

## **GENERAL AWARENESS-CURRENT AFFAIRS**

### **MONTH OF AUGUST-2017**

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

- August 1** - 7 World Breastfeeding Week (WBW)  
(Themes - "Sustaining Breastfeeding Together")
- August 6** - 71<sup>st</sup> anniversary of Hiroshima atomic bombing
- August 6** - 3<sup>rd</sup> National Handloom Day
- August 7** - National Handloom Day
- August 9** - International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples
- August 9** - Kranti Diwas (Quit India Day)  
(Theme - "Sankalp se Siddhi- the attainment through resolve")
- August 10** - International Biodiesel day
- August 10** - 2<sup>nd</sup> round of the National Deworming Day
- August 12** - International Youth Day. (Theme - "Youth Building Peace")
- August 12** - World Elephant Day
- August 13** - Organ Donation Day in India
- August 14** - Independence Day of Pakistan
- August 15** - 71<sup>st</sup> Independence Day of India
- August 17** - Independence Day of Indonesia
- August 17** - Independence Day of Gabon (Gabonese Republic)
- August 19** - World Photography Day. (Theme - "Understanding clouds")
- August 19** - World Humanitarian Day (WHD). (Theme - "#NotATarget")
- August 19** - World Honey Bee Day
- August 20** - World Mosquito Day
- August 23** - International Day for the Remembrance of the Slave Trade and its Abolition
- August 26** - Women's Equality Day
- August 29** - International Day against Nuclear Tests
- August 29** - National Sports day

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

- During its bi-monthly policy review, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has cut **Repo rate** by **25 basis points** to **6%**, the lowest in more than six-and-a-half years.
  - With this, RBI became the first central bank in Asia to **cut rates this year**.
  - Reverse repo rate - **5.75 percent**.
  - Focus on keeping headline inflation close to 4 percent on Durable basis.
  - Growth forecast unchanged at 7.3 percent for the current fiscal.
- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has imposed a **3 crore** penalty on state-owned **Union Bank of India** for "noncompliance" of **Know Your Customer (KYC)** norms in two separate cases.
- Indian government said that the **new 500 and 2,000 notes** have 'single unique dimension'.
  - The size of new **500 note** is **66mm x 150mm**.
  - The size of new of **2,000 note** is **66mm x 166mm**.

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) will shortly issue new banknotes of **50 rupee** denomination in the Mahatma Gandhi (New) Series.
  - The base color of the new notes will be Fluorescent Blue and its dimension will be **66 mm x 135 mm**.
  - This new denomination will have a motif of '**Hampi with Chariot**', depicting India's cultural heritage.
- The government confirmed the introduction of **new 200 notes** by RBI for the first time. These new notes will be introduced by September this year.
- **21 public sector banks** have taken loan recovery action under **SARFAESI Act** against 5,954 wilful defaulters owing about 70,000 crore till the end of March 31, according to the Finance Ministry.
  - The State Bank of India (SBI) alone has taken action against 1,444 defaulters with outstanding loans of 20,943 crore.
- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) announced only **1.4%** of old 1,000 notes have not come back into the banking system post demonetization.
- RBI has notified commercial banks of at least **26 defaulter accounts** with which it wants lenders to begin debt resolution before **initiating bankruptcy proceedings**.

### State Bank of India

- The State Bank of India (SBI) has realized **235.06 crore** as **penalty** from **3.88 crore accounts** for not maintaining monthly average balance in the first quarter.
- The State Bank of India (SBI) accounts for over **27%** of the total amount owed to public sector banks by **wilful defaulters**, with 1,762 such defaulters owing as much as 25,104 crore to it as on March 31. **Punjab National Bank (PNB)** was next on the list with 1,120 wilful defaulters owing 12,278 crore.

### Other Banks

- The **Uttar Pradesh** government has made the **registration of marriages** compulsory for all religions and castes in the state.
- **IndusInd Bank** became the **6<sup>th</sup> Indian bank** whose market **capitalization** soared past the **1 lakh crore-mark**.
  - **HDFC Bank** is the country's most valued bank with a market cap of 4.6 lakh crore, followed by **State Bank of India**, and **ICICI Bank**.
- Starting from September, **PNB (Punjab National Bank)** is going to **charge customers** for depositing cash **above 5,000** in non-base branches, even if these are located in the same city.
  - Customers will have to pay **Rs. 1 per 1,000** for same city non-base branches and **Rs. 2 per 1,000** at outstation branches, and the minimum charge will be Rs. 25 per transaction.
  - The charges are exclusive of **18% GST**.
- The **Kannada Development Authority (KDA)** has directed **Nationalized, Rural and Scheduled Banks** in the state to ensure that their **employees** learn **Kannada** within six months, failing which they will be terminated from service.
- **Public sector banks** have **written off** nearly **2.5 lakh crore loans** in the last **five** financial years, the Finance Ministry has recently announced.
  - As many as **27 public sector banks** have written off **81,683 crore** in 2016-17, the highest in the last five fiscals.
  - The **State Bank of India** and its associates alone have written-off **27,574 crore** during the 2016-17 period.
- **Axis Bank** recently launched a campaign titled '**Experience Axis**' featuring Bollywood actress **Deepika Padukone**.

## Supreme Court

- The Supreme Court barred **firework** manufacturers from using **five chemicals** that lead to **air and noise** pollution, that would further result in diminished sparkle effects and sound in crackers.
  - Those chemicals are: **Lithium, Antimony, Mercury, Arsenic, and Lead.**
- The Supreme Court refused to stay the exercise of **NOTA** (None Of The Above) option in the **Gujarat Rajya Sabha elections** on **8 August**.
- The **5 Judge bench** of Supreme Court declared the practice of **Triple Talaq** as 'unconstitutional', and ordered a ban on it.
- The Supreme Court, in a historic verdict, declared **Right to Privacy** a **fundamental right** in the Indian Constitution.

## High Courts and Sessions Courts

- The **Kerala High Court** lifted **BCCI's lifetime ban** imposed on cricketer **S Sreesanth** from the sport over the IPL 2013 spot-fixing case.
- The **Bombay High Court** accepted **Maharashtra government's proposal** that it wouldn't allow **children** below **14 years** of age to participate in the **Dahi Handi festival**, which witnesses several injuries to youngsters.

## Election Commission

- The Union Cabinet cleared a proposal to extend the proxy voting facility to **Non-Resident Indians**.

## Central Government

- The government has ordered state-run oil companies to raise subsidized **cooking gas** (LPG) prices by 4 per cylinder every month, effective **June 1**.
- The government is going to make **Aadhaar-based authentication mandatory** at the time of registration of documents such as **sale, purchase and transfer of property**.
- The central government made **Aadhaar mandatory** for the **registration of deaths** and announced that the decision will come into effect from October 1, 2017.
- **Indian** government has blocked access to **Internet Archive**, an online tool that lets people see old versions of websites, on certain ISPs including **Airtel**.
- The government is planning to make **Aadhaar mandatory** for buying **shares and mutual funds**.
- The government is going to get 1,000 **Four-door Electric Vehicles** (EV) for **Central ministers** and senior bureaucrats by November.
- The **Centre** has **doubled** the **allowance** for **women employees** with disabilities to 3,000 per month for taking care of their newborn child from the existing 1,500 per month.
- The Government has directed **all state and union territories** to formulate a **specialized unit** for **VIP security**.
- The government is planning to reduce the **number of state run banks** to 10-15 through a series of mergers and acquisitions so that no bank becomes too-big-to-fail.
- Union Finance Minister **Arun Jaitley** announced that the **Creamy Layer ceiling** for the **Other Backward Classes** (OBCs) was hiked to **8 lakh per annum** from the existing 6 lakh for central government jobs.
- The government has extended the deadline for **Aadhaar registration** for **welfare schemes** till **December 31**, from the earlier deadline of September 30.

## States

- The **Maharashtra** government is going to introduce **cycling tracks** along the arterial roads of 10 cities including **Pune, Nagpur, Nashik, and Latur**.
- **Haryana** barred all government **school teachers** from stepping inside the **classrooms** with mobile phones.
- The **Department of Collegiate Education of Karnataka** made **biometric attendance** compulsory for **teachers** in government and aided degree colleges to "improve accountability".
- The **Maharashtra** government dedicated **10 motorbike ambulances** equipped with primary facilities to provide swift assistance to patients, as part of a pilot project.
- The **Bangalore International Airport**, in partnership with **Thumbby Aviation Private Limited**, will soon have India's first **helicopter-taxi service**.
- The **2030 Water Resources Group (2030WRG)** has decided to help the **Maharashtra** Government to raise \$270 million from the **Green Climate Fund (GCF)**.
- To maintain cleanliness along banks of **Ganga River**, the **Uttar Pradesh Government** launched an awareness drive titled "**Namami Gange Jagriti Yatra**".
- The **Haryana** government is going to develop a **Lion safari** at the cost of 1,000 crore.
  - Wildlife officials have been asked to check the feasibility of the project within a 100 km radius of **Delhi**.
- To train women entrepreneurs in the state, the **Odisha** government and social networking giant **Facebook** have jointly launched a programme titled '**SheMeansBusiness**'.
- To reduce air and noise pollution, the **Maharashtra** state government is going to **register battery-powered vehicles** as cabs and e-taxis.
- The **Karnataka** government has decided to rename **100 Morarji Desai** government residential schools after former PM **Indira Gandhi**.
- The **Telangana** government launched an exclusive **24x7 helpline '181'** for women.
- To prevent **swine flu cases** in the state, the **Punjab** government launched a state-wide awareness campaign.
- The **Delhi** government has announced a **complete ban on manual cleaning of sewers**.
- **Karnataka Government** has launched an experimental **cloud seeding Project** titled "**Varshadhari**" in **Bangalore**.
- In a bid to establish equality and a better standard of living for every citizen in the state, the **Andhra Pradesh** government is going to provide **Pension** to the **Transgender community**.
- The **Karnataka** government will soon come out with an '**Electric Vehicle and Energy Storage Policy**' aimed at reducing **pollution** and promoting healthy environment.
- **Odisha** Government has launched a grid-connected **rooftop solar programme** through net-metering system at the **State Secretariat** in capital city of **Bhubaneswar**.
- With an aim to bring **transparency** in recruit in government jobs, the **Uttar Pradesh** Government has decided to do away with **interview** in the recruitment of non-gazette officers from Class II to IV.
- **Assam** Chief Minister **Sarbananda Sonowal** agreed to give the **Sikh community** in the state a '**Micro Minority status**'.

