that **\$8 billion** has been allocated for infrastructure projects under **China's Silk Road initiative**.
- **India** announced an emergency aid of over **1.2 crore** (\$200,000) for the **Caribbean countries** worst affected by recent hurricanes.
- **Norway's sovereign wealth fund**, the largest in the world, has hit **\$1 trillion** for the first time.
- **South Korea** has approved **\$8-million aid package** for **North Korea** amid increased tensions over the reclusive nation's nuclear programme.
- To boost dairy sector, the govt sets up **Dairy Processing and Infrastructure Development Fund** worth Rs 10,881 cr.
- **Uttar Pradesh CM Yogi Adityanath** has set up a **\$156.2 million** (about 1000 crore) startup fund to encourage startup schemes in the state.
  - A MoU will be signed with the **Small Industries Development Bank of India** for the same purpose.

### Economy

- **India's foreign exchange reserves crossed \$400 billion mark** for the first time.
  - As on September 8, the foreign exchange reserves with RBI were at \$400.73 billion, up by \$2.6 billion from a week ago.
- The **US Federal Reserve** kept its key interest rates unchanged at up to **1.25%** but signaled it still expects one more increase by the end of the year.
- **Hong Kong-based AIA Group** has agreed to buy the **life insurance unit** of **Commonwealth Bank of Australia** (Australia's largest bank), for \$3 billion. The deal would make AIA the biggest life insurer in Australia and New Zealand, with 13 million customers.
- **India's fiscal deficit** for April-August reached 96.1% of the budgeted target for the current fiscal year that ends in March 2018.
  - The fiscal deficit stood at **5.25 trillion** (\$80.42 billion) and net tax receipts in the first five months were 3.4 trillion, government data showed.
  - The deficit was 76.4% of full-year target during the same period a year ago.
- According to a report by global brokerage Morgan Stanley, **India** would grow to be a **\$6 trillion economy**, the third largest in the world, and achieve upper-middle income status in the next 10 years.

### Companies/Industry

- Social media giant **Facebook** officially launched its video platform titled "**Watch**" for users in the **US**.
- **Reliance Infrastructure** controlled **Reliance Defence and Engineering Ltd (RDEL)** has changed its name to **Reliance Naval and Engineering Ltd (RNEL)**.
- Ride-hailing startup **Uber** announced it has launched its biggest '**Greenlight Centre**' in **India**, located in **Bangalore**.
- **Apple** launched two new phones '**iPhone 8**' and '**iPhone 8 Plus**' with wireless charging technology with prices starting from \$699 and \$799 respectively.

- Technology giant **Google** launched a **Mobile Payment Service** in **India**.
  - The service called Google '**Tez**' will offer more payment options than **Google Wallet** or **Android Pay**.
- **Tata Group** is going to venture into online grocery business under the **Starquik brand**.
- **Tata Sons**, the holding company of Tata group firms, received shareholders' approval to become a **private limited company**.
- The world's largest aircraft '**Stratolaunch**' built by Microsoft Co-founder **Paul Allen** has completed its first engine test.
  - The company said "each of the six engines operated as expected" during the three-phase test.
- **Microsoft** and **Facebook** have announced the completion of their **6,600 km-undersea internet cable 'Marea'** across the **Atlantic Ocean**.
  - This internet cable runs from the **US state of Virginia** to **Spain's Bilbao**, and can transmit up to 160 terabits of data per second.
  - The cable system will be managed and operated by telecommunications infrastructure company **Telxius**.
- Microblogging website **Twitter** announced that it has started testing a bigger **280-character** limit for tweets for some of its users, instead of 140.
- Search Engine giant **Google** launched a mobile wallet and payments app titled '**Tez**' in **India**.
  - Tez will let users link their phones to their bank accounts to pay for goods in physical stores and online.

### Stock Market

- The **Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)**'s mutual fund advisory panel has recommended **strict definitions for mutual fund schemes**, that might halve the number of schemes offered currently.
  - SEBI aims to ensure that an asset management company has only one product offering in each category.

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### Exports/Imports

- **India** has begun **exporting** its 1<sup>st</sup> consignment of 30 tonnes of **high-speed diesel** to **Myanmar** via land route.
- **India** has imposed an additional **18.95% import tax on** certain **stainless steel products** from **China** for five years in order to curb influx of cheaper foreign imports.
- The **Union Ministry of Commerce and Industries** has set up an online service facility titled **Contact@DGFT**, for effective resolution of foreign trade-related **issues of importers and exporters**.
- The government announced that it has **lifted** a 10 year old **ban** on export of **tur, urad and moong dal** to help farmers get "**remunerative prices**".

### Taxation/Trade

- **India** and **China** jointly submitted a proposal to the **World Trade Organisation (WTO)** calling for the elimination - by developed countries - of the most trade-distorting form of farm subsidies, known in WTO parlance as **Aggregate Measurement of Support (AMS)** or '**Amber Box**' support as a prerequisite for consideration of other reforms in **domestic support negotiations**.
  - This is an important proposal by India and China in view of the ongoing negotiations for the upcoming 11<sup>th</sup> Ministerial Conference of the WTO to be held in **Buenos Aires** in December 2017.
- The government waived off late filing fee for all **registered taxpayers** who failed to file their first **GST returns** within the deadline.

- The **GST Council** announced that GST rates on as many as **30 items** have been **reduced**.
  - These include goods such as custard powder, idli/dosa batter, dried tamarind, raincoats, and rubber bands, among others.
  - Further, khadi products sold through Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) stores have been exempted from GST.
- To monitor high value transactions and detect tax evaders using technology with a view to curbing circulation of black money, the **Union Finance Ministry** is going to launch '**Project Insight**' from **October 2017**.
  - To implement the project, the Indian government has signed contract with Information Technology major **L & T Infotect Ltd**.

## Space

- The **Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO)** failed to successfully place **IRNSS-1H**, India's first satellite built in collaboration with the private sector, in orbit.
- 57 year old NASA astronaut **Peggy Whitson**, the world's most **experienced spacewoman**, has returned to Earth after clocking cumulative **665 days in space**.
- Elon Musk-led space exploration startup **SpaceX** successfully launched its **Falcon 9** rocket carrying US Air Force's secret **X-37B orbital test vehicle**.
- The **International Astronomical Union (IAU)** has named **two mountain ranges** on **icy dwarf planet Pluto** as **Tenzing Montes** and **Hillary Montes** after **Tenzing Norgay** and **Edmund Hillary**.
  - They were the first mountaineer to reach the summit of Mount Everest and return safely in 1953.
- **NASA's Spacecraft Cassini** on mission to explore giant ring-world of **Saturn** and its menagerie of moons will end its 20 year voyage.
  - NASA - National Aeronautics and Space Administration
- Billionaire **Elon Musk** announced he will be unveiling the new version of **SpaceX's Interplanetary Spaceship**, which aims to take **humans to Mars**.
- **Australia** is going to establish a **National Space Agency** to increase engagement with the global space industry and create jobs.
- **ISRO's** globally acclaimed **Mars Orbiter Mission (MOM)** also known as **Mangalyaan** completed three years in Martian orbit.
- **ASTROSAT**, India's first multi-wavelength space-based observatory has completed two years in **Earth's orbit**.
- **Russian** and **US** space agencies, **Roscosmos** and **NASA**, have agreed to jointly build a "deep space gateway", the first-ever astronaut-tended **space station around the Moon**.

## Science and Technology

- Germany-based European **XFEL (X-ray Free Electron Laser)**, the largest and **most powerful X-ray laser** in the world, has officially begun research operations.
- Scientists associated with the **European Council for Nuclear Research (CERN)**, which houses the **Large Hadron Collider (LHC)**, the world's largest particle accelerator, are building a new detector, a scintillating fibre tracker dubbed '**SciFi**'.
- In a new 5-tier classification of worlds, US-based scientists have categorized **Earth** as a **hybrid** between **Class IV**, where life-forms have started affecting planetary-scale changes, and **Class V**, where it would be affected by advanced life-forms.
  - They denoted Class I as atmosphere-less worlds, Class II as lifeless planets with atmospheres, and Class III, where life-forms haven't altered the planet.

- **Canada's CHIME radio telescope**, which aims to survey the largest volume of the observable universe, has started operations.
- The 12<sup>th</sup> **ASEAN Computer Emergency Response Team Incident Drill (ACID)** was held in **Hanoi, Danang**, and Ho Chi Minh City in **Vietnam**.
  - Objective of ACID: To test and enhance incident response as well as broader cooperation and coordination among ASEAN CERTS as well as some of their key dialogue partners.
  - ACID involves ten members of ASEAN as well as five dialogue partners – Australia, China, India, Japan, and South Korea.
- The **Department of Science and Technology (DST), India** is planning to fund project to develop **quantum computers** in order to tap into the next big advance in computing technology.
- **Rajasthan's Central Electronic Engineering Research Institute (CEERI)** has developed a handheld meter which will detect adulterants such as urea, detergents, boric acid and caustic soda present in **milk in 60 seconds**.

### Health/Diseases/Drugs

- The **Ministry of Health and Family Welfare** launched two new contraceptives **Antara** and **Chayya**, an injectable drug and a pill, in 10 states.
  - The 10 states are: Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Karnataka, Haryana, West Bengal, Odisha, Delhi and Goa.
- In an attempt to reduce tobacco abuse, the **Health Ministry** has proposed to ban the sale of non-tobacco products such as candies and colas at retail shops selling tobacco products such as **cigarettes** and **gutka**.

### Energy/Gas/Oil

- State-run oil marketing company **Bharat Petroleum Corporation (BPCL)** is all set to become a **Maharatna company**. Presently BPCL having **Navratna status**.
- **India** is collaborating with **Russia** to build **Rooppur nuclear power plant** in **Bangladesh**.
  - This is Bangladesh's first atomic energy project. This is also India's first atomic energy venture abroad.

### Environment

- The **International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)**, has taken **Snow Leopard** off the "endangered" list, where it was included in 1972.

### Education

- The **Karnataka** government has decided to provide **free education to girls** in the state up to **post-graduation level**, including private educational institutes.
- Union Human Resource Development Minister **Prakash Javadekar** announced that the government will undertake a '**School Chalo Abhiyan**' from next year to enrol 70-80 lakh students in the country who are out of schools.
- The **Odisha** government has passed a bill to launch the first-ever **Odia language university** at **Bhubaneswar**, for post-graduation in literature and linguistics among other subjects.
- India's first **Centre for Animal Law** was inaugurated at the **NALSAR University of Law** in **Hyderabad**.
  - This was inaugurated by Union Minister for Women and Child Development **Maneka Gandhi**.

### Transport/Cars/Scooters

- According to a recently released circular by **Indian Railways**, passengers in **reserved coaches** of trains will now only be allowed to sleep between **10 pm and 6 am**.

- The **Multi Purpose Stall Policy** issued by the **Railway Board** has made it mandatory for kiosks on all zonal railway platforms to display and **sell books on Indian culture, values, morals, and history**.
- **First Helicopter service** was started from **Srinagar** to world's second coldest inhabited place **Drass** under **Udan Scheme**.
- **Dubai** has started testing world's first two-seater **self flying taxi** called **Autonomous Air Taxi (AAT)** for transportation.
- **Hyderabad's Rajiv Gandhi International Airport** became the first airport in India to offer a **wheelchair lift (vertilift)**.

### Films and Film Festival

- An **Anti-child abuse documentary** will be played before the movies in theatres **across India** and will **initially be screened** in 11 cinemas of **Delhi**.
  - As per National Crime Records Bureau, India reported 94,172 child-abuse cases last year.
- The **Rajkumar Rao** starrer black comedy film '**Newton**' has been selected as **India's official entry** in the **Best Foreign Language Film category** at **Oscars 2018**.
- The **United Kingdom** has selected '**My Pure Land**', directed by British-Pakistani **filmmaker Sarmad Masud**, as its official entry to **Oscars 2018**.
  - With this, "My Pure Land" will be Britain's first Urdu language film to contend for the Oscars.

### Festival

- Festival of sacrifice, **Eid Al Adha** was celebrated with religious fervor & gaiety in various parts of country.
- The **Shri Dharmic Leela** Committee, which was established in 1924 and is the oldest Ramlila celebration in Delhi, has turned 94.
- The 3<sup>rd</sup> **India International Science Festival (IISF- 2017)** will be held in **Chennai, Tamil Nadu** from 13<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> October 2017.
  - Aim of IISF 2017: To build strategy for rural India through advancement of Science & Technology.
  - The festival will have a thematic session on '**Deep Ocean Research**', a science teachers workshop focusing on the Northeast, a science film festival, industry academia interactions and summits on grass root innovators and start-ups.
- Festival of **Vijayadashmi or Dussehra** was celebrated throughout the country on September 30.

### Media /I.T / Telecommunication

- State-owned telecom operator **Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL)** is going to launch a co-branded feature phone at a price of about 2,000 in October.
  - CMD of BSNL: **Anupam Shrivastava**.

### Appointments/Election (or) Latest who is who?

- Economist **Rajiv Kumar** took over as the **Vice Chairman** of policy think tank **NITI Aayog**.
- Retired Union Home Secretary **Rajiv Mehrishi** was appointed as the **Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) of India**. He will replace Shashi Kant Sharma.
- **Gopal Singh**, CMD, Central Coalfields Ltd, has been given additional charge as the CMD of **Coal India Ltd (CIL)** till the time a regular appointment is made for the post.
- Cab-hailing startup **Uber** has hired Firefox Co-founder **Blake Ross** to help develop product strategy at the startup.