## Place in the News

- MoS for Home Affairs **Hansraj Ahir** approved a proposal to rename the **Mughalsarai railway station** in UP after RSS ideologue **Deendayal Upadhyaya**.
  - The junction, India's fourth busiest railway station, houses **Asia's largest railway marshalling yard**.

- India's first '**Railways disaster management village**', to be developed at a cost of 44.42 crore, on the outskirts of **Bangalore** by December next year.
- A new **Partition Museum** that commemorates and documents the largest migration in history across borders in 1947 was inaugurated at the historic **Town Hall (Amritsar)**.
  - This Partition Museum was the first museum of its kind anywhere in the world.
- The **Air India Museum**, which had been put on hold because of the airline's losses, will reportedly open in February next year in **Mumbai**.
- The **Union Ministry of Sports and Youth Affairs** is going to establish **National Sports Museum** at **Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium, New Delhi**.

### Personalities

- Freedom fighter and designer of the Indian flag, **Pingali Venkayya**, was born on 2<sup>nd</sup> August in the year 1876.
- **Anny Divya** a 30-year-old woman from **Vijayawada of Andhra Pradesh**, made history after she became the youngest **Boeing 777 female commander** in the world.
  - The **Boeing 777** is the largest **twinjet aircraft** in the world.
- **Pakistani Nobel Prize** winner **Malala Yousafzai** has gained a place to study Politics, Philosophy and Economics at the **University of Oxford**.
- **Udaipur's Kalpit Veerwal**, the first-ever student to have scored **100%** in the **IIT-JEE Mains**, has been included in the **Limca Book of Records** for his achievement.
- A 21-year-old boy from Surat in Gujarat, **Aditya Jhavar**, has become the **youngest in India** to complete **Chartered Accountancy (CA)**, **Company Secretary (CS)**, and **Cost and Management Accountancy (CMA)**.

### Defence and National Security

- **Georgia** began the '**Noble Partner**' **military exercise** with the **US** and partner countries despite Russia's earlier objections to the drills claiming they could destabilize the region.
- **China** formally opened its first overseas military base in **Africa's Djibouti**.
  - Djibouti also hosts **US, Japanese, and French** bases.
- The **US Air Force** successfully launched an **unarmed intercontinental ballistic missile** from **California**, the fourth such test this year.
  - The test will show the readiness and effectiveness of the weapon system.
- The **Indian Army** has developed a mobile application titled '**Humraaz**' through which serving soldiers can track details like postings and promotions.
- **US Defence Department** has ordered an **Army-wide ban** on all **consumer drones** made by the world's largest drone manufacturer **DJI** (Da-Jiang Innovations Science and Technology Co., Ltd), over "cyber vulnerabilities associated with its products".
- India's first private sector **missile sub-systems manufacturing** facility **Kalyani Rafael Advanced Systems (KRAS)** plant was inaugurated near **Hyderabad, Telangana**.
- To curb infiltration by Pakistan, the **Indian** government is going to install a **24/7 seamless virtual fence** with sensors along the **India-Pakistan border**.
- The **Defence Ministry** has approved projects worth **billions** to **upgrade** its **tanks** and **infantry combat vehicles**.
- The **Indian Army** will soon deploy indigenously built **robots**, capable of delivering ammunition at intended locations, to fight terrorism in **Jammu and Kashmir**.
- **Indian Coast Guard Ship (ICGS) Shaurya** was commission in **Vasco, Goa**.

- **India** and **Russia** for first time are going to conduct **Indra Tri-Services Exercise**, involving their Armies, Navies and the Air Forces in October 2017 to further ramp up military ties.
- The **Russian Air Force** will begin training **female military pilots** for the first time since the fall of the **Soviet Union** in 1991.
- **Bangladesh** is going to conduct **Indian Ocean Naval Symposium's (IONS) Maiden International Maritime Search and Rescue Exercise (IMMSAREX)** in November 2017 at the Bay of Bengal.
  - IONS - Indian Ocean Naval Symposium
- The **Union Defence Ministry** has cleared a proposal to **procure six AH-64-E Apache attack helicopters** along with **weapons** systems from American aerospace giant **Boeing** for the Indian Army.
- Indian Navy's second **LCU Mark IV L52 ship** was commissioned at **Port Blair**, capital of **Andaman and Nicobar Islands**.
- **India** and **China** have agreed to withdraw **their troops** from **Doklam** after being in a standoff for over two months.
- **India's** first indigenous **sniper rifle** was launched at the Rifle Factory in **West Bengal's Ishapore**.
- The **United States** has announced that it conducted a second series of test flights involving an upgraded version of its **B61-12 gravity nuclear bombs**, after the first successful test in March this year.

#### **Committees/Commissions**

- Market Regulator **SEBI** set up a committee on '**fair market conduct**'.
  - Head: **T K Viswanathan** (former law secretary)
- The **Union Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology (MEITY)** has constituted an **expert Committee** to study and identify key **data protection issues** and recommend methods for addressing them.
  - The 10-member committee headed by: **Justice B N Srikrishna** (Supreme Court Judge (retired))
- A 5-member special committee has been constituted by the **Delhi** government to prepare the **Final parking policy** for the city.
  - The panel headed by: **Om Prakash Agarwal** (CEO of World Resources Institute (WRI), India)
- The government had decided to set up a **commission** to **examine** the sub-categorization of **Other Backward Classes** in the central list.
- The **Union Ministry of Commerce and Industry** has constituted a **Task Force on Artificial Intelligence (AI) for India's Economic Transformation**.
  - Head of this Task Force: **Dr. V. Kamakoti**
- A Panel that was set up to look at all aspects of **household finance in India** has recommended that **PAN card** should be required for all **gold transactions**.
  - The panel was chaired by: **Tarun Ramadorai** (Professor of financial economics)
- The government has accepted 65 out of 99 recommendations of the Lt General **DB Shekatkar**-led committee, which will result in the redeployment of 57,000 Indian Army personnel for various other required duties.

#### **Schemes/Initiatives**

- Union Minister of Road Transport and Highways **Nitin Gadkari** unveiled the **logo** of the project **Highway NEST and Highway Village** at **New Delhi**.
- The Union Government has launched **e-Rashtriya Kisan Agri Mandi (e-RaKAM)** portal to provide a platform for **farmers** to **sell agricultural produce**.

- Finance Minister **Arun Jaitley** launched '**Bharat 22**' exchange-traded-fund (ETF) to divest government assets in 22 state-run and private firms.
- In an attempt to promote innovation and entrepreneurship in agriculture, the Union Government is going to launch **AGRI-UDAAN Food and Agribusiness Accelerator 2.0 programme**.
- The **National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC)** and **Google India** have launched **Android Skill Development programme** to improve mobile developer ecosystem in the country.
- Minister of State for Human Resource Development **Mahendra Nath Pandey** has launched a **3.35-minute video** of the **National Anthem in sign language**.
- To provide basic medical assistance to **elderly people, widows** and other sections requiring social security, the **Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar** flagged off **Mobile Therapy Vans**.
- Under a '**Gift Milk**' initiative launched, Mother Dairy is going to offer 200 ml of flavoured milk every day to around 6,000 students of six government girls' schools in **Noida** and **Delhi**.
- **Rajiv Gandhi National Aviation University**, India's first aviation university was inaugurated on August 18 at **Raebareli (Uttar Pradesh)**.
- **India's first museum on Partition of the Indian subcontinent** was opened in **Amritsar (Punjab)**, as India and Pakistan celebrate 70 years as independent nations.
- To **honour** all the **gallantry award winners** since independence, Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched a website titled **www.gallantryawards.gov.in**.
- **National Highways Authority of India** has launched two mobile Apps, **MyFASTag** and **FASTag Partner**.
  - These mobile apps will help in the availability of **FASTags for Electronic Toll Collection**.
- **Uttar Pradesh CM Yogi Adityanath** launched '**Swachh Uttar Pradesh, Swasth Uttar Pradesh**' campaign and swept a street in **Gorakhpur** under the initiative.
  - Aim: To fight encephalitis, adding that its prevention starts with sanitation.
- Union home minister **Rajnath Singh** launched a **Digital policing portal**, making it possible to **electronically apply and seek verifications for tenants, domestic helps and even passports**.
- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** was roll out as many as **9,500 road projects** worth 27,000 crore in a single day in **Rajasthan**.
- The Union HRD Minister **Prakash Javdekar** launched '**Swasth Bachche, Swasth Bharat**' Programme in **Kochi, Kerala**.
  - This is an initiative of **Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan (KVS)** to prepare a physical Health and Fitness Profile Card for more than 12 lakhs of Kendriya Vidyalaya students.
- The **Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA)** has approved renaming of **SAMPADA (Scheme for Agro-Marine Processing and Development of Agro-Processing Clusters)** as **Pradhan Mantri Kisan Sampada Yojana (PMKSY)**.
  - Objective: To supplement agriculture, modernize processing and decrease agricultural-waste.
- The government has eased several norms for its flagship regional flying scheme **UDAN (Ude Desh Ka Aam Nagrik)** to attract more airlines and helicopter operators to participate in the regional connectivity scheme (RCS).
- The **National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)** has given a nod to **Spice Digital Ltd.** for processing bill payments under the **Bharat Bill Payment System (BBPS)** as a **Bharat Bill Payment Operating Unit (BBPOU)**.
- External Affairs Minister **Sushma Swaraj** inaugurated India's first '**Videsh Bhavan**' in **Mumbai**.
  - The Bhavan integrates all **Ministry of External Affairs offices** in **Maharashtra** under one roof, and will reportedly help in effective management.

- To spur research activities in **ocean science and develop technology** to harness ocean resources, the Union Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES) is going to launch **Deep Ocean Mission** by **January 2018**. Aim: To explore and harness mineral resources beneath the ocean floor.
- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** inaugurated 1.4-kilometre long hanging bridge across the river **Chambal** in **Rajasthan's Kota**.
- **Karnataka** government will be merging the existing **seven health schemes** to launch a unified scheme- '**Arogya Bhagya**'.
- Under the **Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY)**, the **Delhi Police** has launched a skill development programme titled **YUVA**.

### Summit/Conference

- **India** and the **US** are going to co-host the **Global Entrepreneurship Summit** at **Hyderabad** (Telangana) from 28<sup>th</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup> November 2017.
  - American delegation will be led by US President Donald Trump's daughter **Ivanka Trump**.
- Air Chief Marshal **BS Dhanoa** inaugurated the 56<sup>th</sup> annual three-day conference of **Indian Society of Aerospace Medicine** at the **Institute of Aerospace Medicine** in **Bangalore**.
- The **Haryana** government will organize **Digital Haryana Summit** in **Gurugram** on September 15 to discuss issues like digital governance, smart living in cities and villages, citizen partnership, and entrepreneurship among others.
- PM **Narendra Modi** will be on a visit to **China** from 3<sup>rd</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup> September 2017. During this visit, he will attend the **9<sup>th</sup> BRICS Summit**.

### Agreement/Deal/Signed

- **Sri Lanka** has signed a \$1.1-billion deal to lease its southern **Hambantota** port to **China**.
  - The port will play a key role in China's One Belt One Road initiative by linking ports and roads between **China** and **Europe**.
- The Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** has given its ex-post facto approval for a MoU signed among **India** and various **BRICS countries** for establishment of the **BRICS Agriculture Research Platform (BRICS-ARP)**.
- The Union Cabinet has been apprised of the MoU between **India** and **Spain** on India-Spain Cooperation in **renewable energy**.
- **India** has signed a loan agreement with China led-**Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB)** for financing of \$329 million for **Gujarat Rural Roads Project (GRRP)**.
- The **Indian Railways** has signed its 1<sup>st</sup> **EPC (Engineering, Procurement, Construction)** contract with **Larsen and Turbo (L & T)** for **electrification of railway lines**.
- **China** and **Malaysia** have agreed to build a \$13 billion rail project linking **Malaysia's east and west**.
  - The project, which is a major part of **China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI)**, will connect the South China Sea at the **Thai border** in the east with strategic shipping routes of the **Straits of Malacca** in the west.
- **India** and the **United States** have agreed to enhance **peace** and stability in the **Indo-Pacific region** by establishing a new two-by-two ministerial dialogue.
- **Nepal** and **China** signed **3 crucial agreements**, including a deal to explore **petroleum** and **gas** resources, in **Nepal**.
- **CSIR-Institute of Microbial Technology (CSIR-IMTECH)** and **Janssen Pharmaceuticals** have signed an MOU to pursue translational research in the domain of **tuberculosis** so as to address emerging challenges.

- The **United States** and **China** have signed an agreement to improve **communication** between the militaries of the two countries and reduce the "risk of miscalculation".
- **Indian Government** has inked US \$24.64 million Grant Agreement from the **Global Environment Facility (GEF)** of the **World Bank** for **Ecosystem Service Improvement Project**.
- The Union Cabinet has approved MoU between **India** and **Sweden** on cooperation in the field of **Intellectual Property (IPRs)**.
- **India** and **United States** have established new **Two-by-Two (2 by 2) ministerial dialogue** to enhance strategic coordination between the two countries and maintaining peace and stability in the Indo-Pacific region.
- The **Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)** and **Ministry of Health** inked MoU with the **International Vaccine Institute (IVI)** to collaborate on vaccine research and development.
- On the sidelines of ongoing **ITU-TRAI Asia-Pacific Regulators' Roundtable**, the **Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI)** has signed a **Letter of Intent (LoI)** with **Malaysian Communications and Multimedia Commission (MCMC)** to deepen bilateral cooperation in telecom and broadcasting regulation.
- Nepalese Prime Minister **Sher Bahadur Deuba** and Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** have signed 8 MoUs) in various fields.
- **Karnataka** Government has signed a MoU with software giant **Microsoft India** to develop a unique "**farm price forecasting model.**"
  - The proposed initiative is claimed to be the first-of-its kind in the country.
  - It will aid farmers from states to predict farm prices in advance and deal effectively with the unpredictable market.
- US President **Donald Trump** has signed a memorandum that directs the **US military** to not accept **transgender individuals** as **recruits** and halts the use of government funds for **sex-reassignment** surgeries for active personnel unless the process is already underway.
- The **Defence Research and Development Organization (DRDO)** has signed Rs.17, 000 crore deal with **Israel Aerospace Industries (IAI)** for producing advanced **Medium Range Surface to Air Missile (MRSAM)** system for Indian Army by **2020**.
- The **ISRO Telemetry Tracking and Command Network (ISTRAC)** and **CSIR-National Physical Laboratory (NPL)** have signed MoU to make indigenous regional positioning system-NavIC independent from the US clock system.
- **India** and **Germany** have signed an agreement on technical cooperation under the **Indo-German Energy Programme - Green Energy Corridors (IGEN-GEC)**.
- The Union Cabinet has approved the MoU between **India** and **Myanmar** for conservation of earthquake-damaged pagodas at **Bagan, Myanmar**.
- The Union Cabinet has apprised MoU signed between **India** and **Brazil** for cooperation in fields of **Zebu Cattle Genomics and Assisted Reproductive Technologies (ARTs)**.
- The Cabinet also approved an MOU to set up **US \$40 million India-Israel Industrial R&D and Technological Innovation Fund (I4F)**.

#### **Meet/Visit**

- **India** and **Bangladesh** have confirmed that **External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj** will visit **Dhaka** in the first half of **September** to attend the 4<sup>th</sup> **Bangladesh-India Joint Consultative Commission (JCC)** meeting.
  - The JCC meeting would review the implementation and progress of decisions taken during Bangladesh Prime Minister **Sheikh Hasina's** visit to India in April.

- The 15<sup>th</sup> edition of **Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation** (BIMSTEC) ministerial meeting was held in **Kathmandu, Nepal**.
  - India was represented by External Affairs Minister **Sushma Swaraj**.
- The **India-ASEAN Youth Summit** held in **Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh** to commemorate 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)–India dialogue partnership in the ongoing year.
- **India** is going to host the next **steering committee meeting** of the proposed 1,814 kilometre-long **Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan-India (TAPI) Gas Pipeline**.
  - TAPI - Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan-India
- Home Minister **Rajnath Singh** attend the **Shanghai Cooperation Organization** meeting on disaster prevention, which is held at **Kyrgyz Republic** on 24<sup>th</sup> August 2017.
- The 7<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the **Financial Stability and Development Council (FSDC)** was held in **New Delhi** under the Chairmanship of the Union Minister of Finance **Arun Jaitley**.
- **Nepal** Prime Minister **Sher Bahadur Deuba** was visited to India for a 5-day visit.
- **Swiss** president **Doris Leuthard** was visited to **India**.
- The 10<sup>th</sup> **India-European Union Counter Terrorism Dialogue** was recently held at **New Delhi**.

#### **Bills**

- The **Jharkhand government** cleared a draft **Anticonversion bill** which aims to ban religious conversion through force or allurement.
- **US President Donald Trump** signed an **Anti-Russia** sanctions bill into law after negotiating its "critical elements".
- **Goa** cabinet passed an amendment granting **Coconut Palm** the status of "**State tree**".
- The **Lok Sabha** has passed the **Banking Regulation (Amendment) Bill, 2017** by voice vote.
  - This bill seeks to amend the **Banking Regulation Act, 1949** to insert provisions for handling cases related to stress assets of banks.
- The **Lok Sabha** has passed the **National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (Amendment) Bill, 2017** by voice vote.
  - The bill enables exit of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) from the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) and increase authorized **capital** of the development institution six times to **Rs 30000 crore**.
- The **Lok Sabha** has also passed the **State Banks (Repeal and Amendment) Bill, 2017**.
  - The bill seeks to repeal the two Acts namely **State Bank of India (Subsidiary Banks) Act, 1959**, and **State Bank of Hyderabad Act, 1956**.
  - This bill also seeks to amend the State Bank of India (SBI) Act, 1955 to remove references to subsidiary banks and powers of SBI to act as an agent of the RBI for subsidiary banks.
- **Lebanon** abolished a law that allowed rapists to escape punishment by marrying their victims.
  - **Jordan** and **Tunisia** banned similar laws earlier this year.
- **Maharashtra** government passed a bill to **allow commercial establishments** including restaurants, malls, and theatres to stay open round the clock.
- **China** has been **drafting a law** on the appropriate use of its **National Anthem** by introducing criminal prosecution for violators.
- The Union Cabinet has given its approval to the proposal of **Union Finance Ministry** to promulgate an ordinance to suitably amend the **Goods and Services Tax (Compensation to States) Act, 2017**.

- The approval will allow GST Council to hike the maximum rate of compensation cess levied from the current cap of **15% to 20%**.
- This ordinance will amend Schedule of Section 8 of the GST (Compensation to a State) Act, 2017.
- **Lebanese President Michel Aoun** has signed the country's first **animal welfare bill** into law, guaranteeing the legal protection of domestic and wild animals from abuse.

## Fund

- **Britain** is going to pay up to **€40 billion** as part of a deal to leave the **European Union**.
- The **Odisha** government has **doubled** the **cash incentive** it offers for **inter-caste marriages** from Rs. 50,000 to Rs. 1 lakh, in order to encourage more such marriages.
  - The couples need to refund the amount if their marriage ends in divorce within five years.
- The **Union Cabinet** gave its approval for raising **Extra Budgetary Resources** of up to **Rs. 9,020 crore** for **Long Term Irrigation Fund (LTIF)** during the financial year 2017-18.
  - The funds will be raised by the **National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD)** through the issuance of Bonds at **6% per annum** as per requirement.
- **Central Provident Fund Commissioner VP Joy** announced that from next month, **Provident Fund account** will be transferred automatically with the change of job.
  - This has been done to retain same PF account for social security.
- **Russia** has settled the final debt of **\$125.2 million** that it inherited from the **Soviet Union**.
- With over **5,300 recipients** between 2004 and 2017, **India** is the **largest beneficiary** of the **Erasmus scholarships for higher education offered** by the **European Union (EU)** member states.
  - Launched in 1987 with only 3,200 students in its first year, Erasmus now benefits almost three lakhs higher education students every year.
- To avert terror attacks like 26/11 in the future, the central government has approved a 31,748 crore "**definitive five year action programme**" for the **Coast Guard**.