- **Karnataka CM Siddaramaiah** inducted **three Congress legislators** to fill vacant ministerial berths in the Cabinet.
  - They are **H M Revanna, R B Thimmapur** and **Dr M C Mohan Kumari** (Geetha Mahadeva Prasad).
- **US President Donald Trump** names former navy pilot and Republican Congressman **James Bridenstine** to head NASA.
- **Sanjaya Baru** took over as the **Secretary General** of industry body, **Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI)**.
- **Santosh Sharma** was appointed as **Chairman and Managing Director** of **Hindustan Coper Limited (HCL)**.
- **PM Narendra Modi** expanded his Cabinet, inducting **9 new ministers** and **promoting four**.
  - Former MoS **Nirmala Sitharaman** became the **Defence Minister**, only the second woman after **Indira Gandhi**.
  - **Piyush Goyal** has been appointed as the **Union Railway Minister**.
  - Olympic silver medal-winning shooter **Rajyavardhan Singh Rathore** was named the **Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports**.
  - With this, he became the first sports person to hold the position.
- **P R Seshadri** has assumed charge as the **Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer** of **Karur Vysya Bank**.
- Drugmaker **Novartis** has named Indian-origin **Vasant Narasimhan** as CEO effective February 1, 2018.
- **K. Rama Chandra Murthy** took over as the regional executive director (south) of **National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC)** in **Secunderabad**.
- The CMD of Express Group **Viveck Goenka** was elected as **Chairman** of **Press Trust of India (PTI)**.
  - **N Ravi**, former editor-in-chief of The Hindu was elected vice-chairman.
- **Indian women's hockey team** chief coach **Sjoerd Marijne** has been appointed **Coach of the Men's National Team**.
  - He replaces **Roelant Oltmans**, who was sacked.
  - Dronacharya Awardee **Harendra Singh** appointed as High Performance Specialist **Coach for Indian Senior Women Hockey Team**.
- **Force Motors** Chairman **Abhay Firodia** has been elected as the new **President** of the automobile industry body **Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers (SIAM)**.
  - Mahindra & Mahindra's President - Automotive Sector **Rajan Wadhwa** has been elected as the new **Vice-President** of SIAM.
- The **Unique Identification Authority of India's (UIDAI)** CEO **Ajay Bhushan Pandey** was given additional charge of interim **Chairman** of the **Goods and Services Tax Network (GSTN)**.
- **US President Donald Trump** has nominated Indian-American **Manisha Singh** as **Assistant Secretary of State for Economic and Business Affairs**.
- **Swati Mahadik**, wife of **Colonel Santosh Yashwant Mahadik**, who lost his life fighting terrorists in **Jammu and Kashmir** in 2015, has been commissioned as **Army Officer**.
- **Singapore** formally elected **Halimah Yacob** as the country's first **woman President** in 47 years.
- **American food major Kraft Heinz** has appointed its youngest ever **CFO**, 29-year-old **David Knopf**.
  - Knopf, who will also serve as the Executive Vice President, will replace Paulo Basilio as the CFO, effective October 1.

- Senior IPS officer **YC Modi**, a 1984 batch IPS officer, has been appointed as the new **Director General** of the **National Investigation Agency (NIA)**.
- Bollywood actor **Akshay Kumar** has been appointed as **Brand Ambassador** of the **Swachh Bharat Mission**.
- Former **Facebook** employee **Sriram Krishnan** has joined **Twitter** as the **senior director** of product.
- **6 new additional judges** took oath at the **Calcutta High Court**, while one judge retired.
  - The appointments and retirement brings the total strength of judges at the High Court to **35**, against a sanctioned strength of 72 judges.
- **Vanlalawmpuii Chawngthu** became the 1<sup>st</sup> woman minister in **Mizoram** in 30 years, after she was inducted in Chief Minister Lal Thanhawala's Cabinet.
  - The 38-year-old is currently the only female legislator in the state and the fourth in Mizoram's history.
  - **Lahlimpui Hmar** was the **first woman** to hold a ministerial post in Mizoram, in 1987.
- The government has extended the term of **Chief Economic Adviser (CEA) Arvind Subramanian** by **one year** till October 2018.
- **Angela Merkel** won her 4<sup>th</sup> term as the **German Chancellor** after the Opposition conceded defeat in the general elections.
- **Angola** swore in **Joao Lourenco** as the country's President, making him the first new President of the country in 38 years.
- A 3-year-old girl in **Nepal** has been named the **new Kumari of Kathmandu** after her predecessor retired when she reached puberty.
- Bengaluru-based food delivery startup **Swiggy** has appointed former Britannia executive **Rahul Bothra** as it's first ever **Chief Financial Officer**.
- President **Ram Nath Kovind** appointed new Governors for Arunachal Pradesh, Bihar, Tamil Nadu, Assam, Meghalaya and Lieutenant Governor in Andaman Nicobar.
  - Tamil Nadu - Banwarilal Purohit
  - Arunachal Pradesh - Brigadier BD Mishra (retd)
  - Meghalaya - Ganga Prasad
  - Assam - Jagdish Mukhi
  - Bihar - Satyapal Malik
  - Andaman and Nicobar - Admiral DK Joshi
- **Rajni Kant Mishra** took over as **Director General, Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB)**.
- Senior IPS officer **Sulkhan Singh** gets three-month extension as **Director General of UP Police**.

#### **Resignation/Dismissed/Retired/Quit**

- At least **five Union Ministers** have been **resigned** ahead of PM Narendra Modi's Cabinet reshuffle. Skill Development Minister **Rajiv Pratap Rudy** and Minister of State for Human Resource Development **Mahendra Nath Pandey**, among others, were asked to resign. **Uma Bharti** also offered to resign on health grounds.
- Senior advocate and former Law minister **Ram Jethmalani** announced his retirement from legal practice, after practicing the profession for over 70 years.
- **South African** all-rounder **JP Duminy** announced his retirement from Tests and first-class cricket with immediate effect.

## Arrests/Jailed

- A special **TADA court** announced death penalty for **Tahir Merchant** and **Feroze Khan**, two convicts in the 1993 **Mumbai Blasts case**, while announcing life imprisonment for **Abu Salem** and **Karimullah Khan**.
  - The fifth convict, **Riyaz Siddiqui** was sentenced to 10 years in prison.
  - One of the convicts, **Mustafa Dossa**, had died days after being found guilty.
- **Thailand's Supreme Court** sentenced former PM **Yingluck Shinawatra** in absentia to five years in prison after finding her guilty of mishandling a rice scheme which led to at least \$8 billion in losses.

## Deaths

- Senior journalist **Gauri Lankesh** (55) was shot dead at her house in **Bangalore**.
- **Arunachal Pradesh** Health and Family Welfare Minister, **Jomde Kena** (52), passed away after a prolonged illness.
- **Basi** (37), the oldest captive giant panda in the world, has died. She passed away at the age of 37, which is equivalent to over 100 human years.
- The chief litigant in the Ram Janmabhoomi-Babri Masjid case and the sarpanch mahant (chief priest) of Nirmohi Akhada in Uttar Pradesh's Ayodhya, **Mahant Bhaskar Das** (89) passed away.
  - The chief litigant of the Muslim side in the case, **Hashim Ansari** (95), had died in July 2016.
- The oldest person in the world, **Violet Mosse-Brown** (117), passed away. She was born in Jamaica on March 10, 1900.
  - Following Brown's death, 117-year-old **Japanese** woman **Nabi Tajima** (born on August 4, 1900) has become the world's oldest person.
- Indian Air Force Marshal **Arjan Singh** (98) passed away.
- BJP MP from Alwar, **Mahant Chandnath** (61) passed away.
- 'Father of nephrology in India', **Dr KS Chugh** (65) passed away.
- Soviet officer **Stanislav Petrov** (77), who prevented a possible nuclear war between the **US** and the **Soviet Union** during the Cold War, has died.
- Former Karnataka Minister and senior Congress leader **Qamarul Islam** (69) passed away.
- Legendary American boxer **Jake LaMotta** (95) passed away.
  - He is famously known as 'The Bronx Bull'.
- **World's richest woman** and the heiress of cosmetics giant **L'Oreal**, **Liliane Bettencourt** (94), has died.
  - Bettencourt topped the list of the world's richest women for the second year in a row in 2017 with an estimated net worth of \$39.5 billion.
- Yesteryear actress **Shakila** (82), who featured in the song 'Babuji Dheere Chalna' from the 1954 film 'Aar-Paar', passed away.
- **Egyptian** national **Eman Ahmed** (37), who was once the world's heaviest woman and underwent a weight-loss surgery in **Mumbai** earlier this year, passed away in **Abu Dhabi** due to complications from the underlying co morbid conditions, including heart disease and kidney dysfunction.
- **Hugh Hefner** (91), the founder of the Playboy magazine, passed away.
- Veteran Congress leader and close confidant of former Prime Ministers Indira Gandhi and Rajiv Gandhi, **Makhan Lal Fotedar** (85), passed away.
- Padma Shri awardee actor **Tom Alter** (67) passed away.
- Eminent journalist and writer of Assam, **Radhika Mohan Bhagawati** (84) passed away.

## Awards/Honours

- **Gujarat's** commercial capital **Ahmedabad** formally accorded the status of **India's first World Heritage City** by **UNESCO**.
  - The UNESCO handed over the certificate to **CM Vijay Rupani** on this regard.
- The 13 Edition of the **IDRBT Banking Technology Excellence Awards** held on 1<sup>st</sup> September, 2017 in IDRBT, **Hyderabad**.
  - Award for Use of Technology for Financial Inclusion Among Large Banks - State Bank of India
  - Best Bank Award for Use of Technology for Financial Inclusion Among Mid-Size Banks - Vijaya Bank
  - Best Bank Award for Use of Technology for Financial Inclusion Among Small Banks - Karnataka Bank Ltd.
  - Best Bank Award for Digital Banking among Large Banks - Axis Bank Ltd
  - Best Bank Award for Digital Banking among Mid-Sized Banks - Vijaya Bank
  - Best Bank Award for Digital Banking among Small Banks - South Indian Bank Ltd.
  - Best Bank Award for Electronic Payment Systems among Large Banks - State Bank of India
  - Best Bank Award for Electronic Payment Systems among Mid-Sized Banks - Andhra Bank
  - Best Bank Award for Electronic Payment Systems among Small Banks - The Federal Bank Ltd.
  - Best Bank Award for Analytics and Big Data among Large Banks - ICICI Bank Ltd.
  - Best Bank Award for Use of Technology for Fraud Prevention among Large Banks - HDFC Bank Ltd.
  - Best Bank Award for High Performance IT Ecosystem among Large Banks - Bank of India
  - Best Bank Award for High Performance IT Ecosystem among Mid-Sized - Banks IndusInd Bank Ltd.
  - Best Bank Award for High Performance IT Ecosystem among Small Banks - South Indian Bank Ltd.
  - Best Bank Award for Cyber Security and Defense among Large Banks - HDFC Bank Ltd.
  - Best Bank Award for Cyber Security and Defense among Mid-Sized Banks - IndusInd Bank Ltd.
  - Best Bank Award for Cyber Security and Defense among Small Banks - City Union Bank
  - Best Bank Award for Innovative Use of Technology among Large Banks - HDFC Bank Ltd.
  - Best Bank Award for Innovative Use of Technology among Mid-Sized Banks - YES Bank Ltd.
  - Best Bank Award for Innovative Use of Technology among Small Banks - The Karur Vysya Bank Ltd.
  - Best Emerging Bank Award - Union Bank of India
  - Best IT-Enabled Co-operative Bank - The Cosmos Cooperative Bank Ltd.
  - Best IT-Enabled Regional Rural Bank - Andhra Pragathi Grameena Bank
- As many as **219 teachers** were awarded the **National Award for Teachers** by Vice President Venkaiah Naidu on Teacher's Day (5<sup>th</sup> September).
- Public-sector banking company headquartered in **Mangalore, Corporation Bank** has bagged “**SKOCH Award for MUDRA Performance - 2017**” and “**SKOCH Order-of-Merit Award for A Road Map to be Best in Insurance Penetration**” instituted by the SKOCH group for 2017-18.
- **Housing and Urban Affairs Ministry** has announced a **Smart Cities Awards Contest** with total prize money of 50 lakh to recognize and reward cities and innovative ideas that promote mission's goals.
- Renowned Indian Badminton legend **Prakash Padukone** selected for the first life time award by **Badminton Association of India**.
- US-based fellowship **The Marconi Society** was honored 2 Indian-origin scientists for their contribution in the field of **communication and information technology**.
  - IIT Bombay alumnus **Arun Netravali** will get the **Marconi prize** for his work in **video technology**.

- Ex-Stanford Prof and Padma Bhushan awardee **Thomas Kailath** will get **Lifetime Achievement Award** for contribution to **modern communication**.
- Bollywood Actor **Salman Khan** was honored with the **Global Diversity Award 2017** at the **British Parliament in London** for his contribution as an actor, producer and philanthropist.
- **DIG Roopa Moudgil**, who had exposed VIP treatment given to former AIADMK Secretary Sasikala in Bangalore central prison, was awarded the **President's medal** avail special facilities in jail.
- **Japanese postal department** has released **postage stamps** on yoga legend **Bishnu Charan Ghosh** and his family members to acknowledge their contribution in spreading yoga awareness in the country.
- American actor, Sterling **Kelby Brown** created history by becoming the first African American to win the best **actor drama Emmy awards** in the past 19 years, for his performance as Randall on NBC's "This Is Us".
  - The **Handmaid's Tale** became first web television series to win award for **Outstanding Drama Series**.
- The **Board Of Control For Cricket In India (BCCI)** nominated former India captain **Mahendra Singh Dhoni** for the country's third highest civilian award, the **Padma Bhushan**, for his contribution to the game.
  - Cricketers Kapil Dev, Sunil Gavaskar, Rahul Dravid and Lala Amarnath were already honored with this award.
- A book against gender bias, titled '**Testosterone Rex: Unmaking the Myths of Our Gendered Minds**' has been chosen as **Royal Society of London's science book of the year**.
  - **Australia-based Cordelia Fine**, who joined the likes of Stephen Hawking with the 22-lakh prize, writes in her book, "**There are no essential male or female characteristics...when it comes to risk-taking and competitiveness**".
- **US based Materials Research Society** has conferred its highly prestigious **Von Hippel Award** on Bharat Ratna Prof. **C N R Rao**.
  - With this he became the first Asian scientist to receive this award.
- **Paramjit Singh Pammi**, a mechanic from Punjab's Nabha has been chosen to be honored with '**Bhagat Puran Singh Award for Service to Humanity**'.
  - He is being honored with this award for saving 400 road accident victims.
- **2017 GQ Men of the Year Awards** Winners:
  - **Anushka Sharma** - Woman of the Year Award
  - **Ranveer Singh** - Entertainer of the Year Award
  - **Rajkummar Rao** - Actor of the Year Award
  - **Aamir Khan** - Award for Creative Maverick.
- Actress **Aishwarya Rai** was named '**Vogue Influencer Of The Decade**' while **Shah Rukh Khan** won the award for '**Vogue Entertainer of the Decade**' at this year's Vogue Women Of The Year Awards.
  - **Anushka** won '**Game Changer of The Year Award**' while **Karan Johar** was named '**Vogue Man of the Year**'.
  - Further, **Anita Dongre** was named '**Designer Of The Year**'.
- Indian shuttler and current world number two **PV Sindhu** has been recommended for the **Padma Bhushan award**, India's third highest civilian honour, by the Sports Ministry.
- Ahead of the announcement of **2017 Nobel Prize winners**, the Nobel Foundation has increased the award's prize money by 12.5% to **9 million kronor** (\$1.1 million).