## Economy

- **Japan**, the world's third largest economy, expanded at an annualized rate of **4%** in the April-June quarter, making it the **Fastest growing economy** among the **G7 nations**.
- The Baltic nation of **Estonia** is considering starting its own virtual currency called '**estcoin**' to boost its economy.
  - The move is a part of an e-residency programme launched by the country in 2014, under which anyone in the world can become an Estonian digital resident. If implemented, it would be the world's first government-backed **initial coin offering (ICO)**.

## Companies/Industry

- **Mozilla**, the maker of **Firefox** web browser, has launched a cross-browser tool called '**Send**', which lets users share self-destructing files of up to **1 GB**.
- **Flipkart** announced that it has completed its merger with **eBay India's** operations.
  - The acquisition deal was announced earlier in April, when Flipkart raised \$1.4 billion from **eBay** along with **Microsoft** and **Tencent**.
- **Baba Ramdev's Patanjali Ayurved** is going to launch '**swadeshi**' line of clothing for women, men, and children by April 2018.
- **Russian** entrepreneur **Viacheslav Semenchuk** has announced plans for an **Initial Coin Offering (ICO)** of the world's first digital currency aimed specifically at **Jewish communities** across the globe.

- Messaging app **WhatsApp** is going to start **WhatsApp Payments**, a facility for instant money transfer via the **Unified Payments Interface (UPI)**.
- **US-Norwegian** company **Kolos** is set to build World's largest **data centre** in **Arctic Norway**, powered by 100% sustainable energy.
- **Google** announced '**Oreo**' as the name for the latest version of the **Android operating system**, continuing the dessert-themed names.
- Software giant **Microsoft** has announced its **Project Brainwave** deep learning acceleration platform for **real-time artificial intelligence (AI)**.
- Digital payments and e-commerce Company **Paytm** has **rebranded Postcard**, its digital version of gifting money in an envelope on festive occasions, to **Lifafa** (which means envelope in Hindi) after **India Post** sent a notice to the company to stop using the term 'postcard'.
- US-based cab-hailing startup **Uber** launched in-app messaging feature along with **multi-destination rides** for users in India.
  - The feature aims to help riders and drivers get in touch without incurring call charges or sharing their contact numbers.
- World's 4<sup>th</sup> richest person **Warren Buffett's Berkshire Hathaway** has become the **biggest shareholder** of US' second largest bank, **Bank of America**, with a 6.6% stake.

### Stock Market

- The **Multi Commodity Exchange Ltd (MCX)** has received markets regulator **Securities and Exchange Board of India's (Sebi)** approval to launch India's first **Gold options contract**.
- **Indian Commodity Exchange (ICEX)** commenced operations as the **World's first diamond futures exchange**.
  - The exchange is backed by companies like **Reliance Capital** and **MMTC**.

### Taxation/Trade

- The government extended the **deadline for filing returns and payment of taxes** under **GST** for the month of July by 5 days, to August 25.
- **India** has imposed anti-dumping duty on **Chinese tempered glass**, used for protecting mobile phone screens.
- The **Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT)** in the **Union Commerce Ministry** has banned **duty free imports of Gold, Silver items** from **South Korea**.
- In order to incentivize **digital transactions** the government is planning to offer **2% discount** over the applicable **GST rate on bills** up to 2,000.
- The government announced that **GST** will be applicable on **fringe benefits** an employee gets from his employer. "Fringe benefits are a supply of goods or services and are liable to tax if not exempted," it clarified.

### Space

- **Israel** has successfully launched **Venus satellite** (Vegetation and Environment Monitoring New Micro Satellite), its first spatial environmental research vehicle designed for orbital monitoring of Earth's vegetation. **Venus** satellite is an earth-observation micro-satellite designed jointly by **Israel's agency** and **France's National Centre for Space Studies (CNES)**.
- **ISRO** and **NASA** are jointly working on a mission titled **NISAR** to co-develop and launch a dual frequency **synthetic aperture radar (SAR)** satellite by **2021**.
  - **NISAR - NASA-ISRO Synthetic Aperture Radar**
  - This satellite will be the world's most expensive earth-imaging satellite till date, costing around \$1.5 billion.

- The **ISRO** is going to launch a full-fledged niche **Earth Observation (EO)** satellite titled the **Hyper spectral Imaging Satellite (HySIS)**.
- Elon Musk-led **SpaceX** launched **Hewlett Packard Enterprise's (HPE)** 'Spaceborne Computer' to the **International Space Station** on 14<sup>th</sup> August 2017.
- The **National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)** has successfully launched **Tracking and Data Relay Satellite-M (TDRS-M)** into orbit.
- **NASA** is planning to send **microbial life** on its **Mars 2020** rover mission, which would use Mars' atmospheric carbon dioxide to produce oxygen.
- **ISRO's Navigation satellite IRNSS-1H**, which will expand the existing seven satellites of the NavIC constellation, was launched from the **Sriharikota** rocket port.

### Science and Technology

- **Finland**-based scientists have generated a batch of **protein** using **electricity** and **carbon dioxide**.
- **Russian firm Tactical Missiles Corporation** is developing **Artificial Intelligence**-powered missiles that can make decisions like choosing a target by itself.
- 16-year-old Indian-origin student **Kavya Kopparapu** with her team has developed an **AI system** to recognize signs of a **diabetic** complication that **damages blood vessels in the eye**.
- **Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL)** has tested the Indian Air Force's upgraded **Jaguar fighter plane** with advanced **Active Electronically Scanned Array (AESA) radar** for the first time.
- Scientists in the **United Kingdom (UK)** have developed the **world's smallest surgical robot** called **Versius**, which can mimic human arm and can be used to carry out a wide range of surgical procedures.
- The Most advanced **Space Weather Radar** in the World is to be built in the **Arctic** by an international partnership including the **UK**, in the region of £4 to £6m from **NERC**.

### Energy/Gas/Oil

- State-owned oil marketing company **Bharat Petroleum (BPCL)** announced that it has increased the commission offered to dealers up to **50%** with effect from **August 1**.
- **India** received the first-ever **shipment of crude oil** from the **US**.
- **Australian** state government has approved the **world's biggest single tower solar thermal power plant**, a 150- megawatt structure to be built in **South Australia** by **2020**.
- The **US** has sent the first-ever shipment of its coal to **Ukraine** under a deal between a US mining company and Ukrainian state-run thermal energy producer earlier this year.

### Environment

- **19 acres of land** which housed around 70 government office buildings in **Chattisgarh's Raipur** is being converted into India's first **micro forest** in order to create an **oxy-zone**.
  - This micro forest will provide fresh air to **Raipur** which is the 7<sup>th</sup> most polluted city in the world.
- '**Rayichapalu**', a regular catch for fishermen in **Andhra Pradesh's Visakhapatnam**, has been declared as **One of the rarest species of fish** in the world.
- Union Environment Minister **Harsh Vardhan** announced that a total of **17 states** and Union Territories have imposed a **complete ban** on manufacture, stock, sale, and use of **plastic bags**.
- On the occasion of World Elephant Day (12<sup>th</sup> August) the **Union Ministry of Environment and Forest** has launched a nationwide campaign titled **Gaj Yatra** to protect elephants.
  - The ministry also released the **All India Census 2017 Report** on elephants and Agreed Points of Action on Trans-Boundary Conservation of Elephants by **India and Bangladesh**.

- According to the census report, released by the **Union Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change (MoEFCC)** the Population Estimation of **Asian elephant in India** is around **27,312**.
- Union Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change, **Dr. Harsh Vardhan** launched a new campaign titled “**Harit Diwali, Swasth Diwali**”.
  - Aim: To reduce adverse environmental conditions especially pollution in the country after post Diwali celebrations due to excessive bursting of crackers which contributes significantly to air and noise pollution.
- **Hurricane Harvey** became the most powerful storm to hit **US' Texas** in more than 50 years.
  - It is the first major hurricane to make landfall in the United States since Wilma in 2005, ending a record 12-year period with no storms making landfall in the United States as a major hurricane.

### Education

- As part of its special focus on Indian languages, the **Oxford University Press** has launched **online dictionaries in Tamil and Gujarati**.
- The **National Institute of Open Schooling** has decided to make **Aadhaar mandatory for students appearing for the next open school examinations**.
- The **Maharashtra** education board has launched a web portal with **online question banks** to help **students prepare for competitive exams** on their own.
  - The portal, which can be accessed for free, will function as a substitute for expensive coaching classes.
- The **National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT)** has decided to include content related to **Goods and Services Tax** and demonetization in its 2018 curriculum.

### Transport/Cars/Scooters

- To connect **Beijing** with **Zhangjiakou city, China** is constructing a **12-km-long high-speed train tunnel** through one of the portions of its iconic **Great Wall**.
  - Zhangjiakou is going to co-host **2022 Winter Olympics**.
- The **Indian Railways** has announced that people can now pay for **tatkal tickets** after receiving them.
  - The tickets can be booked from the **Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC)** website, with the option for **home delivery** of the tickets.
- Western Asian country **Qatar** has launched a **new direct sea route** between its **Hamad Port** and **Pakistan's Port of Karachi**.
  - This move comes after the Gulf nations put land, air, and sea blockades on Qatar while cutting diplomatic ties with it.
- **China** is re-launching the **fastest bullet trains** in the world, which run at **350 kilometres per hour**.
- **Qantas Airways** is set to offer a 20-hour non-stop flight from **Sydney** to **London**, making this the **world's longest non-stop commercial flight**.
- The government has also **diluted norms** that restricted **two airports in close proximity** with each other to participate in the bidding.
  - The modified norms allow routes with a stage length less than 150 km for operations through fixed wing aircraft.