- The **CISF** security cover at **Mumbai airport** has been rated the best airport security in the world by quality rating agency World Quality Congress (WQC).
  - CISF will receive the award at an event in Dubai next month.
- Indian women's cricket team captain **Mithali Raj** has been included in **BBC's list of the 100 most influential women** of 2017.

### Sports/Game

- 11-year old Indian chess player **Divya Deshmukh** bagged **gold** in the **Under-12 World Cadet Chess championship** held in **Brazil**.
- British F1 driver **Lewis Hamilton** broke the all-time record for pole positions by taking his career's 69<sup>th</sup> at the **Italian Grand Prix**.
- Broadcasting firm **Star India** has acquired the **Indian Premier League's (IPL)** global media rights from **2018-2022** with a consolidated bid of 16,347.5 crore, at the BCCI organized auction.
- Indian shooter **Ankur Mittal** has won a **Silver** medal in the double trap event at the **ISSF Shotgun World Championship in Moscow**.
  - In the double trap **junior** category, India's **Ahvar Rizvi** also won silver.
- **Virat Kohli** celebrated his milestone **50<sup>th</sup> T20 international** by reaching **15,000 international** runs in just 304 matches.
- Young Indian wrestler **Sonam Malik** bagged a **Gold** medal at the **World Cadet Wrestling Championship in Athens**.
  - Another wrestler **Neelam** bagged the **bronze** Medal.
- **Indian** squash player **Harinder Pal Sandhu** won his 21<sup>st</sup> international game on the trot and his fifth consecutive title, winning the **Malaysian Squash Tour X** event in **Kuala Lumpur**.
- American boxer **David Benavidez** became the youngest fighter to win a world super-middleweight title, after claiming the vacant **World Boxing Council** belt at the age of 20 years and nine months.
- **India** wins 2<sup>nd</sup> SABA U-16 Zone **Basketball Championship** by defeating **Bhutan** in its last league match.
- The 2017 edition of the **World Senior Badminton Championships** started at the **Rajeev Gandhi Indoor Stadium, Kadavanthra**, in **Kochi**.
- World number one **Rafael Nadal** clinched his 3<sup>rd</sup> **US Open** title, taking his tally of Grand Slam titles to 16 by defeating first-time Grand Slam finalist **Kevin Anderson**.
  - US Open 2017 Complete Winners List:
  - Men's Singles: **Rafael Nadal** (Spain)
  - Women's Singles: **Sloane Stephens** (United States)
  - Men's Doubles: **Jean-Julien Rojer** (Netherlands) / **Horia Tecau** (Romania)
  - Women's Doubles: **Taipei Chan Yung-jan** (Chinese) / **Martina Hingis** (Switzerland)
  - Mixed Doubles: **Martina Hingis** (Switzerland) / **Jamie Murray** (United Kingdom)
- **Shah Rukh Khan**-owned **Trinbago Knight Riders** won their second **Caribbean Premier league title**, defeating St Kitts and Nevis Patriots by three wickets in the final.
- The **Badminton Association of India (BAI)** has increased the total prize money of **Senior National Badminton Championships** to **1 crore**, a ten-fold hike from the earlier amount.
  - BAI President: Himanta Biswa Sarma
- The **Indian** contingent of **swimmers** won 47 medals, including 8 Gold medals, at the 9<sup>th</sup> **Asian Age-group Aquatic Championship**.

- Sports Minister **Rajyavardhan Rathore** announced that 152 athletes selected under the government's **Target Olympic Podium (TOP) scheme** for **2020 Olympics** preparation will get a monthly stipend of 50,000.
- **Afghanistan** spinner **Rashid Khan** has become the youngest cricketer to take **100 wickets** in **T20s**, at the age of 18 years and 360 days.
  - He overtook English left-arm spinner **Danny Briggs**, who reached 100 T20 wickets aged 23 years and 56 days.
- Former India captain **MS Dhoni** completed **100 fifties** in **international cricket**, reaching the milestone in the first ODI against Australia at Chennai.
  - Dhoni is the 14<sup>th</sup> batsman to accomplish the feat, with **Sachin Tendulkar** leading the list with 164 fifties in international cricket.
- **Windies'** cricketer **Chris Gayle** became the first batsman to hit **100 sixes** in **T20I cricket**.
- Mercedes' British Formula One driver **Lewis Hamilton** registered his 60<sup>th</sup> career win at the **Singapore Grand Prix**.
- **Spain's Ana Carrasco** became the first woman to win an individual **World Championship motorbike race**.
- **2017 Korea Open Super Series**
  - Men's Singles: **Anthony Sinisuka Ginting** (Indonesia)
  - Women's Singles: **P. V. Sindhu** (India)
  - Men's Doubles: **Mathias Boe** (Denmark), **Carsten Mogensen** (Denmark)
  - Women's Doubles: **Huang Yaqiong** (China), **Yu Xiaohan** (China)
  - Mixed Doubles: **Praveen Jordan** (Indonesia), **Debby Susanto** (Indonesia).
- **Indian** athlete **Purnima Hembram** has won the **Gold** in **Women's Pentathlon Event** at the 5<sup>th</sup> **Asian Indoor and Martial Arts Games** held in **Turkmenistan**.
- **Japan Open Super Series** (badminton) tournament kicked off in **Tokyo**.
  - This tournament was held from 19<sup>th</sup> September 2017 to 24<sup>th</sup> September 2017.
  - This is the 8<sup>th</sup> Series tournament of the 2017 BWF Super Series.
- India's middle-distance runners **PU Chitra** and **G Lakshmanan** bagged **Gold** medals at the 5<sup>th</sup> **Asian Indoor and Martial Arts Games** in **Turkmenistan**.
- **Indian** Chinaman bowler **Kuldeep Yadav** became the first **Indian spinner** to take a **hat-trick** in ODI cricket after achieving the feat in the second ODI against **Australia**.
- **Athletes from Australia** and the rest of **Oceania** have been **invited** to compete at the **2022 Asian Games**, for the first time in the history of Asiad.
  - The invite is for selected sports like football and basketball to enable athletes to qualify for the **2024 Paris Olympics**.
  - **Oceania** nations are currently competing at the **Asian Indoor Games**.
- 5-time world champion and Olympic bronze medalist **MC Mary Kom** has become the **first Indian** to be picked as **International Boxing Association's (AIBA) representative** for the **IOC Athletes Forum**, scheduled in November.
  - The forum is held once every two years, bringing together athlete representatives from across the Olympic Movement.
- Rio Olympic silver medalist **PV Sindhu** has jumped two places to the **second spot** in the **BWF women's singles ranking**.
- Real Madrid's **Cristiano Ronaldo**, Barcelona forward **Lionel Messi**, and Messi's former Barcelona teammate **Neymar Jr** are the **final three players** in contention for this year's **FIFA Best Men's Player of the Year** award.

- The **final three nominees** for the **Best FIFA Men's Coach of the Year award** are Real Madrid's **Zinedine Zidane**, Juventus' **Massimiliano Allegri**, and Chelsea's **Antonio Conte**.
- Pacer **Ishant Sharma** has replaced 36-year-old **Gautam Gambhir** as **Delhi Ranji captain** ahead of the upcoming season.
- **Roger Federer** and **Rafael Nadal** played as a **doubles pair** for the first time when they represent **Team Europe** at the **Laver Cup**.
- Indian opener **Rohit Sharma** broke the world record for hitting the **most number of sixes** against **Australia** in international cricket during the third ODI in Indore.
  - He broke former New Zealand captain **Brendon McCullum's** record of 61 sixes against Australia.
- Following their five-wicket win over **Australia** in the third ODI, **India**, already number one in the Test format, dislodged South Africa to become the sole number one ODI team as well.
- **ICC's new playing rules** came into effect.
  - According to these new rules, the **umpires** will now be **able to send players off** during a match for serious misconduct.
  - The **thickness of bats** has been **restricted** and umpires will be given a "new bat gauge" to check their legality.
  - The bails can be tethered to the stumps to protect wicketkeepers from the type of injury that ended South African Mark Boucher's career.
- **Krasava**, the official match ball for 2017 **FIFA Under-17 World Cup**, was launched.
  - The structure of Krasava, a term used by Russian fans to describe a striking performance, incorporates the same panel shape as the balls used in the **UEFA Euro 2016**.

## Report

- According to a study by apex industry body Assocham, **Karnataka** has been ranked **top** among the states in the country in terms of **manufacturing excellence**.
- **London** has topped in the **2017 Global Financial Centres Index (GFCI)** among 92 financial centres released by the Z/Yen and China Development Institute.
  - India's financial capital **Mumbai** was ranked at **60<sup>th</sup> position**, up by three positions compared to previous edition.
  - Top 10: London, New York, Singapore, Hong Kong, Tokyo, San Francisco, Chicago, Sydney, Boston, and Toronto.
- **HDFC Bank** surpassed **Tata Consultancy Services (TCS)** to become **India's second most valued firm**.
- **India** has been placed at a rank of **103<sup>rd</sup>** out of 130, the lowest among BRICS economies, on the **World Economic Forum's Global Human Capital Index 2017**.
  - Top 10: Norway, Finland, Switzerland, United States, Denmark, Germany, New Zealand, Sweden, Slovenia and Austria.
- The **German nationality** has been named the **best in the world** for the sixth year in a row, according to the Kochenov Quality of **Nationality Index**.
  - While **Denmark** and **France** came **second**, **India** was ranked **101** among 159 countries.
- Private sector lender **HDFC Bank** topped the list of the country's top 50 brands, according to **BrandZ Top 50 list** released by WPP and Kantar Millward Brown.
  - Top 10: HDFC Bank, Airtel, SBI, Asian Paints, ICICI Bank, Kotak Mahindra Bank, Maruti Suzuki, Bajaj Motors, Hero Motors, and Axis Bank.
- According to a recent report released by **5 UN agencies**, the **Global Hunger levels** have **risen** for the first time in more than a decade, now affecting **11% of the world's population**.

- **3 Indians** have featured on Forbes' list of the **100 Greatest Living Business Minds**.
  - They are: **Ratan Tata** (Former chairman of Tata Sons), **Lakshmi Mittal** (CEO and Chairman of the world's largest steel-making company ArcelorMittal), **Vinod Khosla** (Founder of venture capital firm Khosla Ventures).
- **General Motors CEO Mary Barra** has topped **Fortune's 2017 list of Most Powerful Women** for the third time in a row. The list features **PepsiCo CEO Indra Nooyi** (2<sup>nd</sup> Rank), **Facebook COO Sheryl Sandberg** (5<sup>th</sup> Rank), and also features first **Latina CEO Geisha Williams**.
- **Francoise Bettencourt Meyers**, the 64-year-old heiress of **French** cosmetics company **L'Oreal**, has become the world's richest woman with a net worth of \$43.3 billion.
  - This comes days after her mother and the world's richest woman, **Liliane Bettencourt**, passed away.
- **Chinese** real estate giant **Evergrande Group's** Chairman **Hui Ka Yan** has become **Asia's richest man** with a net worth of \$41.1 billion.
- Patanjali Ayurved CEO **Acharya Balkrishna** has been named among **India's top 10 richest people** for the first time in Hurun Rich List 2017, with a wealth of 70,000 crore.
- **2 Indian women** have featured on Fortune's list of **Most Powerful Women** in business outside the US.
  - Managing Director and CEO of ICICI Bank **Chanda Kochhar** was ranked 5<sup>th</sup> and Managing Director and CEO of Axis Bank **Shikha Sharma** was ranked at 21.
  - Group Executive Chairman of **Spain's Banco Santander Ana Botin** topped the list.
- Technology giant **Apple** has been named the **most valuable brand** for the fifth consecutive year by Inter-brand in its Best Global Brands Report 2017.
  - The report estimated Apple's brand value at \$184.1 billion, followed by **Google's** at \$141.7 billion.
  - **Facebook** made it to top 10 brands for the first time and witnessed the maximum increase in brand value at 48%.
- **India** has slipped **down** by **one rank** to be placed at the **40<sup>th</sup> position** out of 137 countries on the World Economic Forum's (WEF) **Global Competitiveness Index report 2017-18**.
  - **Switzerland** topped the list.
  - **Pakistan** has jumped up **seven positions** to be ranked **115** as against last year's 122.
  - India continues to top in South Asia; with its highest ever score.
  - Top 5 Countries: Switzerland (1<sup>st</sup>), United States (2<sup>nd</sup>), Singapore (3<sup>rd</sup>), Netherlands (4<sup>th</sup>), and Germany (5<sup>th</sup>).
- According to **World Nuclear Industry Status Report 2017**, **India** with **six** installed nuclear reactors ranks **3<sup>rd</sup>** in world.
  - **China** is leading the report with 20 installed nuclear reactors.
  - **Russia** and the **US** shut down reactors in 2016, while **Sweden** and **South Korea** closed their oldest units in the first half of the year 2017.
- With 4.79 million millionaires, the **United States** had the **highest number of millionaires** in 2016, according to consultancy firm Capgemini's World Wealth Report.
  - The US is followed by **Japan** (2.89 million), **Germany** (1.38 million), and **China** (1.13 million).
  - Further, the number of millionaires in the world rose nearly 8% in 2016 to an all-time high of around 16.5 million.

#### General - National

- **Indian Policemen** are set to replace their British-era **khaki uniform** with Ahmedabad-based **National Institute of Design's** new All-weather '**Smart Uniform**'.
- The **National Payments Corporation of India**-backed **BHIM** (Bharat Interface for Money) **app** has been updated with features like splitting bills and collecting payments.