### Films and Film Festival

- Actress **Aishwarya Rai Bachchan** was named ‘**Beautiful Global Indian Icon**’ at **Vogue Beauty Awards 2017**.
  - **Shahid Kapoor** and his wife **Mira Rajput** were named the '**Most Beautiful Couple**'.

- **Akshay Kumar** won the award for '**Most Beautiful Man of the Decade**'.
- **Varun Dhawan** won the '**Most beautiful man of the year**' award.
- **Disha Patani** was named '**Fresh Face**'.
- '**Lipstick Under My Burkha**' was the opening film at the **8<sup>th</sup> Edition of the Indian Film Festival of Melbourne (IFFM) 2017**.
  - **Indian Film Festival Of Melbourne (IFFM) 2017 Winners List:**
  - Best Film - **Pink**
  - Best Actress - **Konkona Sen Sharma** for Lipstick Under my Burkha
  - Best Actor - **Sushant Singh Rajput** for Dhoni
  - Best Actor - (Special Mention) - **Raj Kumar Rao** for Trapped
  - Best Director - **Nitesh Tiwari** for Dangal
  - People's Choice Award - **Dangal & Bahubali 2**
  - Best Indie Film - **Lipstick Under My Burkha**
  - Equality in Cinema Award - Director/ Actor **Rahul Bose** for Poorna
  - Leadership in Cinema - **Karan Johar** (he also presented the IFFM Diversity Award to Garth Davis, director of the Academy nominated film LION)
  - Westpac IFFM Excellence in Global Cinema - **Aishwarya Rai Bachchan**

#### **Festival**

- To celebrate the **75 years of Quit India Movement** and formation of **Azad Hind Fauj** (Indian National Army), the **Ministry of Culture** will hold an **exhibition of declassified documents related** to the events.
  - The documents feature letters by Mahatma Gandhi among others. The exhibition will be held at National Archives of India from **August 9 to September 1**.
- **Sanskrit Diwas** was celebrated across the country on August 29.
- **Telugu Language Day** (Telugu Bhasha Dinotsavam) was celebrated on August 29. This date was chosen to coincide with the birthday of the Telugu poet Gidugu Venkata Ramamurthy Panthulu.
- The annual **La Tomatina festival** was held in **Spanish** town Bunol, amid increased security following several terror attacks.

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

- Marine General (retired) **John Kelly** was sworn in as the **White House Chief of Staff** after President Donald Trump forced out **Reince Priebus** from the post.
- Tech giant **Cisco** has named former Philips Healthcare executive **Sameer Garde** as the **President** for its **India** and **SAARC operations**.
- **Pakistan's** parliament elected **Shahid Khaqan Abbasi** as the country's interim **Prime Minister**, after the Supreme Court disqualified Nawaz Sharif from the post over allegations that he lied on a wealth declaration.
- The **US Senate** confirmed former Justice Department lawyer **Christopher Wray** as the **FBI Chief**, nearly three months after the agency's previous director, **James Comey**, was fired by President Donald Trump.
- Economist **Rajiv Kumar** has been appointed as the new **Vice Chairman** of **NITI Aayog**, a government think tank that replaced the Planning Commission.
- BJP-led NDA's candidate and former Union Minister **M Venkaiah Naidu** was elected India's **15<sup>th</sup> Vice-President**.

- The **US Senate** has confirmed three Indian-Americans picked by President Donald Trump for key governmental posts.
  - The three Indian-Americans are: **Neil Chatterjee**: Member of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, **Vishal Amin**: Intellectual Property Enforcement Coordinator, **Krishna R Urs**. **Chatterjee**: US Ambassador to Peru.
- **Khawaja Asif** has been appointed as the **new Pakistani Foreign Minister**.
  - With this, he became the first fulltime leader to hold the post since 2013.
- The **US Senate** has confirmed **Woody Johnson**, heir to the Johnson and Johnson pharmaceutical empire and the owner of the **New York Jets football team**, as the next **US Ambassador to UK**.
- **Darshan Lal** has become the first **Hindu** to be inducted in **Pakistan's cabinet** of ministers in over 20 years.
- **Uttar Pradesh CM Yogi Adityanath** announced the appointment of actor **Akshay Kumar** as the **Brand Ambassador of Swachh Bharat Mission** in UP.
- **Iranian President Hassan Rouhani** who was recently sworn-in for the **second term in office** put forward a new cabinet line-up that included **NO WOMEN**, despite criticism of their absence from his reformist allies.
- Chief Justice of India **Jagdish Singh Khehar** has recommended Supreme Court judge Justice **Dipak Misra** as his successor after his retirement on August 27, 2017.
  - Justice Misra, will be India's 45<sup>th</sup> Chief Justice.
- **Flipkart** has appointed its Head of Marketplace **Anil Goteti** to lead **eBay India**.
- **Rio Olympics** silver medalist **PV Sindhu** took charge as a **Deputy Collector** in the **Andhra Pradesh** government.
- **Jet Airways** announced that **Vinay Dube** has joined as its CEO after receiving security clearance from the government.
- Screenwriter-lyricist **Prasoon Joshi** replaced **Pahlaj Nihalani** as the Chairman of the **Censor Board**.
  - Actress **Vidya Balan** has been appointed a **Member of the reconstituted Censor Board**.
  - Other Members: Vivek Agnihotri, Gautami Tadimalla.
- Drug major **Lupin** appointed **Manju Desh Bandhu Gupta**, wife of founder **Desh Bandhu Gupta**, as Chairperson of the company with immediate effect.
- Former athlete **Milkha Singh** has been appointed as the **WHO Goodwill Ambassador for Physical Activity** in the **South-East Asia Region (SEAR)**.
- 4<sup>th</sup> and current **President of Kenya, Uhuru Kenyatta** won re-election, defeating veteran opposition leader and longtime rival Raila Odinga in a tense contest.
- **Shashi Shekhar Vempati**, CEO of public broadcaster Prasar Bharati, which runs Doordarshan and All India Radio, has additionally been appointed as the CEO of **Rajya Sabha TV**.
- **Brazilian** professional footballer **Neymar Jr** has become a **Goodwill ambassador** for **Handicap International**.
  - Neymar is the World's most expensive footballer.
- **Sohail Mahmood** took over as **Pakistan's new High Commissioner to India**. He is going to replace Abdul Basit.
- Cab hailing startup **Ola** hired former executive of e-Kart, **Harish Abhichandani** as its new Chief Financial Officer (CFO). He is going to replace Rajiv Bansal.
- **Sri Lanka's** President **Maithripala Sirisena** appointed Rear Admiral **Travis Sinniah** as **Navy chief** from the Tamil minority, giving a significant boost to reconciliation efforts.

- **Russian President Vladimir Putin** appointed career diplomat **Nikolay Kudashev** as **Russia's new Ambassador to India**.
- **O Panneerselvam** took oath as the **Deputy Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu**, hours after the merger of rival AIADMK factions was announced.
- The **French** Presidency announced an official role for **Brigitte Macron** (President Emmanuel Macron's wife).
- **Russian President Vladimir Putin** has appointed **Anatoly Antonov**, who is blacklisted by the EU over the **Ukrainian crisis**, as the new Russian ambassador to the **US**.
- **Uber India** has appointed former American Express executive **Vishpala Reddy** as the Chief People's Officer (CPO) for its India and South Asia operations.
- **Vishal Sikka** was appointed as **Executive Vice Chairman** of **Infosys** after resigning as CEO.
- Union Minister for Road Transport, Highways and Shipping, **Nitin Gadkari** might get the additional charge of the **Railway Ministry** in a Cabinet reshuffle.
  - Prime Minister Narendra Modi is planning to introduce a 'super ministry' by merging Transport and Railways.
- Infosys Co-founder **Nandan Nilekani** was appointed the **non-executive Chairman** of **Infosys** board.
- **Ashwani Lohani** was named as the new **Chairman of Railway Board** after **Ashok Mittal** resigned from the post taking responsibility for two train derailments within four days.
- **Rajiv Bansal**, the Additional Secretary & Financial Advisor at Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas, has been appointed as the interim **Chairman and Managing Director** of **Air India**, after Ashwani Lohani took over as the Railway Board Chairman.
- **BJP National President Amit Shah** and Union Minister **Smriti Irani** were officially sworn in as **Rajya Sabha** MPs.
- **Rajiv Kumar** took over as **Vice-Chairman** of the **National Institution for Transforming India (NITI) Aayog**.
- Justice **Dipak Misra** took oath as the 45<sup>th</sup> **Chief Justice of India**.
- Top stock exchange **BSE** (Bombay Stock Exchange)'s board has approved another five-year term for its chief **Ashish Chauhan**, who has steered a strong turn around and a highly- successful **initial public offering** (IPO) of the bourse with strong business expansion.
- Lieutenant General **Abhay Krishna** has been appointed as the new chief of the **Army's Eastern Command** amid border tensions with China along the **Sikkim border**.
- US-based social media platform **Reddit's** first employee **Chris Slowe** has been appointed as the startup's Chief Technology Officer (CTO).
- American travel company Expedia's CEO **Dara Khosrowshahi** has been appointed as **Uber's new CEO**.
- **Tata Group's Indian Hotels Company**, known as Taj Hotels Resorts and Palaces, appointed **Puneet Chhatwal** as its MD & CEO.

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

- **Arvind Panagariya**, the Vice Chairman of policy think-tank **Niti Aayog**, which replaced the 65-year-old Planning Commission, announced his resignation from office.
- **UK's** 96-year-old Prince **Philip** **retired** from public duty after serving for over 65 years as the **Captain General** of the **Royal Marines**.

- The 91-year-old **Queen Elizabeth II** of UK is going to **resign** from her throne at the age of 95. Upon her abdication, the Queen's eldest son Prince **Charles** will become the King.
- **Vishal Sikka** resigned as the MD and CEO of India's 2<sup>nd</sup> largest software export firm **Infosys**.
- **England** football captain **Wayne Rooney** announced his retirement from **international football**, after appearing for England in 119 matches.
- Undefeated professional boxer **Floyd Mayweather Jr.** announced his retirement after knocking out MMA Champion **Conor McGregor** in the 'richest fight in history'.