- **Switzerland** President **Doris Leuthard** said that the country is committed to supporting India's fight against black money through exchange of related **information**.
- **NITI Aayog** launched **National Nutrition Strategy**.
  - Aim: **Kuposhan Mukh Bharat**.
- **Passengers** will have to submit the details of their **Aadhaar card, driving licence, passport or PAN number** while booking **domestic tickets** after the **No Fly List** is released.
  - The government is also considering accepting **Election Commission voter ID cards** as valid ID proof.
- Indian Foreign Secretary **S Jaishankar** announced that India is going to help **Myanmar** in developing the crisis-hit **Rakhine State**.
  - The Rakhine State has been the centre of violence between **Myanmar's security forces** and the **Rohingya militants**.
- Union Minister for Labor and Employment **Santosh Gangwar** announced that the laborers from both **organized** and **unorganized sectors** will be allotted a **unique identification number** as part of labor reforms.
- The **Human Resource Development Ministry** is planning to replace **western convocation gowns** and **caps** with **Indian ethnic wear**.
- The Union Government signed **\$76 million loan** deal with **Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)** for starting up gradation project related to **environment management** plan at Alang-Sosiya ship recycling shipyards in **Gujarat**.
  - The project will be executed by Gujarat Maritime Board (GMB) and is likely to be completed by 2022.
- Over 3,500 people, including 1,000 Coast Guard personnel, on September 17 took part in an annual cleaning drive at **three Mumbai beaches** to mark the **International Coastal Cleanup Day**.
- The **Union Ministry of Home Affairs** launched full-fledged Intelligence Wing of **Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB)**.
  - This intelligence wing will gather actionable information in a bid to enhance operational efficiency.
- **3 districts - Gorakhpur** (Uttar Pradesh), **Koraput** (Odisha) and **Thane** (Maharashtra) will see the launch of India's ambitious '**Zero Hunger**' programme through interventions in farm sector on **October 16** (World Food Day).
- The **Ministry of Railways** has decided to recruit one lakh people in the '**sanraksha shreynee**' (safety category).
  - The move comes after five incidents of train derailment were reported in the month of September.
- The government is going to set up **5scrap-based steel plants** at an investment of **500 crore** within a year.
  - India's target is to double the **steel output** by **2030** and part of it will be sourced from scrap. The first such plant would come up in **Noida**.
- The **National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB)** has commissioned predictive **policing software** that aims to **stop crimes before** they happen.
  - It will be available to Indian police by the end of 2018.
- The Union Ministry of Shipping has renamed **Kandla Port Trust** as **Deendayal Port Trust**, by exercising powers conferred on it under Indian Ports Act, 1908.
- The **190<sup>th</sup> Gunners Day** was celebrated on September 28.

- The Regiment of Artillery in India was raised on September 28, 1827 as 5 Bombay Mountain Battery as part of the Bombay Army in the Presidency of Bombay and it's now celebrated as Gunners' Day.
- The **Directorate General of Quality Assurance (DGQA)** has completed 60 years of its existence.
- The 13<sup>th</sup> **Formation Day of National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA)** was celebrated across the country on September 28.
  - Theme - School Safety.
- External Affairs Minister **Sushma Swaraj** has ruled out any new window of opportunity for **Non-Resident Indians (NRIs)** or people of Indian-origin to deposit their high value demonetized Indian currency.
- A day after the rush hour stampede at **Mumbai's Elphinstone Station**, Railway Minister **Piyush Goyal** announced that foot over bridges will be made mandatory at all train stations in Mumbai.
- To celebrate the 67<sup>th</sup> birthday of Prime Minister **Narendra Modi**, the Bharatiya Janata Party is observing '**Seva Diwas (Day of Service)**' across the country on September 17.

### General - International

- The **United States** banned its citizens from travelling to **North Korea**, months after the death of an American student who had been imprisoned in the country for 17 months.
- **Sri Lankan** President **Maithripala Sirisena** banned **Plastic bags** and other disposable products after one of the country's biggest dump collapsed in April leading to a disposal crisis.
- The **Tajikistan** government has banned **women** from wearing **hijab** and has introduced a legislation asking them to "stick to traditional national clothes and culture".
- **Australia's** biggest bank, the **Commonwealth Bank of Australia**, was hit with a class-action lawsuit on behalf of shareholders over a money laundering scandal.
  - Litigation financier IMF Bentham is funding the lawsuit.
- **Russian** President **Vladimir Putin** announced that Russia is going to help **Japan** in its efforts to **clean up the nuclear waste** released due to the **Fukushima nuclear disaster**.
  - The 2011 Fukushima nuclear power plant meltdown is considered to be one of the largest in history.
- The **Mongolian Parliament** voted to oust Prime Minister **Jargaltulga Erdenebat** over alleged incompetence and corruption related to the signing of government contracts with companies linked to **three Cabinet members**.
- To show of solidarity with Myanmar, **India** refused to be a part of **Bali Declaration** adopted at conclusion of **World Parliamentary Forum on Sustainable Development** held in **Bali, Indonesia**.
- **Pakistan's** largest bank, **Habib Bank**, has been fined **\$225 million** (over 1,400 crore) by the **US** for "grave" compliance failures over regulations concerning money laundering and terror financing.
  - It has also been ordered to shut down in the US.
- The **French** government has announced that it is considering a **draft proposal to ban the country's oil and gas production** by 2040.
- **Pakistan** opened its 5<sup>th</sup> **Nuclear power plant** to meet its growing energy demands.
  - The power plant was built in collaboration with **China**.
- **Jordan**, a water-poor country that is 90% desert, has launched **Sahara Forest Project** near the southern port city of **Aqaba** to turn desert land into farming land to produce food using sun and sea water.
- The **United States** commemorated the 16<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the **9/11 terror attacks**.

- These attacks killed nearly 3,000 people when 19 alQaeda militants hijacked 4 airplanes and attacked the twin towers of the World Trade Center and the Pentagon.
- **China** is going to ban **Diesel and Petrol cars** and is working on a timetable to end their production and sales.
  - The move aims to reduce pollution and oil imports by switching to electric vehicles.
  - **France** and the **UK** have already announced plans to ban diesel and petrol cars by **2040**.
- **China** is planning to ban **trading of Bitcoin** and other **cryptocurrencies** on **domestic exchanges**, but plans to allow over-the-counter transactions.
  - This comes after China recently banned **Initial Coin Offerings (ICOs)**, saying the practice constituted illegal fundraising.
- The **UN Security Council** unanimously adopted a **US drafted resolution** to impose **new sanctions** on **North Korea** following its sixth and largest nuclear test.
  - The resolution bans North Korea's **textile exports** and imposes a cap on its **oil imports**.
  - This is the 9<sup>th</sup> such resolution unanimously adopted by the UN since 2006.
- **French President Emmanuel Macron** has proposed creating a new **European Monetary Fund** to deal with **EU's financial affairs**.
- **China's Big Four** state-owned banks have completely **stopped** providing **financial services** to new **North Korean** clients as per a ban which took effect **August 28**.
- **Israel** supports the establishment of an independent **Kurdish state**, Prime Minister **Benjamin Netanyahu** announced.
  - This comes after the **Iraqi** Parliament rejected the planned Kurdish independence referendum to be held later this month claiming it will cause instability in the country.
- **Sri Lanka** is going to open its first official **marijuana plantation** to ensure high-quality supplies for **medicinal purposes** as well as for exports to the **US**.
- The **United Arab Emirates (UAE)** announced that it will grant visa on arrival to **Indian passport holders** with **residence visas** from the **UK** and **EU**.
- **Tunisia** abolished a 44-year-old **ban on Muslim women marrying non-Muslims**.
- A New plastic **10 Pound** note featuring renowned author **Jane Austen** has gone into circulation in **Britain**.
  - Austen is the first female writer to feature on a British banknote, replacing a paper 10 pound note which featured a portrait of naturalist **Charles Darwin**.
- **Nepal** began its first-ever survey to re-measure **Mount Everest** to check if the world's tallest peak's height was altered by the 7.8-magnitude earthquake that struck the country in 2015.
- **New Zealand** became the first self-governing country in the world to grant **national voting rights to women** on 19<sup>th</sup> September in the year 1893.
- A 30-foot-high statue of **Mikhail Kalashnikov** (inventor of the AK-47 assault rifle), was unveiled in **Moscow**.
- **Switzerland's** financial regulator Financial Market Supervisory Authority has closed down the unauthorized providers of the fake crypto currency "**E-Coin**".
  - The developers of E-Coin had accepted about \$4.2 million in public deposits without holding the required banking license.
- The **Eiffel Tower** in **Paris** will soon get a **bullet-proof glass wall** along its base in a bid to improve security around the monument.
- In a move aimed at boosting productivity and economic growth, **Saudi Arabia** has **lifted** its **ban** on voice and video calling apps such as **WhatsApp** and **Skype**.

- **China** started operating the world's fastest bullet train, **Fuxing**, between **Beijing** and **Shanghai**.
  - The train, with an average speed of 350 km/hr and maximum speed of 400 km/hr, will cover the 1,250- kilometers distance in 4 hours 30 minutes.
- The **Afghan Air Force** received its first **four US-made UH-60 Black Hawk helicopters** as part of a planned replacement of its ageing fleet of Russian-made Mi-17 helicopters.
- **50 Nations** signed a treaty **banning** the use of **nuclear weapons** amid opposition by nuclear-armed countries.
  - The legally-binding treaty provides for a total ban on developing, stockpiling or threatening to use nuclear weapons "under any circumstances". It will come into effect 90 days after it is ratified by 50 nations.
- **Saudi Arabia** has invited **women** to a **sports stadium** for the **first time** to attend the **kingdom's 87<sup>th</sup> National Day celebrations** with **their families**.
- **China** has banned the **export of liquefied natural gas and gas condensates** to **North Korea**, as well as **textile imports** from the country.
- To enable authorities to determine a **driver's identity** when caught speeding, **Germany** has passed a new law banning drivers from **covering their faces**.
- **Russia** has launched the world's largest and most powerful **icebreaker ship**, designed to transport **cargo** via the Northern Sea Route in the Arctic Ocean.
- Over 36 lakh **Iraqi Kurds** cast their vote in a referendum proposing independence for Iraq's **Kurdistan** region.
- **Two US Congressmen** have introduced a resolution in the **House of Representatives** for the second year in a row to support **India's permanent membership** to the **United Nations Security Council (UNSC)**.
- **Russia** destroyed the last batch of its chemical weapons stockpile, fulfilling its obligation under the **Chemical Weapons Convention**.
- The **US** added **8 North Korean banks** and **26 bank executives** to its sanctions blacklist amid ongoing tensions between the two nations over North Korea's nuclear and ballistic missile programme.
- The **International Police Organization**, Interpol announced it had admitted **Palestine** and **Solomon Islands** as **member states**.
- **Saudi Arabia** voted to **allow women** to issue **fatwas**.
  - The ruling comes just days after Saudi Arabia lifted a ban on women's driving.

## Books and Authors

### Book's Name

### Author's Name

- A personally signed copy of **Hitler's autobiography 'Mein Kampf'** has been auctioned in the **US** for over 8 lakh.
  - The book is signed by Hitler as "Only in battle will the noble man survive! Adolf Hitler on 18/August 1930".

## TO THE POINTS: SEPTEMBER-2017

- Indian-origin veteran civil servant JY Pillay has took over charge as acting President of **Singapore**.
- A recent survey by the Transparency International states that **India** is the most corrupt country in Asia.
- **Jammu and Kashmir and Arunachal Pradesh** were the fastest expanding State economies in 2015-16.
- **Andhra Pradesh** is trying to make sure that every poor family in the state gets a monthly income of at least Rs. 10,000 by January 2019.
- **West Bengal** government will provide GST accounting software to all traders, free of cost.
- **China** based scientists have discovered a method to convert tree leaves into a porous carbon material that can be used to make electronics.
- India's largest autonomous public research and development organization Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) has been ranked **Ninth** in the world.
- India and **Switzerland** signed two MoUs in the field of Railways.
- Nungthaang Tampak village has emerged as the '100% computer literate' in the entire North East. Nungthaang Tampak village located in **Manipur**.
- **Karnataka** government has reportedly decided to provide free education to girls in the state up to post-graduation level, including private educational institutes.
- **HDFC ERGO** Company has entered into a strategic agreement with payments solutions company ItzCash to offer general insurance products on its platform.
- India's Gaurav Bidhuri won a **Bronze** at the World Boxing Championships.
- **Anita Karwal** has been appointed as chairperson of Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE).
- Kenneth I. Juster has been nominated as the next U.S ambassador to **India**.
- **Ahmedabad** was formally accorded the status of India's first World Heritage City.
- The government has issued an alert on spread of new malware **Locky Ransomware** that can lock computers and demand ransom for unlocking them.
- PM Narendra Modi inaugurated the two-day annual conference, Rajaswa Gyan Sangam, 2017 in **New Delhi**.
- The National Green Tribunal has issuedailable warrants against **Haryana and Rajasthan** governments for failing to submit an action plan on the cleaning and rejuvenation of the River Ganga despite.
- The world's highest sandcastle opened in **Germany**.
- The Civil Aviation Administration of China announced the opening of the country's first test-flight base for civilian drones in **Shanghai**.
- **Nepal** has signed a USD 635 million UN assistance package for 2018-2022 to lay out the country's development strategy for the next five years.
- Eleven-year old Indian chess player Divya Deshmukh bagged **Gold** in the Under-12 World Cadet Chess championship held in Brazil.
- **Lewis Hamilton** won the Italian Grand Prix 2017.
- **Hyderabad International Airport Ltd** has bagged the National Award for 'Excellence' in Energy Management at a conference hosted by the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII).