### Arrests/Jailed

- **Dera Sacha Sauda** Chief **Gurmeet Ram Rahim Singh Insan** was sentenced to **10 years** in prison for rape by a special CBI court in **Haryana**.

### Deaths

- American neuroscientist **Marian Diamond** (90) who studied Albert Einstein's brain in 1984, has passed away.
- Lashkar-e-Taiba's Kashmir Chief **Abu Dujana** has been killed in an encounter with security forces in **Pulwama** district of **Jammu and Kashmir**. He is the third top militant leader killed since last year following Hizbul Mujahideen leaders **Burhan Wani** and **Sabzar Bhat**.
- Playwright-actor **Sam Shepard** (73), who won the Pulitzer Prize in 1979 for his play 'Buried Child', passed away.
- Actor **Robert Hard** (91), who portrayed the role of Minister of Magic 'Cornelius Fudge' in four of the 'Harry Potter' films passed away.
- BJP MP from Ajmer and former Union Minister **Sanwar Lal Jat** (62) passed away.
- Bollywood actor **Sitaram Panchal** (54) who is best known for his role in films like 'Jolly LLB 2' and 'Paan Singh Tomar', passed away after suffering from lung cancer for three years.
- **Ruth Pfau** (87), a **German doctor** and a nun popularly known as **Pakistan's 'Mother Teresa'** for dedicating her life to eradicate leprosy in the country, died.
- **Yisrael Kristal** (113 years), certified this year by **Guinness World Records** as the world's oldest man, died.
- **Australian Olympic** and world champion track cyclist, **Stephen Wooldridge** (39) passed away after allegedly committing suicide.
- **S Paul** (88), a Doyen of photography, passed away. He was born in Jhang in Pakistan in 1929. He moved to India after partition and his family shifted to Shimla.
- American comedian-filmmaker **Jerry Lewis** (91), known for movies like 'The Nutty Professor' and 'The Bellboy' among others, passed away.
- **Bulgarian** weightlifter **Velichko Cholakov** (35), an Olympic and world medallist, passed away.
- Former **Manipur Chief Minister** and the last surviving member of India's first post-1947 Parliament, **Rishang Keishing** (98), passed away.
- **New Zealand's** oldest surviving cricketer, **Tom Pritchard** (100) passed away.
- **Tony de Brum** (72), a leading advocate of the **Paris climate agreement** and widely regarded as the "voice of Pacific Islands on Climate Change", passed away.
- **Charles Bentley** (87), who in the 1950s led an expedition that measured the West Antarctic Ice Sheet for the first time, has passed away.
- **Tobe Hooper** (74), known for directing 'The Texas Chain Saw Massacre', passed away. He was known for other films like 'Poltergeist'.

## Awards/Honours

- Flight Lt **Shikha Pandey**, a member of the Indian women's cricket team, was felicitated by Indian Air Force Chief **BS Dhanoa** for her performance at the **Women's World Cup 2017**.
  - Pandey, commissioned in the IAF on June 30, 2012, as an air traffic control officer, was awarded the **Chief of the Air Staff** commendation by the Air Chief Marshal.
- The **wax statue** of late veteran actress **Madhubala** has been unveiled at the **Madame Tussauds** in **New Delhi**.
  - The statue has been styled as the character '**Anarkali**', portrayed by Madhubala in the 1960 film 'Mughal-E-Azam'.
- President **Ram Nath Kovind** has approved **112 Gallantry Awards** to Armed and Paramilitary forces personnel.
- **Quaiser Khalid**, IPS 1997 batch honored with **Leadership Icon** award by **IBPC** in **Dubai** for contributions to civil society.
- **3 Indians** have made it to the **MIT Technology Review** magazine's **Innovators Under 35** list this year.
  - The awardees are: **Radha Boya** (University of Manchester) - For developing world's narrowest fluid channel for water filtration.
  - **Suchi Saria** (Johns Hopkins University) - For developing disease diagnosis algorithms.
  - **Neha Narkhede** (Co-founder of Confluent Inc) - For developing data handling systems.
- **Rahul Doshi**, a 12-year-old Indian-origin boy has been crowned as the **UK's 'Child Genius'** in a popular television quiz competition.
- The **Sports Ministry** confirmed that Paralympian **Devendra Jhajharia**, who clinched gold in men's F46 javelin throw at Rio Paralympics and former Indian hockey captain **Sardar Singh** will be honored with the **Khel Ratna Award**.
  - Indian female footballer **Oinam Bembem Devi** has been named in the **Arjuna awardees** list, becoming only the second female footballer to bag the award.
- Real Madrid's **Cristiano Ronaldo** has been named **UEFA's Best Player of the Year** for the 2016/17 season.
- A **trio of scientists** who defied **Einstein** by proving the **nonlocal nature of quantum** entanglement will be honored with the **John Stewart Bell Prize** from the **University of Toronto**.
  - They are: **Ronald Hanson**, Delft University of Technology, Netherlands **Sae-Woo Nam**, of the National Institute of Standards & Technology, United States **Anton Zeilinger**, University of Vienna, Austria.
- American rapper-song writer **Kendrick Lamar** won a total of **6 awards** at the **MTV Video Music Awards (VMAs) 2017**, which included the **Video of the Year** award, for his track 'Humble'.
  - **Ed Sheeran** was named **Artist of the Year**.
  - **Zayn Malik** and **Taylor Swift** won the **VMA for Best Collaboration**.
  - **Pink** was honored with the **Michael Jackson Video Vanguard Award**.
- President **Ram Nath Kovind** presented **National Sports Awards 2017** on the occasion of **National Sports Day**.
- Eminent Konkani writer **Mahabaleshwar Sail** was honored with prestigious **Saraswati Samman** for the year 2016 for his novel "Hawthan".

## Sports/Game

- **Brazil's Neymar** has become the world's most expensive footballer, with **Paris Saint-Germain** signing him for a five year deal from **Barcelona** for a fee of **1,680 crore** (€222 million).
- Indian boxer **Vijender Singh** won his career's second professional title, defeating China's **Zulpikar Maimaitiali** to win the **WBO Oriental Super Middleweight belt** in **Mumbai**.

- Indian boxer **Neeraj Goyat** defended his **WBC Asia Pacific Welterweight title** against **Philippines' Allan Tanada** after a 12-round contest in **Mumbai**.
  - Indians **Akhil Kumar** and **Kuldeep Dhanda** also won their respective bouts in the junior welterweight and lightweight categories.
- India's **Ravindra Jadeja** surpassed the likes of **Anil Kumble** and **Kapil Dev** to become the **2<sup>nd</sup> fastest Indian** to reach **150 wickets** in **Test cricket**.
  - Jadeja, who achieved the feat in his 32<sup>nd</sup> Test match, became the fastest left-arm spinner in the world to achieve the feat, ahead of Sri Lanka's **Rangana Herath** and former Indian captain **Bishan Singh Bedi**.
- **India** defeated **Sri Lanka** by an innings and 53 runs in the second Test, taking an unassailable 2-0 lead in the three-match series.
  - With this eighth straight Test series win, Indian captain **Virat Kohli** has surpassed **Steve Waugh's** record of **seven consecutive Test series wins** as captain and is only behind **Ricky Ponting**, who won **nine** from 2005- 2008.
- Eight-time Olympic gold medalist **Usain Bolt** lost his career's last solo race, clinching the **Bronze** in the **100-metre sprint** event at the **IAAF World Championships** in **London**.
- 15-year-old shooter **Shapath Bharadwaj** has become **India's youngest athlete** to feature in government's **Target Olympic Podium (TOP)** scheme. The TOP scheme has been launched by the government with specific aim of supporting medal prospects for **Olympics**.
- Indian all-rounder **Ravindra Jadeja** has been suspended for the **final Test** against **Sri Lanka**, after his accumulated demerit points reached six within a 24-month period.
- The **Indian men and women's wheelchair basketball teams** won **Bronze** at the 4<sup>th</sup> **Bali Cup International Tournament for Wheelchair Basketball**.
- Indian shooter **Ankur Mittal** bagged the **Gold** medal in **Men's double trap** at the 7<sup>th</sup> **Asian Shotgun Championship** in **Astana, Kazakhstan**.
- 18-year-old India's junior para-athlete **Rinku Hooda** has won **Silver** medal in the **Javelin throw** at the 1<sup>st</sup> **World Para Athletics Junior Championships** in **Switzerland**.
- **Spain** based **Real Madrid** defeated Manchester United to lift the **UEFA Super Cup title**.
  - This is their 4<sup>th</sup> UEFA Super Cup title.
- Indian pair of **Kynan Chenai** and **Shreyasi Singh** won **bronze** in **mixed team trap** event of **Asian Shotgun Shooting Championship** in **Kazakhstan**.
- Indian shooter **Maheshwari Chauhan** won a **Bronze** medal at the 7<sup>th</sup> **Asian Shotgun Championships** in **Kazakhstan**.
- **American** sprinter **Allyson Felix** has become the **most decorated athlete** in world championships with 15 medals, breaking Usain Bolt's shared all-time record of most medals at the biennial athletics event.
- Delhi-based **Kshitij Kumar Singh**, a 13-year-old striker has signed for **Netherlands**-based football club **NEC Nijmegen**.
- **Indian** pair of **K Mairaj han** and **Rashmi Rathore** won **Gold** in the mixed skeet team event on the concluding day of the 7<sup>th</sup> **Asian Shotgun Championship** in **Kazakhstan**.
  - India finished the championship with a total of **8 Medals**.
- Former world champion **Garry Kasparov** is coming out of retirement after 12 years to participate in **Rapid and Blitz tournament** in **St Louis, Missouri**.
- **France's Yohann Diniz** won the Men's 50-kilometre walk at the **IAAF World Championships** in **London**.
  - With this, the 39 year old became the oldest man to win a world athletics championship.