- **Nagaland** launched a Wellness Centre under the Central Government Health Scheme (CGHS) in Kohima.
- **Punjab** government set a target to make Corneal Blindness Backlog Free State by 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2017.
- **Delhi Metro Rail Corporation** in collaboration with Smart-E Company will launch 1,000 e-rickshaws at five metro stations across the city.
- **Iran** has tested the Bavar 373 missile which is a part of its homegrown air defence system.
- **Star India** company has acquired the Indian Premier League's (IPL) global media rights from 2018-2022 with a consolidated bid of Rs. 16,347.5 crore.
- RBI included **HDFC Bank** in the list of 'too big to fail' lenders, referred to as D-SIB or domestic systemically important bank.
- **Fincare Small Finance Bank** started its banking operations with about 25 operational branches across Gujarat, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh.
- The 9<sup>th</sup> BRICS Summit was held in **China**.
- **Maharashtra** government has decided to declare lightning a disaster and increase the compensation from Rs. 1.5 lakh to Rs. 4 lakh for victims and their families.
- India's Kansom Ormila Devi bagged a **Gold** medal in 44kg weight category on the opening day of the Commonwealth Youth (boys & girls) weightlifting championships.
- **Mahendra Singh Dhoni** became the first wicketkeeper in world cricket to effect 100 stumpings in One Day Internationals (ODIs).
- Pulitzer-Prize Winning Poet John Ashbery who passed away recently, he was from **USA**.
- Member of Parliament and former Central Minister Sultan Ahmed passed away recently; he was associated with **Trinamool Congress** party.
- RA Sankara Narayanan has taken charge as Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of **Vijaya Bank**.
- KV Rama Moorthy has assumed charge as Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of **Tamilnad Mercantile Bank**.
- DHFL, a leading housing finance company appointed **Harshil Mehta** as Joint Managing Director & CEO of the company with effect from September 1.
- **Novartis**, Pharma Company named Vasant Narasimhan as its new chief executive officer (CEO) from 1 February 2018.
- National Teacher's day was celebrated on **September 05**.
- **China** will give an \$80 million for a BRICS economic and technology cooperation plan, and another \$4 million for projects at the BRICS countries' New Development Bank.
- **Ministry of Health and Family Welfare** has launched two new contraceptives Antara and Chhaya.
- External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj attended the third Eastern Economic Forum in **Russia**.
- **Rajyavardhan Singh Rathore** is the new Youth Affairs and Sports Minister.
- **DBS Bank**, foreign bank has received in-principle approval from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to convert its existing India franchise to a locally incorporated wholly-owned subsidiary (WOS) in India.
- **Reliance General Insurance** has received in-principle approval from the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) for its initial public offering (IPO).

- **Karnataka Bank** has bagged the 'best bank' award among small banks for the use of technology for financial inclusion.
- The National Highway Authority of India has awarded its first international project in **Myanmar** to a joint venture of Punj Lloyd-Varaha.
- India and Nepal have begun their joint military exercise **Surya Kiran** in the western part of the Himalayan country.
- India and **Myanmar** have signed 11 agreements in a range of sectors, including one on maritime security cooperation, to further strengthen their multifaceted partnership.
- **China** has banned individuals and organizations from raising funds through Initial Coin Offerings (ICO), or launches of digital currencies, saying the practice constituted illegal fund-raising.
- **Cuba** has begun a five-month political transition expected to end with Raul Castro's departure from the presidency.
- **Amritpal Singh** has become the first Indian player to be signed by an Australian Basketball Team.
- India's Ankur Mittal won **Silver** in the men's double trap event at the ISSF World Shotgun Championship.
- Jomde Kena who passed away recently, he was a Health and Family Welfare Minister of **Arunachal Pradesh**.
- **Parineeti Chopra** has been appointed as the first Indian woman Ambassador in 'Friend of Australia' (FOA) advocacy panel by Tourism Australia.
- **DIGISOL Systems Ltd** has been awarded "Best Make In India Wi-Fi Company" at "My India Wi-Fi India Summit & Awards 2017".
- The defence entity of Hinduja Group flagship company Ashok Leyland had signed a MoU with Rosoboronexport, **Russia**, to supply tracked vehicle solutions to the armed forces.
- Gujarat International Finance-Tec City (GIFT City), has won the prestigious Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India (ASSOCHAM) Services Excellence Award at a summit held in **New Delhi**.
- India's first hyperloop coming up in **Andra Pradesh**.
- **BSNL** expects to start a field trial of 5G services by the end of this financial year.
- Energy Efficiency Services Limited (EESL) , under Ministry of Power, Government of India has launched UJALA (Unnat Jyoti by Affordable Lighting for All) Scheme in **Malaysia**.
- India and **Japan** have agreed to collaborate closely in defence production, including on dual-use technologies.
- United States of America (USA) proposed a range of new sanctions against **North Korea**.
- **India** will host the 2019 edition of the Commonwealth (Youth, Junior and Senior) Weightlifting Championships.
- **N Bajendra Kumar** has assumed charge as Chairman and Managing Director of NMDC Ltd.
- **A.B. Pandey** was appointed as interim chairman of the goods and services tax network (GSTN).
- **Viveck Goenka** has been elected as chairman of Press Trust of India (PTI).
- FSSAI CEO Pawan Kumar Agarwal inaugurated the Nestle Food Safety Institute in **Gurugram**.
- **Oxford University** got number one spot in the Times Higher Education World University Rankings of the best universities.

- ICICI Lombard General Insurance Company has got capital markets regulator SEBI's go-ahead for its estimated Rs. **6000** crore initial public offer (IPO).
- **Nagaland** starts implementing Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) under Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) beginning from the current financial year.
- Telangana Home Minister Naini Narasimha Reddy inaugurated the first water ATM that would dispense clean and safe drinking water in **Hyderabad**.
- **Amazon** opened its largest fulfillment centre in India on the outskirts of Hyderabad.
- **Assam** signed a MoU with Google India to Increase Digital Literacy.
- **Exide Life Insurance** has announced a partnership with Punjab & Maharashtra Co-operative Bank (PMC Bank) to offer its protection and savings products to the latter's customers.
- SBI Life Insurance has received approval from the Securities and Exchange Board of India for an IPO of up to Rs. **8400** crore.
- **HDFC Bank's** artificial intelligence-based chatbot 'Eva' has achieved the title of India's largest chatbot.
- Vatican declared Mother Teresa (1910-1997) a patron saint of the Archdiocese of **Calcutta**.
- **N R Narayana Murthy and Veena Sahajwalla** has been conferred the PLuS Alliance Prize - a prestigious honor that recognizes Research Innovation, Education Innovation, Global Leadership and Global Innovation.
- **Sjoerd Marijne** was named chief coach of the men's national hockey team.
- **Kochi** hosted the fifth edition of Coastal Shipping and Inland Water Transportation Business Summit 2017.
- The Minister of State for Home Affairs Shri Kiren Rijiju attended the first National Canine Seminar organized by National Security Guard (NSG), in **Haryana**.
- The government is moving ahead with linking Aadhaar with mobile SIM cards and all unlinked phones will be deactivated after **February 2018**.
- India has announced it successfully flight tested indigenously-made Nag anti-tank guided missile (ATGM) against two different targets at firing ranges in **Rajasthan**.
- **Maharashtra** launched a single emergency number – 112 – that will integrate services of police, fire brigade and medical help.
- Second Indian workers' resource centre inaugurated in **United Arab Emirates**.
- **Charles** became the longest-serving Prince of Wales in history.
- **China and Pakistan** have agreed to strengthen anti-terrorism and security cooperation along a US \$50 billion economic corridor.
- **India** has won 2<sup>nd</sup> South Asian Basketball, SABA, under - 16 Championship.
- Joyciline Jepkosgei broke the world 10km record at the Birell Prague Grand Prix, an IAAF Gold Label Road Race, she was from **Kenya**.
- Vice-president M Venkaiah Naidu laid foundation of country's first 'green-field' smart city in **Ranchi**.
- Starting October 1, Punjab National Bank customers will be charged **10** per transaction beyond a limit of five times a month, even if a PNB cardholder makes the transaction from PNB ATM.
- **Mumbai** city doctors launched a free mobile application, which will direct people in emotional distress to a nearest helpline centre.

- **Punjab National Bank** and state-run firm BSNL teamed up to roll out open mobile wallet Speedpay across 10 states in the country.
- **Pakistan and China** began joint training exercises dubbed “Shaheen VI” in China.
- India has finished **Fifth** in the medals tally with one gold and two silver medals at the Moscow Shotgun World Championships.
- **Rafael Nadal** won the US Open men’s singles title 2017.
- **Tahir Mahmood** was awarded the prestigious N R Madhava Menon Best Law Teacher Award 2017.
- Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) launched **FoSCoRIS** a nationwide online platform to bring in transparency in food safety inspection and sampling.
- The Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA) announced that the upper age limit for joining the National Pension Scheme (NPS) had been raised to **65**.
- An eight feet bronze statue of Indian freedom struggle leader Subhas Chandra Bose unveiled at Navy Base in **Kolkata**.
- The Union Cabinet approved a **1%** hike in Dearness Allowance (DA) to central government employees and pensioners, with effect from July 1, 2017.
- **Asian Development Bank** will provide a USD 152 million to Nepal for the implementation and enhancement of its power transmission and distribution.
- **IndusInd Bank** and India’s second largest Microfinance Company Bharat Financial Inclusion have signed an confidentiality agreement for the proposed merger between them.
- **HDFC Bank** has surpassed Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) to become the country’s second most valued firm in terms of market valuation.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi met Belarus President in New Delhi to discuss various issues of mutual interest of both countries; **Aleksandr Grigoryevich Lukashenko** is the president of Belarus.
- India and **Belarus** inked 10 agreements to expand cooperation in a range of areas and decided to explore joint development and manufacture of military platforms.
- Union cabinet approved signing of a MoU between India and **Morocco** on cooperation in the field of health.
- **London** topped in the 2017 Global Financial Centres Index (GFCI) among 92 financial centres released by the Z/Yen and China Development Institute.
- India and **Afghanistan** exchanged four pacts in areas of health, transport, space and new development partnership.
- **Infosys** has completed the acquisition of Brilliant Basics, a London-based product design and customer experience innovator.
- **Prakash Padukone** will be conferred with the first Lifetime Achievement Award instituted by the Badminton Association of India (BAI) for his contribution to the sport.
- **Sumit Nagal** won the ITF Futures Men’s tennis championship title 2017.
- **Kochi** is all set to host the BWF World Senior Badminton Championships.
- **Three** India-born scientists to be awarded by US’ Marconi Society.
- Halimah Yacob, a former speaker of parliament, was declared elected as **Singapore** first woman president.
- The Centre has approved an amendment bill that seeks to double tax-free gratuity ceiling for private and public sector employees to **20 lakh**.

- **India** to grant citizenship to Chakma, Hajong refugees.
- **Maharashtra** government and Mother Dairy Fruit and Vegetable Pvt. Ltd, a subsidiary of National Dairy Development Board (NDDB) have signed a lease agreement to set up state-of-the-art milk and milk products processing plant.
- Finance Minister Arun Jaitley has constituted a Group of Ministers (GoM) headed by **Sushil Kumar Modi** to monitor and resolve the IT challenges faced in the implementation of GST.
- **Ministry for Electronics and Information Technology** has launched a nationwide hackathon 'OpenGovDataHack' to support and showcase potential ideas/talent from inner India.
- Former Indian cricketer **Sachin Tendulkar** was launched Mission-24 – a programme aimed at improving the quality of life in one of Mumbai's poorest wards through collaborative efforts in the next 24 months.
- **Kerala** to open India's First transgender Exclusive Clinics.
- The Railway Ministry announced that **m-aadhaar** can be used as one of the prescribed proofs of identity for rail travel.
- The Ministry of Finance has issued a notification regarding the introduction of Rs 100 coins to commemorate the birth centenary of **Both Dr MG Ramachandaran and Dr MS Subbulakshmi**.
- **PayU** has collaborated with Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC), to provide an option to pay for rail tickets booked on the IRCTC website.
- **Paytm Payments Bank** has partnered with the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) to launch a RuPay-powered digital debit card.
- **Italy** parliament approved a bill aimed at curbing fascist propaganda.
- Rishabh Shah won two **Bronze** medals in the under-14 rapid and blitz formats of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Western Asia Youth Chess Championship.
- National Commodity & Derivatives Exchange Limited has awarded **Raghunandan Industries Pvt Ltd** with Krishi Pragati Awards 2017 in an event held in Delhi.
- **Akila Urankar** has been elected as president of The Indian Newspaper Society (INS) for the year 2017-18.
- Nagaraja Sarma has been appointed the chairman-cum-managing director (CMD) of the **United India Insurance**.
- The Odisha government has passed a bill for starting the first **Odia** language university for post-graduate in literature, linguistics and epigraphy, among others.
- India's first advanced Homoeopathy Virology lab inaugurated in **Kolkata**.
- **Haryana** government was launched the 'HARPATH portal' for mapping roads in the state.
- The third-edition of the Jaipur Literature Festival held in **USA**.
- **Karnataka** wants to become the electric vehicle capital of India.
- India ranked **103** on Global Human Capital Index.
- **India** has started "Operation Insaniyat" to provide assistance to Bangladesh on account of the large influx of Rohingya refugees into that country from Myanmar.
- The Reserve Bank would sell government bonds worth Rs **10000** crore through Open Market Operations (OMO) to mop up liquidity from the system.
- Amazon tied up with the **Bank of Baroda** to offer micro loans to its sellers.
- **ICICI Bank** has launched cash back scheme for those availing home loan till November 30.

- **HSBC Bank** has entered into an agreement with microfinance industry association Sa-Dhan to develop digital ecosystem for India's unbanked segment.
- **Turkey** has signed a deal with Russia to buy S-400 missile defence systems in its first major weapons purchase from Moscow.
- **Paris** will host the 2024 summer Olympics.
- India ranked **107** in the latest FIFA rankings.
- **Salman Khan** has been honored with the Global Diversity Award 2017 in the British Parliament House.
- **Ban Ki-moon** has been elected as chair of the International Olympic Committee's ethics commission.
- **Marine Products Export Development Authority** has been awarded National level Rajbhasha Keerti Award for the third consecutive year.
- India's 1<sup>st</sup> Centre for Animal Law set up at **Hyderabad**.
- Suzuki Motor will invest more than Rs 1,150 crore along with Japanese partners Toshiba and Denso to set up India's first lithium-ion battery facility in **Gujarat**.
- The Government of India signed a loan deal worth \$76 million with **Japan** International Cooperation Agency for a project to upgrade the environment management plan at Alang-Sosiya ship recycling yards.
- Coast Guard celebrates international coastal cleanup day in **Mumbai**.
- The book "Unstoppable: My Life So Far" written by **Maria Sharapova**.
- The Indian Olympic Association (IOA) formally awarded to **Goa** the rights to host the 36<sup>th</sup> National Games.
- Marshal Arjan Singh who passed away recently, he was the **First** Marshal of Indian Air Force.
- World's oldest person Violet Mosse Brown passed away recently, she was from **Jamaica**.
- Harsh Kumar Jain is presently Ambassador of India to the Republic of Kazakhstan has been appointed as the next Ambassador of India to the **Slovak Republic**.
- **Y.C. Modi** has been appointed as Director General of the National Investigation Agency (NIA).
- **Bihar** government is considering giving tablets to youths who would get training under the Skill Development Programme.
- The Indian government is considering a proposal to introduce its own cryptocurrency **Lakshmi** similar to Bitcoin.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi has inaugurated the Sardar Sarovar Dam on river **Narmada**.
- **BSNL** is going to launch a co-branded feature phone at a price of about Rs. 2,000 in October.
- **Assam** has passed a bill seeking to deduct a fraction of the salary of state government employees for the benefit of their parents or differently abled siblings, in case they do not want to support them.
- **Airtel Payments Bank** has become the first payments bank in India to integrate the UPI on its digital platform.
- India and **Japan** have signed an agreement under which their airlines can operate an unlimited number of flights between the two countries.
- The world's largest museum dedicated to street art is set to open in **Berlin**.
- **Google** officially unveiled its first big foray into mobile payments in Asia.

- **P V Sindhu** won the Korea Open Super series Badminton title 2017.
- **Lewis Hamilton** won the Singapore Grand Prix 2017.
- Ana Carrasco became the first woman to win an individual World Championship motorbike race, she belongs to **Spain**.
- **S S Rajamouli** has been awarded with the prestigious ANR National Award for his contribution to the Telugu film industry.
- Mercedes Araoz is the new Prime Minister of **Peru**.
- **Punit Goenka** has been re-appointed as the president of the Indian Broadcasting Foundation (IBF) for a second consecutive term.
- **Rajni Kant Mishra** will be the new chief of the Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB).
- Jammu and Kashmir governor **N N Vohra** has inaugurated the second International Yoga Festival and International Yoga Sports Championship 2017.
- **Tripura** was became the first state in the country to set up family welfare district committees.
- Home Minister Rajnath Singh has operationalised the intelligence wing of Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB) to penetrate deep into the matters along India's vulnerable free border with **Nepal and Bhutan**.
- **Chhattisgarh** launched the 'Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay Shram Anna Sahayata Yojna' under which nutritious meal will be provided to labourers at a humble price of Rupees five.
- Ola and the **Karnataka** State Tourism Development Corporation kicked off a campaign to promote responsible tourism, titled #GhoomoResponsibly.
- **Karnataka Vikas Grameena Bank** is planning to convert 100 villages under its jurisdiction as 'digital villages' for banking activities by the end of the current financial year.
- Purnima Hembram won **Gold** in the pentathlon event of the 5th Asian Indoor and Martial Arts Games in Ashgabat, Turkmenistan.
- **Zannah Mustapha** has won the UN High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) 2017 Nansen Refugees Award.
- Uttarakhand Chief Minister Trivendra Singh Rawat announced the appointment of actor **Akshay Kumar** as the brand ambassador of the Swachh Bharat Mission in the state.
- Ajay Bisaria has been appointed as New High Commissioner to **Pakistan**.
- **Three** Indian entrepreneurial have been included in Forbes's special list of the world's '100 Greatest Living Business Minds'.
- **Jharkhand** launched the 'Shaheed Gram Vikas Yojana' to develop villages of freedom fighters.
- **Bihar** has launched a mobile application to fight the rampant social evil of child marriage in the state.
- The Union Cabinet has approved the revamped Khelo India programme at a cost of Rs. **1756** crore for the period 2017-18 to 2019-20.
- The National Conference on Agriculture for Rabi Campaign - 2017-18 was organized on 19<sup>th</sup> - 20<sup>th</sup> September, 2017 in **New Delhi**.
- The Cabinet approved the merger and modernisation of 17 Government of India Presses (GIPs) into **Five** GIPs.
- India ranks **128** in terms of meeting the UN's health related Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030.

- The First BIMSTEC Disaster Management Exercise- 2017 (BIMSTEC DMEEx-2017) will be conducted by the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) in **New Delhi**.
- 13th Inter-Governmental Commission Meeting held in **Kazakhstan**.
- **Japan** postal department has released postage stamps on four of Bengal's famous yoga practitioners.
- **Russia and China** have begun major military drills less than 100 miles from the North Korean border.
- **Rajat Sharma** has been elected as president of News Broadcasters Association.
- **B Sambamurthy** has been appointed as interim Chairman of National Payments Corporation of India.
- Raquel Dodge, a female took over Attorney General (prosecutor-general's) post in **Brazil**.
- Tata Steel has in association with The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI) launched an initiative to create awareness about environment issues in school campuses in **Odisha**.
- The World Health Organization (WHO) has released its first tranche of emergency funding of \$175,000 to provide life-saving healthcare to the "vulnerable population" in **Bangladesh**.
- A new project of the Department of Biotechnology aims at starting a 'lab on boat' on **Bramhaputra River** for biological analysis of the river system.
- The Union Cabinet has extended the time period for Udaan – the Special Industry Initiative (SII) for Jammu and Kashmir till **31 December 2018**.
- Fino Payments Bank has launched its mobile banking app called **BPay**.
- **Fifty** countries have signed a treaty to ban nuclear weapons.
- **Google** buys pixel phone division from HTC in \$1.1 billion deal.
- International Day of Peace was observed on **September 21**.
- **China** has launched the world's fastest bullet train.
- Shakila who passed away recently was an **Actress**.
- **Balraj Joshi** has been appointed as the chairman-cum-managing director (CMD) of NHPC Ltd.
- **Andra Pradesh** has released 'People First' mobile application for grievance redressal.
- Dabur India has tied up with e-commerce company **Amazon** for an online ayurveda marketplace which will house all ayurvedic brands and products of the country.
- Union Textiles Minister Smriti Irani inaugurated the 6th edition of the four-day international textile and apparel fair, 'VASTRA' in **Jaipur**.
- Multilateral funding agency ADB has sanctioned a USD 300 million loan facility for carrying forward fiscal reforms in **West Bengal**.
- State Bank of India (SBI) has launched the FTSE SBI Bond Index series in partnership with global index provider FTSE 100 in **London**.
- **State Bank of India** is India's most trusted and most popular bank according to a survey conducted by Brand Finance.
- The first of the Scorpene class submarines, **INS Kalvari** was delivered to the Indian Navy by Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited (MDL).
- India gets its first high horse power locomotive from **France**.
- India and Russia to build the Rooppur nuclear power plant in **Bangladesh**.
- The official emblem and slogan for FIFA Women's World Cup France 2019 were unveiled; the slogan of the tournament is **Dare To Shine**.
- The world's richest woman Liliane Bettencourt passed away recently, she was from **France**.

- Swayam Shikshan Prayog NGO has been awarded the United Nations Development Programme's Equator Prize for sustainable farming model, The NGO located in **Pune**.
- **C.N.R Rao** has become the first Asian to be chosen for the prestigious Von Hippel Award for his immense contribution in materials research.
- The government will extend the term of Chief Economic Adviser **Arvind Subramanian** by one year till October 2018.
- Union Minister for Petroleum and Natural Gas Dharmendra Pradhan to host first LPG Panchayat in **Gujarat**.
- Vanlalawmpuii Chawngthu became the first woman minister in **Mizoram** in 30 years.
- **Andra Pradesh** has declared the year of 2017 as e-pragati year.
- **Himachal Pradesh** will be the first state to introduce 25 electric buses on the Manali-Rohtang pass (13,050 feet) route.
- **Delhi** government is planning to introduce open-roof electric buses for city tours in the coming months.
- Union Minister for Minority Affairs Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi inaugurates "Hunar Haat" in **Puducherry**.
- The central government extended its housing scheme subsidy on home loans for the Middle Income Group (MIG) up to **March 2019**.
- Union Minister Harshvardhan has launched "Pt Deen Dayal Upadhyay Vigyan Gram Sankul Pariyojana" in **Uttarakhand**.
- **China** has banned the export of liquefied natural gas and gas condensates to North Korea.
- **India** to host the World Congress on Adolescent Health.
- **Hui Ka Yan** has become Asia's richest man.
- **Mary Kom** has become the first Indian to be picked as the International Boxing Association's (AIBA) representative for the IOC Athletes' Forum.
- **Mudit Dani** won the Table Tennis Butterfly Badger Open in Milwaukee, in Wisconsin (United States).
- The boxing champion Jake LaMotta who passed away recently, he was from **France**.
- **Shashi Shanker** was appointed as the chairman and managing director (CMD) of India's biggest oil and gas producer ONGC.
- A multi-agency exercise was conducted on the banks of Hussain Sagar Lake as the final event of 'Pralay Sahayam' in **Hyderabad**.
- Minister for Social Justice and Empowerment **Thawar Chand Gehlot** launched the Beta version of 'Divyang Sarathi'.
- President Ram Nath Kovind will make his first foreign trip as head of state to the **Africa** in the first week of October.
- **Karnataka** has launched 'Vision-2025' project aimed at evolving a draft policy for development of the state in next seven years by seeking the opinion of the public.
- The Prime Minister Narendra Modi has launched a new scheme Pradhan Mantri Sahaj Bijli Har Ghar Yojana – "Saubhagya" to ensure **Electrification of all willing households in the country**.
- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) announced that **Masala bonds** will be treated as External Commercial Borrowings (ECB) from 3rd October 2017.
- **Two** Indians have made it to the rankings of most powerful women in business outside the United States drawn up by the Fortune Magazine.
- State Bank of India launched an AI-powered chat assistant named **SBI Intelligent Assistant** to address customer enquiries.

- **Rajiv Mehrishi** took charge as the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) of India.
- Asian Development Bank has downgraded India's growth projection to **7.0%** in financial year 2017-18.
- **Saudi Arabia** allowed women to drive cars recently.
- **K Syama Raju** was re-elected as the President for South India Hotels and Restaurants Association (SIHRA).
- **Maharashtra** and **Gujarat** are the top States in manufacturing emergence in India, according to a recent study conducted by the apex industry body Assocham.
- **Apple** has been named the most valuable brand for the fifth consecutive year by Interbrand in its Best Global Brands Report 2017.
- Union Minister Ram Vilas Paswan launched the Web Portal of Warehousing Development and Regulatory Authority (WDRA) & "Electronic Negotiable Warehouse Receipt (e-NWR) System" in **New Delhi**.
- **Airtel Payments Bank** launched UPI on its digital platform, enabling customers to instantly transfer money to and from any bank a/c without paying any transaction fee.
- "PENCIL": an electronic platform for effective enforcement for no child labor developed by **Ministry of Labor and Employment** is going to be launched by Home Minister Rajnath Singh in the National Conference on Child Labor.
- The Vice President, M Venkaiah Naidu has inaugurated the "Swachhta Hi Seva" and "Shouchalayakkagi Samara" (A Crusade for Toilets) Programme in **Karnataka**.
- State Bank of India has reduced the minimum Monthly Average Balance (MAB) on savings accounts for metros from Rs. 5,000 to Rs. **3000**, effective from October 1.
- The Ministry of Shipping has issued a notification renaming Kandla Port Trust as Deendayal Port Trust, Kandla Port Trust located in **Gujarat**.
- Union Sports Minister Rajyavardhan Singh Rathore inaugurated a national workshop - "Sports for All" in **New Delhi**.
- Joao Lourenco has been sworn in as president of **Angola**.
- The government has decided to increase the retirement age of central government doctors to **65** years from the current 60 years.
- **Dubai** has started testing world's first two-seater self-flying taxi called Autonomous Air Taxi (AAT) for transportation.
- Indian star **Priyanka Chopra** has made it to Forbes' annual top-10 highest-paid TV actresses list
- **Karnataka** will launch 'Mathru Purna' scheme on October 2 to meet the nutritional needs of pregnant and lactating women in rural areas.
- **Jammu and Kashmir** has launched a scheme for disabled soldiers and their dependents by providing credit on concessional rate of interest to set up self-employment ventures.
- **Maharashtra** has signed a MoU with South Korea for increased co-operation in infrastructure projects like development of smart cities, roads, airports and metros.
- The Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS) has approved Rs. **25000** crore for police modernization for three fiscal years till 2019-20.
- **Chhatrapati Shivaji International Airport** has bagged the 'best airport security' award from the World Quality Congress (WQC).
- INS Tarasa, a Water Jet Fast Attack Craft was commissioned into the Indian Navy in **Mumbai**.
- **IDBI Bank** has launched 'Project Nishchay' in partnership with the Boston Consulting Group (BCG) to accelerate its turnaround program and improve financial performance.

- India ranked **40** in the global competitiveness ranking of 137 countries by the World Economic Forum (WEF).
- The Minister of Communication Shri Manoj Sinha launched DoT's first ever Mobile, Internet and Technology event in India – India Mobile Congress 2017 in **New Delhi**.
- "Incredible India!" campaign has been organized by the Embassy of India in **Egypt**.
- **Mithali Raj** has been described as one of the most influential women in India in BBC's 100 Women list.
- **Karnataka** Cabinet has cleared the much-awaited anti-superstition bill to prevent and eradicate "inhuman evil practices".
- The country's first cow sanctuary, set up by the government, was inaugurated in **Madya Pradesh**.
- The 3<sup>rd</sup> edition of India International Science Festival (IISF) 2017 will be held in **Chennai** during 13-16 October, 2017.
- **Syndicate Bank** has cut savings account interest rate by 0.50 percent to 3.50 percent for deposits up to Rs. 25 lakh.
- **Haryana** government has decided to use drones to monitor illegal construction in urban areas and their peripheries.
- **Karnataka** has banned the sale of loose cigarettes, beedis and chewing tobacco products in order to restrict smoking in public spaces.
- Indian Army celebrated 190<sup>th</sup> 'Gunners' Day on **September 28**.
- **Himachal Pradesh** increased paid maternity leaves for women employees from 135 days to 180 days.
- Interpol announced it had admitted **Palestine and Solomon Islands** as member states.
- The Asian Development Bank will increase its annual lending to India to a maximum of \$ **4 billion** between 2018 and 2022.
- **ICICI Bank** has launched a new home loan which offers borrowers the benefit of one per cent cash back on every EMI for the entire tenure of the loan.
- The Government of India has signed a Letter of Intent with **Norway** to extend the cooperation within health sector.
- **Russia and USA** have agreed to cooperate on a Nasa-led programme to build the first lunar space station.
- FIFA has launched the official ball for Under-17 football World Cup and it will be called **Krasava**.
- India will be hosting the South Asian boxing Championship for the first time in **Guwahati** from December 6 to 10.
- NITI Aayog will host Global Entrepreneurship Summit (GES 2017) in **Hyderabad**.
- The 14<sup>th</sup> India-EU Summit -2017 will be hosted in **New Delhi**.
- **Relief 123** will be launched by BSNL in partnership with Vihaan Networks Limited (VNL) to provide disaster management in India.
- **IDBI Bank** has launched 'Project Nishchay' to improve financial performance.
- **Royana Singh** has become the first woman chief proctor of Banaras Hindu University (BHU).
- Makhan Lal Fotedar, who passed away recently, was the political leader of **Indian National Congress**.
- **Gujarat** will be the first big state after Goa to use EVMs with VVPAT.