- The **Indian Men's Hockey team** defeated **Netherlands** in the second match of the two-match **Rabo Super Serie** to clinch the series 2-0.
  - **Gurjant Singh** and **Mandeep Singh** scored for the Indian team, which featured nine players from the junior team.
- **Rogers Cup 2017:**
  - Winners List Men's Singles: **Alexander Zverev** (Germany)
  - Women's Singles: **Elina Svitolina** (Ukraine)
  - Men's Doubles: **Pierre-Hugues Herbert** (France) / **Nicolas Mahut** (France)
  - Women's Doubles: **Ekaterina Makarova** (Russia) / **Elena Vesnina** (Russia)
- Former Indian captain **MS Dhoni** is set to open a **cricket coaching academy** in the **Dubai Pacific Sports Club (PSC)** in the **UAE**.
  - The academy will be called the **MS Dhoni Cricket Academy (MSDCA)**.
- **India's Lakshya Sen**, who is currently the world number one junior shuttler, won the **Bulgaria Open International Series** title a day after turning 16 in Sofia, Bulgaria.
  - Winners List of Bulgaria Open 2017
  - Women's singles : **Neslihan Yigit** (Turkey)
  - Men's doubles : **Mathias Thyrr** (Denmark) and **Søren Toft Hansen** (Denmark)
  - Women's doubles : **Gabriela Stoeva** (Bulgaria) and **Stefani Stoeva** (Bulgaria)
  - Mixed doubles : **Alex Vlaar** (Bulgaria) and **Iris Tabeling** (Netherlands)
- The 21-member Indian contingent captured a record haul of **37 Medals** (15 Gold, 10 Silver and 12 Bronze) in the **7<sup>th</sup> World Dwarf Games** in **Canada**.
- **India** captain **Virat Kohli** continued to be the World's top ranked **One-day batsman** in the latest ICC ODI rankings, released in **Dubai**.
- The **Federation Internationale de Football Association (FIFA)** has appointed **7 women officials** as support referees for the **Under-17 World Cup** in **India**.
- **29<sup>th</sup> World University Games** (also known as 2017 Summer Universiade) began in **Taipei** city of **Taiwan**.
- **Shapath Bharadwaj**, a 15-year-old from Meerut, won a **Bronze** medal in the double trap event at the **ISSF Junior Shotgun World Cup** in **Italy**.
- The **FIFA Under-17 World Cup** official winner's trophy was recently displayed at the **India Gate**. The event will be India's first official FIFA tournament.
- **Sanjivani Jadhav**, a 20-year-old marathon runner from Nashik, won the **Silver** medal in the **women's 10,000- metre** at the **29<sup>th</sup> World University Games in Taipei**.
- **Barcelona** announced **Ousmane Dembele's** signing from **Borussia Dortmund** for a fee of €105 million (800 crore), along with potential €42m in add-ons.
  - This makes him the **Second** most expensive player ever behind **Neymar**.
- Distance runner **Mo Farah** won the final track race of his career, clinching a win in **5,000-metre** final with a margin of 0.04 seconds at the **Diamond League**.
- **India** won **South Asian Football Federation Under-15 Championship** defeating host **Nepal** in the final at **Kathmandu**.
- Mercedes' British Formula One driver **Lewis Hamilton** registered his 58<sup>th</sup> career race win after claiming the **Belgian Grand Prix** title.
- Shuttler **PV Sindhu** became the 2<sup>nd</sup> Indian to win a **Silver** medal at the **Badminton World Championships**, losing to Japan's Nozomi Okuhara in the women's singles final in **Glasgow**.
  - Earlier, Saina Nehwal had claimed India's first silver at the world meet in 2015.

- **German** Formula One driver **Michael Schumacher** set the record for **Most Formula One Championship titles** after winning his 7<sup>th</sup> overall and 5<sup>th</sup> consecutive championship.
- Indian boxer **Gaurav Bidhuri** assured **India** its 1<sup>st</sup> medal at the **World Boxing Championships 2017** after defeating Tunisia's Bilel Mhamdi to enter the semifinals of the 56kg event.
- **Indian basketball team** captain **Amritpal Singh** became the first Indian player to be picked up by an **Australian National Basketball League team**, after signing for the **Sydney Kings**.

## Report

- **Reliance Industries** Chairman **Mukesh Ambani** has surpassed Hong Kong's **Li Ka-shing** to become **Asia's second-richest** person with a \$35.2 billion (2.25 lakh crore) fortune, as per **Bloomberg**.
- **Ma Huateng**, Chairman of Chinese internet giant **Tencent**, became the **Country's richest man** after overtaking e-commerce major Alibaba's Founder **Jack Ma**.
- **India** ranked **43<sup>rd</sup>** (last rank) in 2017 **Global Retirement Index (GRI)** published by French asset management company Natixis Global.
  - Top 10: Norway, Switzerland, Iceland, Sweden, New Zealand, Australia, Germany, Denmark, Netherlands, and Luxembourg.
- The **Union Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation** has released **Swachh Survekshan Gramin 2017**, third party survey report to assess the progress Swachh Bharat Mission in rural India.
  - This survey covered 4626 villages across all States and Union territories.
- **3 Indian companies** featured in the **Forbes' List of World's Most Innovative Companies 2017**.
  - They are: **Hindustan Unilever** - 7<sup>th</sup> Rank (Highest-ranked Indian company), **Asian Paints** - 8<sup>th</sup> Rank and **Airtel** - 78<sup>th</sup> Rank.
- **Australian city Melbourne** has been named the World's most livable city for the 7<sup>th</sup> year in a row by **The Economist in its Global Livability Report**.
  - Top 10 in the Economist's Global Livability Report: Melbourne (Australia), Vienna (Austria), Vancouver (Canada), Toronto (Canada), Calgary (Canada), Adelaide (Australia), Perth (Australia), Auckland (New Zealand), Helsinki (Finland), and Hamburg (Germany).
- **American** tennis player **Serena Williams** has topped the **Forbes' list of highest paid female athletes** of 2017, with \$27 million in earnings between June 2016 and June 2017.
- **5 Indian-origin** people have featured in Fortune's 2017 **40 Under 40** list of most influential young people in business.
  - They are: Leo Varadkar (38 years), Divya Nag (26 years), Rishi Shah (31 years), Shradha Agarwal (32 years), and Leila Janah (31 years).
- **Chinese** e-commerce giant **Alibaba's** Founder **Jack Ma** has become **Asia's richest person** with net worth of \$38.3 billion.
  - He is currently ranked as the world's 18<sup>th</sup> richest man.
- **Deepwater Horizon** actor **Mark Wahlberg** has topped Forbes 2017 list of **World's Highest Paid Actors**, earning \$68 million during the 12-month scoring period.
  - He was followed by **Dwayne Johnson**, who earned \$65 million, and **Vin Diesel**, who earned \$54.5 million.
  - **Shah Rukh Khan** has been named **India's highest paid actor** with 243.7 crore (\$38 million) earnings in the list. He was ranked world's 8<sup>th</sup> **highest paid actor** with **Salman** and **Akshay** at 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> respectively.
- The **Island of Tuvalu** was the **least visited country** in 2016, according to a report by the **United Nations World Tourism Organization**.

- Bollywood actress **Priyanka Chopra** along with PM **Narendra Modi** and Nobel Peace Laureate **Kailash Satyarthi** featured as top influencers in **LinkedIn India's Power Profiles List of 2017**.
  - MP **Shashi Tharoor** and Your Story Media Founder-CEO **Shradha Sharma** also featured on the list.
- Drone-making startup **DJI's Founder** and CEO **Frank Wang Tao** (36) has been listed as **Asia's youngest technology billionaire** in Forbes' 2017 'Richest People in Tech' list.
- According to provisional **census data** released, **Pakistan's population** has **surged to over 20 crore**, a 57% spike since the last census in 1998.
  - The country has over 10 crore Males, over 10 crore Females and over 10,000 transgenders.
  - **Sindh** surpassed **Islamabad** as the most urbanised territory, with over 52% residents in urban areas, the provisional data revealed.
- **Spanish** clothing brand **Zara's** Co-founder **Amancio Ortega** surpassed Microsoft Co-founder **Bill Gates** as the world's richest person.

### National Parties/Regional Parties

- For the first time in history, **BJP** became the largest political party in **Rajya Sabha** after pushing **Congress** to the **second** spot.
  - This comes after BJP MP **Sampatiya Uikey** took oath as the Rajya Sabha member.
- **India's top three citizens** now come from the **BJP** and **RSS** background.
  - **Ram Nath Kovind** - President of India (India's First Citizen)
  - **Venkaiah Naidu** - Vice President of India (Second Citizen)
  - **Narendra Modi** - Prime Minister (India's Third citizen)

### General - National

- The work on converting **Bengaluru's Puttenahalli Lake** into a bird reserve began with the construction of a diversion channel for sewage water from surrounding areas.
- **Central Park** located in **Delhi's Connaught Place** will get facial recognition surveillance as part of collaboration between **New Delhi Municipal Corporation** and **NEC Corporation India**.
- **South Korea, North Korea** and **India** celebrate their **Independence Day** on the same day (15<sup>th</sup> of August).
- The **Independence Day** this year was observed as '**Sankalp Parva**', or **Day of Resolven**.
- The **Union Home Ministry** has merged three-decade **old National Crime Records Bureau** (NCRB) with **Bureau of Police Research and Development** (BPRD).
- The **Union Ministry of Shipping** is planning to expand **Logistics Data Bank** (LDB) project to the country's southern region.
  - As of now, the LDB had covered only the western logistics corridor.
- **Afghanistan** has requested **India** to launch a **special satellite** exclusively for its use.
- **India** has ratified the 2<sup>nd</sup> commitment period of the **Kyoto Protocol** that commits nations to reduce emission of **greenhouse gases** (GHG).
  - During the second commitment period from **2013 to 2020**, nations commit to reducing emissions by at least **18% below** 1990 levels.
- The first phase of **National Cyber Coordination Centre** (NCCC) has become operational.
  - NCCC is a multi-stakeholder cyber-security and e-surveillance agency implemented by **Indian Computer Emergency Response Team** (CERT-In), Union Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology.
- **India** has gifted **30 ambulances** and **6 buses** to **Nepal** for its hospitals, charitable organizations and educational institutions on the occasion of **Independence Day**.