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## **CURRENT AFFAIRS: SEPTEMBER-2017**

### **MODEL QUESTIONS**

#### **List of Important Days**

1. What is the theme of the 2017 International Day of Democracy?  
(1) Democracy and conflict prevention  
(2) Fight for democracy  
(3) Democracy for Universal Peace  
(4) Space for Civil Society  
(5) None of these
2. The 2017 National Engineers Day (NED) is celebrated on which day in India?  
(1) September 15  
(2) September 16  
(3) September 14  
(4) September 13  
(5) None of these
3. What is the theme of 2017 International Day of Peace?  
(1) Together for Peace: Respect, Safety and Dignity for All  
(2) Together for Peace  
(3) Together for Peace: Dignity for All  
(4) Together initiate World Peace  
(5) None of these

#### **Other Banks**

4. NTPC has signed a Rs. 3,000-crore term loan agreement with which bank for partially funding its capital expenditure?  
(1) State Bank of India  
(2) Punjab National Bank  
(3) ICICI Bank  
(4) HDFC Bank  
(5) None of these
5. The Punjab National Bank (PNB) has signed an agreement with which telecom company to roll out open mobile wallet Speedpay?  
(1) Vodafone India  
(2) BSNL  
(3) Reliance Jio  
(4) Idea Cellular  
(5) None of these

#### **Central Government**

6. The Union government will organize North East Calling event in which city to promote tourism of North East India?  
(1) Guwahati  
(2) Shillong  
(3) Agartala  
(4) New Delhi  
(5) None of these

#### **States**

7. Which state government has launched an online Public Grievance Redressal System (PGRS)?  
(1) Assam  
(2) Punjab  
(3) Haryana  
(4) Goa  
(5) None of these
8. Which state government has launched Gyankunj e-class project?  
(1) Tamil Nadu  
(2) Punjab  
(3) Gujarat  
(4) Karnataka  
(5) None of these
9. Which state government has recently set DBT cell for implementation of Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) scheme?  
(1) Uttar Pradesh  
(2) Assam  
(3) Arunachal Pradesh  
(4) Maharashtra  
(5) None of these
10. Which state government has signed MoU with Amul to save the children of anganwadi from malnutrition?  
(1) Gujarat  
(2) Assam  
(3) Madhya Pradesh  
(4) Uttar Pradesh  
(5) None of these

11. Which state government has launched Shaheed Gram Vikas Yojana to provide houses to freedom fighters?  
 (1) Maharashtra (2) Uttar Pradesh (3) Rajasthan  
 (4) Jharkhand (5) None of these
12. India's first Centre for Animal Law has opened in which city?  
 (1) Kanpur (2) New Delhi (3) Hyderabad (4) Chennai (5) None of these
13. India's first Lithium-Ion battery unit will set up in which state?  
 (1) Odisha (2) Uttar Pradesh (3) Karnataka (4) Gujarat (5) None of these
14. Which state government has launched a mobile app 'People First' for citizens?  
 (1) Uttar Pradesh (2) Assam (3) Andhra Pradesh  
 (4) Odisha (5) None of these

### Place in the News

15. Which country to host 2019 Commonwealth Weightlifting Championships?  
 (1) India (2) Australia (3) Brazil (4) Sri Lanka (5) None of these
16. Where is the headquarters of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR)?  
 (1) New Delhi (2) Bareilly (3) Mumbai (4) Karnal (5) None of these
17. Which state is hosting the 2017 Border Security Force (BSF) sports?  
 (1) Rajasthan (2) Karnataka (3) Gujarat (4) Jammu and Kashmir (5) None of these

### Defence and National Security

18. The biennial joint maritime fleet exercise "SLINEX 2017" will be conducted between India and which country?  
 (1) Maldives (2) Bhutan (3) Singapore (4) Sri Lanka (5) None of these
19. The joint bilateral air force exercise "Shaheen VI" has started between Pakistan and which country?  
 (1) UAE (2) China (3) Israel (4) Saudi Arabia (5) None of these
20. The joint military training exercise "Panda-Kangaroo 2017" was held between Australia and which country?  
 (1) South Korea (2) China (3) Thailand (4) Singapore (5) None of these
21. The 13<sup>th</sup> edition of Indo-USA joint military training exercise "Yudh Abhyas-2017" has started in which of the following cities?  
 (1) Kochi (2) Washington (3) New York (4) Chennai (5) None of these
22. The Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) exercise 'Pralay Sahayam' was held in which state?  
 (1) Kerala (2) Tamil Nadu (3) Telangana (4) Andhra Pradesh (5) None of these

### Committees/Commissions

23. Which expert committee has constituted by the Union Government to identify key data protection issues in India?  
 (1) BN Srikrishna (2) R S Rawat (3) Tushar Mehta  
 (4) H R Khan (5) None of these

24. Which expert committee has constituted by the NITI Aayog to provide a major thrust to job creation by enhancing India's exports?  
 (1) Raghav Yadav (2) Milind Kumar (3) S K Jain  
 (4) Rajiv Kumar (5) None of these
25. Which committee has been constituted by the Union Finance Ministry to monitor tech issues of GST?  
 (1) T M Thomas Isaac committee  
 (2) Krishna Byre Gowda committee  
 (3) Etela Rajender committee  
 (4) Sushil Modi committee  
 (5) None of these
26. Which high level committee has recommended that NRIs who harass or desert their wives could face cancellation of passport?  
 (1) Radha Mohan Singh committee  
 (2) Arvind Kumar Goel committee  
 (3) S K Subbulakshmi committee  
 (4) Verendra Sena committee  
 (5) None of these
27. Which GST committee on exports has been constituted by the Union Finance Ministry?  
 (1) Rita Teatota committee  
 (2) Etela Rajender committee  
 (3) Hasmukh Adhia committee  
 (4) Sushil Modi committee  
 (5) None of these
28. Which state has become the India's first state to set up family welfare committees?  
 (1) Maharashtra (2) Rajasthan (3) West Bengal  
 (4) Tripura (5) None of these

### Schemes/Initiatives

29. The Union Environment Ministry has launched which Environment Quiz on National Teachers' Day?  
 (1) Prakriti Khoj (2) Paryavaran Prerak (3) Green March  
 (4) Prakriti Paryavaran (5) None of these
30. NITI Aayog has launched the National Nutrition Strategy from which city?  
 (1) New Delhi (2) Lucknow (3) Bhopal (4) Jaipur (5) None of these
31. Which union minister has launched online registration portal for 2017 BSF Half Marathon in New Delhi?  
 (1) Kiren Rijju (2) Narendra Modi (3) Nirmala Sitharaman  
 (4) Ravi Shankar Prasad (5) None of these
32. Which online facility has been launched by the Union government to resolve foreign trade issues?  
 (1) Contact@IDFT (2) Contact@DGTI (3) Contact@DGFT  
 (4) Contact@FTID (5) None of these
33. Which union minister has launched North East Festival 'North-East Calling' in New Delhi?  
 (1) Smriti Irani (2) Ravi Shankar Prasad (3) Uma Bharati  
 (4) Jitendra Singh (5) None of these

34. Which union minister has launched the nation-wide hackathon #OpenGovDataHack?  
 (1) D V Sadananda Gowda (2) Ravi Shankar Prasad (3) Prakash Javadekar  
 (4) Nirmala Sitharaman (5) None of these
35. Which union minister will inaugurate the 2017 National Conference on “Uniformed Women in Prison Administration”?  
 (1) Nirmala Sitharaman (2) Prakash Javadekar (3) Kiren Rijju  
 (4) Maneka Gandhi (5) None of these
36. President Ram Nath Kovind has launched a nationwide campaign ‘Swacchata Hi Seva’ from which city?  
 (1) Kanpur (2) New Delhi (3) Gandhinagar (4) Guwahati (5) None of these
37. Which union minister has launched Google’s UPI-based digital payment service ‘Tez’?  
 (1) Prakash Javadekar (2) Piyush Goyal (3) Arun Jaitley  
 (4) Smriti Irani (5) None of these
38. Which union minister will inaugurate the first ‘Pension Adalat’ in New Delhi?  
 (1) Narendra Modi (2) D. V. Sadananda Gowda (3) Jitendra Singh  
 (4) Narendra Singh Tomar (5) None of these
39. Which union minister has launched multi-media exhibition “Naya Bharat-Hum Karke Rahenge”?  
 (1) Alphons Kannanthanam (2) Ravi Shankar Prasad (3) J P Nadda  
 (4) Nitin Gadkari (5) None of these
40. Which union minister has launched an accessible and comprehensive mobile App “Divyang Sarathi” for Divyangs?  
 (1) Narendra Modi (2) Thaawarchand Gehlot (3) Rajnath Singh  
 (4) Narendra Singh Tomar (5) None of these

#### Summit/Conference

41. Which city is hosting the annual conference Rajaswa Gyan Sangam (RGS – 2017)?  
 (1) Jaipur (2) Kochi (3) New Delhi (4) Pune (5) None of these
42. Which country is hosting the 2017 International Hindu Conference (IHC)?  
 (1) Nepal (2) India (3) Sri Lanka (4) Bhutan (5) None of these
43. Which city is hosting the 9<sup>th</sup> edition of BRICS summit-2017?  
 (1) Tianjin (2) Xiamen (3) Chongqing (4) Beijing (5) None of these
44. Which country is hosting the Eastern Economic Forum (EEF-2017)?  
 (1) India (2) United States (3) Russia (4) France (5) None of these
45. Which country to host the Across Barriers-International Business Women’s Summit (ABIBWS)?  
 (1) Bhutan (2) India (3) Sri Lanka (4) Nepal (5) None of these
46. Which city hosted the Indo-Sri Lanka Hindi conference?  
 (1) Colombo (2) New Delhi (3) Jaffna (4) Ahmedabad (5) None of these
47. Which state is hosting the 5th edition of “Kaju India 2017- The Global Cashew Summit”?  
 (1) Maharashtra (2) Karnataka (3) Andhra Pradesh  
 (4) Goa (5) None of these

48. Which city hosted the first-ever National Conference on “Mission Mode to address Under-Nutrition”?  
 (1) Kolkata (2) Jaipur (3) New Delhi (4) Guwahati (5) None of these
49. Which city hosted the National conference on Agriculture for Rabi campaign 2017?  
 (1) New Delhi (2) Lucknow (3) Jaipur (4) Bhopal (5) None of these

### Agreement/Deal/Signed

50. Myanmar will sign pact with which country for the conservation of earthquake-damaged pagodas at Bagan?  
 (1) Russia (2) India (3) South Africa (4) China (5) None of these
51. The National Agri-food Biotechnology Institute (NABI) has signed MoU with Bonn food industries to promote colored wheat. The NABI is an autonomous body of which union ministry?  
 (1) Ministry of Food Processing Industries  
 (2) Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology  
 (3) Ministry of Science and Technology  
 (4) Ministry of Information and Broadcasting  
 (5) None of these
52. Which country has signed MoU with Sri Lanka to upgrade Thondaman Vocational Training Centre?  
 (1) South Korea (2) India (3) China (4) Japan (5) None of these

### Meet/Visit

53. Which country hosted the 7th ASEM Economic Ministers’ Meeting (ASEM EMM7)?  
 (1) Japan (2) South Korea (3) China (4) Netherlands (5) None of these

### 20. Fund

54. India signed how much amount of loan deal with Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) to upgrade Alang-Sosiya Shipyards?  
 (1) \$111 million (2) \$76 million (3) \$99 million (4) \$126 million (5) None of these
55. Which international organization has granted \$175,000 for healthcare of Rohingya refugees in Cox’s Bazar of Bangladesh?  
 (1) FAO (2) UNICEF (3) WHO (4) UNISDR (5) None of these
56. The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has sanctioned how much amount of loan facility to carry forward fiscal reforms in West Bengal?  
 (1) \$400 million (2) \$300 million (3) \$250 million (4) \$500 million (5) None of these
57. The Union government has set up special fund ‘DPIDF’ to boost dairy sector. What does “DPIDF” stands for?  
 (1) Dairy Processing and Infra Development Fund  
 (2) Dairy Processing and Internal Development Fund  
 (3) Dairy Processing and Infrastructure Development Fund  
 (4) Dairy Processing and Internet Development Fund  
 (5) None of these

### Economy

58. The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has downgraded India’s GDP growth forecast for FY18 from 7.4% to \_\_\_\_?  
 (1) 6.9% (2) 7.2% (3) 7.1% (4) 7% (5) None of these

### Companies/Industry

59. Which company has won the coveted Indian Premier League (IPL) media rights for 2018-23?  
(1) Sony (2) Star India (3) Vivo (4) Adidas (5) None of these
60. Airtel launched 'Office-in-a-Box' connectivity solutions for which state start-ups?  
(1) Karnataka (2) Tamil Nadu (3) Andhra Pradesh  
(4) Maharashtra (5) None of these

### Science and Technology

61. Which Indian organization has developed an artificial leaf to create fuel from sunlight?  
(1) Defence Research and Development Organization (DRDO)  
(2) Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) Pune  
(3) IIT Kharagpur  
(4) Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO)  
(5) None of these
62. The researchers of which institute have developed a low-cost method for treating Osteoarthritis (OA)?  
(1) IIT Roorkee (2) IIT Bombay (3) IIT Madras  
(4) IIT Delhi (5) None of these

### Environment

63. Parali Island, which has vanished due to coastal erosion, was part of which state/UT?  
(1) Gujarat (2) Andaman & Nicobar Islands (3) Lakshadweep  
(4) West Bengal (5) None of these

### Education

64. Which Indian university has been named the top university in India, according to 2018 Times Higher Education (THE) World University Rankings?  
(1) IIT-Kharagpur (2) IIT-Kanpur (3) IISc-Bangalore  
(4) IIT-Bombay (5) None of these

### Transport/Cars/Scooters

65. Which of the following has become the world's first airline to launch double beds in business class?  
(1) Emirates (2) Qatar Airways (3) Singapore Airlines  
(4) Cathay Pacific (5) None of these

### Films and Film Festival

66. Which Indian film has been chosen as India's official entry in the Best Foreign Language Film category at Oscars 2018?  
(1) Shubh Mangal Savdhan (2) Bhoomi (3) Toilet: Ek Prem Katha  
(4) Newton (5) None of these

### Festival

67. The traditional Bonderam festival has started in which state?  
(1) Goa (2) Karnataka (3) Kerala (4) Mizoram (5) None of these
68. Which city is hosting the first-ever National Ayurveda Youth Festival (NAYF)?  
(1) Kanpur (2) Bhopal (3) New Delhi (4) Jaipur (5) None of these
69. The 2017 Bathukamma festival has started in which state?  
(1) Kerala (2) Telangana (3) Karnataka (4) Maharashtra (5) None of these

### Appointments/Election (or) Latest who is who?

70. Who has been appointed as the new Secretary in the Department of Financial Services (DFS)?  
(1) Ali Raza Rizvi (2) Rajiv Kumar (3) Rajesh Chaturvedi  
(4) N Bajendra Kumar (5) None of these
71. Who has been appointed as the new Union Minister of Railways?  
(1) Piyush Goyal (2) Nirmala Sitharaman (3) Dharmendra Pradhan  
(4) Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi (5) None of these
72. Who has been appointed as new Union Minister of State (IC) in Ministries of Power & New Renewable Energy?  
(1) Raj Kumar Singh (2) Hardeep Singh Puri (3) Shripad Yesso Naik  
(4) Santosh Kumar Gangwar (5) None of these
73. Who is the newly appointed Chairperson of National Authority Chemical Weapons Convention (NACWC)?  
(1) P S Chaku (2) Inder Jit Singh (3) Abdul Rashid  
(4) Dharmendra Singh (5) None of these
74. Who is the newly appointed CMD of the National Mineral Development Corporation (NMDC)?  
(1) Pramod Kumar (2) Arup Roy (3) N Bajendra Kumar  
(4) Nikhil Srivastav (5) None of these
75. Who has been appointed as the new Prime Minister of Peru?  
(1) Mercedes Araoz (2) Fernando Zavala Lombardi (3) Pedro Cateriano  
(4) Ana Jara (5) None of these
76. Who has been appointed as high performance specialist coach for Indian Senior Women Hockey Team (ISWHT)?  
(1) Gurpreet Singh (2) Harendra Singh (3) Kuldeep Das  
(4) S P Kumar (5) None of these
77. Who is the president of the All India Muslim Personal Law Board (AIMPLB)?  
(1) Qari Muhammad Tayyib  
(2) Arif Mohammad Khan  
(3) Syed Mohammad Rabe Hasani  
(4) Kalbe Sadiq  
(5) None of these
78. Who has been appointed as the new President of All India Mahila Congress?  
(1) Shobha Oza (2) Sushmita Dev (3) Rajkumari Ghosh  
(4) Mrinali Gupta (5) None of these
79. Who has been declared as the new President of Singapore?  
(1) Halimah Yacob (2) Farid Khan Kaim Khan (3) Shirwin Eu  
(4) Mohamed Salleh Marican (5) None of these
80. Who has been appointed as the first special envoy for the oceans by the United Nations?  
(1) Peter Thomson (2) Ban Ki-moon (3) Kofi Annan  
(4) Filippo Grandi (5) None of these
81. Who has been appointed as the working president of Uttar Pradesh Hindi Sansthan?  
(1) Sadanand Gupta (2) Nirmal Desai (3) Ankit Arora  
(4) Himmat Singh (5) None of these

82. Who has been appointed as new President of Advertising Club?  
 (1) Mitrajit Bhattacharya (2) Ajay Kakkar (3) Raj Nayak  
 (4) Vikram Sakhuja (5) None of these
83. Who has been appointed as the new CMD of Cotton Corporation of India (CCI)?  
 (1) Nikhil Kumar Jain (2) P Alli Rani (3) Satish Chandra Misra  
 (4) Aditya Prasad Padhi (5) None of these
84. Who is the newly appointed CMD of Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC)?  
 (1) Shashi Shanker (2) Nirmala Kaur (3) K S Rajput  
 (4) Dinesh Sarraf (5) None of these

### Deaths

85. Shirish Pai, who passed away recently, was the noted poet of which language?  
 (1) Tamil (2) Telugu (3) Marathi (4) Odia (5) None of these
86. Jomde Kena, who passed away recently, was the Health and Family Welfare Minister of which state?  
 (1) Nagaland (2) Tripura (3) Arunachal Pradesh  
 (4) Assam (5) None of these
87. Gauri Lankesh, the noted journalist was shot dead. She hailed from which state?  
 (1) Kerala (2) Karnataka (3) Andhra Pradesh  
 (4) Telangana (5) None of these
88. Rattihalli Nagendra Sudarshan, who passed away recently, was the noted personality of which field?  
 (1) Politics (2) Film Industry (3) Law (4) Science (5) None of these
89. Harry Dean Stanton, the veteran actor passed away. He hailed from which country?  
 (1) United States (2) Russia (3) France  
 (4) Germany (5) None of these
90. Dr K S Chugh, the father of nephrology in India has passed away. He hailed from which state?  
 (1) Mizoram (2) Assam (3) Punjab (4) Kerala (5) None of these
91. Lillian Ross, the noted journalist has passed away. She hails from which country?  
 (1) China (2) United States (3) Germany (4) France (5) None of these
92. Mahant Chand Nath, who passed away recently, was the Member of Parliament (MP) from which Lok Sabha constituency of Rajasthan?  
 (1) Bharatpur (2) Alwar (3) Jaipur (4) Churu (5) None of these
93. Abdul Majid, the famous actor, Director and writer passed away. He hailed from which state?  
 (1) Assam (2) Manipur (3) Mizoram (4) Nagaland (5) None of these
94. IAF Marshal Arjan Singh has passed away recently. He led the Indian Air Force (IAF) in which India-Pakistan War?  
 (1) 1965 (2) 1971 (3) 1999 (4) 1947 (5) None of these
95. Arun Sadhu, who passed away recently, was the renowned writer of which language?  
 (1) Telugu (2) Tamil (3) Marathi (4) Odia (5) None of these

### Awards/Honours

96. Which of the following airports has bagged the National Award for 'Excellence' in Energy Management?  
(1) Chennai International Airport  
(2) Rajiv Gandhi International Airport  
(3) Chaudhary Charan Singh International Airport  
(4) Vijayawada International Airport  
(5) None of these
97. Which Indian personality has been conferred the PLS Alliance Prize for Global Leadership?  
(1) N R Narayana Murthy (2) Narendra Modi (3) Mukesh Ambani  
(4) Sumitra Mahajan (5) None of these
98. Who has won the prestigious Prof N R Madhava Menon Best Law Teacher Award?  
(1) Tahir Mahmood (2) A.V Rohatgi (3) Madav Menon  
(4) V C Vivekanandan (5) None of these
99. Which of the following has won the 2017 Container Terminal of the Year Award?  
(1) Jawaharlal Nehru Port (2) Visakhapatnam Port (3) Haldia Port  
(4) Kolkata port (5) None of these
100. Who has won the best actor in drama series at the 69<sup>th</sup> Prime time Emmy Awards-2017?  
(1) Anthony Hopkins (2) Sterling K Brown (3) Liev Schreiber  
(4) Bob Odenkirk (5) None of these
101. Which Indian personality has been chosen for the 2017 Von Hippel Award?  
(1) C.N.R. Rao (2) Anil Kakodkar (3) M. S. Swaminathan  
(4) G. Madhavan Nair (5) None of these

### Sports/Game

102. Which Indian sportsperson has won gold in the girls' Under-12 category at the World Cadets Chess Championship?  
(1) Natasha Krishna (2) Rakshitta Ravi (3) Divya Deshmukh  
(4) Meenali Ilamparthi (5) None of these
103. Which Indian sportsperson has won silver in senior men's double trap at 2017 ISSF World Shotgun Championship?  
(1) Mohammad Asad (2) Sangram Dahiya (3) Ankur Mittal  
(4) Ahvar Rizvi (5) None of these
104. Which Indian state is hosting the 2017 BWF World Senior Badminton Championships?  
(1) Kerala (2) Tamil Nadu (3) Andhra Pradesh  
(4) Karnataka (5) None of these
105. P.S. Kayal has won gold in the 8th Modern Pentathlon National Championship - 2017. She hails from which state/UT?  
(1) Kerala (2) Puducherry (3) Lakshadweep (4) Tamil Nadu (5) None of these
106. Who has won the 8th MCC - S R Subramaniam Memorial ITF Futures Men's singles tennis championship?  
(1) Sriram Balaji (2) Sumit Nagal (3) Ronak Manuja  
(4) Vijayant Malik (5) None of these

107. Which of the following teams has won the 2017 Kalpathi AGS – Buchi Babu All-India Invitation cricket tournament?  
 (1) Guwahati (2) Chennai (3) Kochi (4) Hyderabad (5) None of these
108. Purnima Hembram has won gold at the 5<sup>th</sup> Asian Indoor and Martial Arts Games. She hails from which Indian state?  
 (1) Kerala (2) Odisha (3) Karnataka (4) Tamil Nadu (5) None of these
109. Which of the following cricket teams are not directly qualified for the ICC Cricket World Cup 2019?  
 (1) West Indies (2) New Zealand (3) South Africa  
 (4) Sri Lanka (5) None of these
110. Ajay Kumar Saroj, who won gold at the 2017 Asian Indoor and Martial Arts Games, is associated with which category?  
 (1) Boxing (2) Race (3) Wrestling (4) Swimming (5) None of these
111. Who has won the 2017 Formula One Singapore Grand Prix tournament?  
 (1) Daniel Ricciardo (2) Valtteri Bottas (3) Sergio Perez  
 (4) Lewis Hamilton (5) None of these
112. Sumit Nagal, who bagged gold at the Asian Indoor and Martial Arts Games, is associated with which sports?  
 (1) Wrestling (2) Chess (3) Tennis (4) Boxing (5) None of these
- Report**
113. Who has become the first Indian to be signed by Australian Basket Team?  
 (1) Yadwinder Singh (2) Amritpal Singh (3) Amjyot Singh  
 (4) Vishvas Bhriguvanshi (5) None of these
114. What is the India's rank in the 2017 Global Human Capital Index (GHCI)?  
 (1) 105<sup>th</sup> (2) 103<sup>rd</sup> (3) 118<sup>th</sup> (4) 121<sup>st</sup> (5) None of these
115. Which state is hosting the 57<sup>th</sup> National Open Athletics Championships 2017?  
 (1) Uttar Pradesh (2) Tamil Nadu (3) Madhya Pradesh  
 (4) Odisha (5) None of these

**General - National**

116. Under which union ministry the National Handicapped Finance and Development Corporation (NHFDC) work?  
 (1) Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment  
 (2) Ministry of Finance  
 (3) Ministry of Home Affairs  
 (4) Ministry of Women and Child Development  
 (5) None of these

**General - International**

117. The Shiretoko National Park (SNP) is located in which country?  
 (1) China (2) South Korea (3) North Korea (4) Japan (5) None of these

## Books and Authors

118. Who is the author of the book "How India Sees the World: Kautilya to the 21st Century"?
- (1) Shiv Shankar Menon (2) Shyam Saran (3) J.J.Singh  
(4) Ravi Shankar Prasad (5) None of these
119. Which sportsperson has authored the book "Unstoppable: My Life So Far"?
- (1) Sachin Tendulkar (2) Leander Paes (3) Maria Sharapova  
(4) Sania Mirza (5) None of these
120. Who is the author of the book "The Shershah of Kargil: Captain Vikram Batra"?
- (1) Deepak Surana (2) Vikram Batra (3) Neeraj Jain  
(4) Sunny Rajput (5) None of these

Ans: 1-1, 2-1, 3-1, 4-3, 5-2, 6-4, 7-4, 8-3, 9-2, 10-1, 11-4, 12-3, 13-4, 14-3, 15-1, 16-1, 17-4, 18-4, 19-2, 20-2, 21-2, 22-3, 23-1, 24-4, 25-4, 26-2, 27-3, 28-4, 29-1, 30-1, 31-1, 32-3, 33-4, 34-2, 35-3, 36-1, 37-3, 38-3, 39-3, 40-2, 41-3, 42-1, 43-2, 44-3, 45-4, 46-1, 47-4, 48-3, 49-1, 50-2, 51-3, 52-2, 53-2, 54-2, 55-3, 56-2, 57-3, 58-4, 59-2, 60-1, 61-2, 62-1, 63-3, 64-3, 65-2, 66-4, 67-1, 68-4, 69-2, 70-2, 71-1, 72-1, 73-2, 74-3, 75-1, 76-2, 77-3, 78-2, 79-1, 80-1, 81-1, 82-4, 83-2, 84-1, 85-3, 86-3, 87-2, 88-2, 89-1, 90-3, 91-2, 92-2, 93-1, 94-1, 95-3, 96-2, 97-1, 98-1, 99-1, 100-2, 101-1, 102-3, 103-3, 104-1, 105-2, 106-2, 107-4, 108-2, 109-1, 110-2, 111-4, 112-3, 113-2, 114-2, 115-2, 116-1, 117-4, 118-2, 119-3, 120-1.