- **European Union citizens will not need visas** to visit the **UK after Brexit**.
  - This comes after the UK government announced to end free movement of workers between the country and EU.
- The **Gurugram civic body** has announced plans to start **online applications** for **registration and certification of marriages**.
- Home Secretary **Rajiv Mehrishi** said that, within a year, **Physical police verification** for passport applicants will be **replaced** with **online verification** with the help of **Crime and Criminal Tracking Network and Systems Project**.
- The **Tripura Cricket Association (TCA)** in association with **BCCI** will build a cricket stadium, with a seating capacity of 25,000, at **Narsinghgarh**.
  - This will be the second-largest cricket stadium in the North-east after **Guwahati's stadium**.
- 7 Indian chess players including former World Champion **Viswanathan Anand** will be taking part in the **Chess World Cup** to be held in **Tbilisi, Georgia**, from September 2 to 27.
- The **Home Ministry** has given its approval for the construction of a **32 kilometres** long road in **Ladakh**.
  - This road will be built between Marsimik La to Hot Spring, the former being around 20 kilometres away from the Pangong Lake.
- Human Resource Development Minister **Prakash Javadekar** announced a **monthly scholarship programme** that would offer 75,000 to 1,000 '**Best Innovative Minds**' every month.
- The **Missionaries of Charity in Kolkata** has celebrated its founder, **Mother Teresa's 107<sup>th</sup> birth anniversary** by lighting candles at her grave and conducting special prayers.
- The **Geographical Indications Registry (GIR)** has granted **Geographical Indication (GI)** status to **Gobindobhog rice**, a specialty from **Burdwan** district of **West Bengal**.

#### **General - International**

- US state **Hawaii** is going to **ban pedestrians using mobile phones** while **crossing the street** in **Honolulu** from **October**.
- A **US court** has ruled that politicians cannot block people on **social media** as it violates their right to **freedom of speech**.
- **Germany** has test launched **surveillance cameras** with **biometric face recognition capability** at one of **Berlin's railway stations**.
- **Qatar** has approved an unprecedented law that will grant **permanent residency** to expats (persons who lives outside their native country) fulfilling **certain conditions**.
- **Australia's** largest lender **Commonwealth Bank of Australia** has been sued by government for 53,700 alleged breaches of money laundering and terrorism financing laws.
- **UK-based** broadcaster **BBC** has introduced a new font titled **BBC Reith**.
  - This new in-house font is designed specifically to be read clearly on mobile devices.
- To encourage air transport and tourism to the country amid a two-month boycott **imposed** by a Saudi-led Arab bloc, **Qatar** announced to allow **visa-free entry** for **citizens of 80 countries** including India and US.
- **Nepal** has criminalized an ancient practice known as '**Chhaupadi**' that banishes women from homes during menstruation.
- **Argentina-based** researchers have identified a new **Titanosaur** species that measured on average 122 feet long and 20 feet high, making it the biggest **dinosaur species** ever known.
- **Turkey** has begun constructing a wall along the **500-kmlong border** with **Iran**.

- A landlocked country in Central Africa, the **Republic of Chad** was released a Limited edition **Lord Krishna silver coin** on **Janmashtami** in commemoration of the 5,244<sup>th</sup> birth anniversary of the Hindu God.
- To celebrate this year's Independence Day, **Pakistan** hoisted a **400-foot-high flag** at the **Attari-Wagah** border.
  - This Pakistani flag, the country's highest, is reportedly also the **highest in South Asia** and the 8<sup>th</sup> highest in the world
- Implementing the latest **UN sanctions** against the reclusive state over its **nuclear programme**, **China** announced a **ban on imports of coal, Iron Ore, lead concentrates and ore, lead and sea food from North Korea**.
- The **US State Department** has designated militant group **Hizbul Mujahideen** as a **Foreign Terrorist Organization**.
  - The **United States** designated ISIS leaders **Ahmad Alkhalid** and **Abu Yahya al-Iraqi** as **Specially Designated Global Terrorists**.
- **China's State Administration for Industry and Commerce (SAIC)** has banned companies from **registering odd and long names**.
- **Australia** plans to strengthen its anti-money laundering laws and regulate digital currencies such as **Bitcoin** in the wake of a financial scandal involving its biggest bank, **Commonwealth Bank of Australia**.
  - Japan is the 1<sup>st</sup> country to regulate crypto currencies, including bit coin.
- To settle internet related disputes in **Hangzhou** (capital of Chinese e-commerce), **China** launched its 1<sup>st</sup> digital "**cyber-court**".
  - In cyber court, a lawsuit can be filed in five minutes, saving time and reducing costs. Defendants and plaintiffs will appear before the judge not in person, but via video-chat.
- **Venezuela's Constituent Assembly**, which was recently created by **President Nicolas Maduro** in defiance of international criticism, has given itself the power to pass laws.
- The "**Big Ben**" bell in **UK Parliament's iconic clock tower** will be silenced from for next four years for renovation works.
- **China** is going to launch the World's first nuclear power plant, the **Sanmen Nuclear Power Station** that is immune to meltdown.
- **Qatar** has approved a **new employment law** which limits **foreign domestic staff** to a **maximum of 10 hours work** a day, the first such protection for foreigners working in the country.
  - The law which ensures monthly payment of wages and entitles workers to at least one day off a week is expected to benefit hundreds of Indians working in Qatar.
- **Canadian citizens** who do not identify as Male or Female will soon be able to mark "**X**" on their **passports** and **other identity documents**.
- **Mexico** will create a new division of the **Federal Police** to preserve and **secure** its **cultural heritage**.
- **Ukraine** has removed all **1,320 statues** of the **communist revolutionary Lenin** as part of a government drive to rid the country of Soviet-era symbols.
- To reduce plastic pollution, **Kenya** imposed the **world's toughest law** against **plastic bags**.
  - The law punishes Kenyans producing, selling or using plastic bags with a maximum fine of over 25 lakh or a four-year jail term.
- A set of **6 caves housing** over 50 arte-facts from the last **Ice Age** has become the **42<sup>nd</sup> UNESCO World Heritage Site** in **Germany**.
- US President **Donald Trump** has lifted an **Obama-era** order which banned police from using surplus military equipment including grenade launchers, bulletproof vests, and riot shields.

- **Pakistan** has temporarily **suspended talks** as well as diplomatic visits with the **US** after President **Donald Trump** criticized the nation for harboring terrorists.
- **France, Germany, Italy, and Spain** have agreed on a plan to help **Chad and Niger** with border controls to contain the flow of migrants and refugees into Europe from northern Africa.
- The UN global nuclear watchdog, **International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)** has opened **World's first low Enriched Uranium (LEU) Bank** in **Oskemen** in **Kazakhstan**.
- The **US Food and Drug Administration (FDA)** approved **First Gene Therapy** of pharma giant **Novartis**, a treatment that uses patient's own immune cells to fight acute lymphoblastic leukaemia.

### Books and Authors

#### Book's Name

#### Author's Name

- 'I Do What I Do' Former RBI Governor **Raghuram Rajan**
- The **Adivasi Will Not Dance**, a book of short stories by **Hansda Sowvendra Shekhar**, has been banned by the **Jharkhand** government on the grounds that it is **offensive** to the dignity of **Santhal** women.

### TO THE POINTS: AUGUST-2017

- Shikha Sharma has been re-appointed as MD&CEO of **Axis Bank** for three-year term from June 2018.
- A Japanese historian **Yoshiaki Ishizawa** who helped save Cambodia's renowned Angkor Wat temple complex, was among the winners of this year's Magsaysay Awards.
- **Mumbai** Metro has announced the launch of India's first Mobile Ticketing System 'OnGo' which will help commuters cross the AFC gates using their mobile phones.
- Union Railway Minister Suresh Prabhu announced a cash reward of **13 lakh** each for the 10 women cricketers employed with the Railways, who were part of the World Cup squad.
- **Punjab National Bank** and Bajaj Allianz General Insurance have signed an agreement for the distribution of insurance products through the branches.
- **Russia and China** are holding their first joint naval exercises in the Baltic Sea, in a signal that the countries are bolstering military ties.
- India and **Bangladesh** agreed to construct gates along the border to allow free and safe passage for wild elephants.
- BSE has joined hands with **Egyptian Exchange** for cooperation in exchange of information across business areas.
- **Samsung** has surpassed Intel to become the world's largest maker of computer chips.
- **Australia** has sent its first uranium shipment to India for testing purposes ahead of possible commercial sales to the nation.
- Indian golfer Diksha has made the country proud by winning a silver medal in the Deaflympics in **Turkey**.
- The BCCI appointed **Sunil Subramaniam** as the Administrative Manager of the Indian cricket team.
- India's Ajay Singh has clinched the **Bronze** medal in Asian Youth and Junior Weightlifting Championships.
- Inder Kumar who passed away recently was an **Actor**.
- **Shahid Khaqan Abbasi** has been nominated as interim prime minister of Pakistan.

- **Virender Sehwag and P T Usha** have been named in a 12-member Committee which has been handed the job to pick this year's Khel Ratna and Arjuna awardees.
- Bengaluru ranks **40** among top 50 cities for women entrepreneurs according to a report by tech giant Dell.
- **Maharashtra** government reportedly plans to launch a mobile app which can be used by farmers to fill loan waiver form.
- **Indian Overseas Bank** has offered Bharat Bill Payment System, introduced by the National Payments Corporation of India, for its customers.
- **Iran** successfully launched its most advanced satellite-carrying rocket called 'Simorgh' into space.
- **Maharashtra** government announced plans to make installation of GPS system mandatory in black-and-yellow taxis and auto rickshaws.
- **National Payments Corporation of India** (NPCI) received a final nod from the Reserve Bank of India to function as the Bharat Bill Payment Central Unit.
- **Maharashtra** government announced that integrated coaching will not be allowed in the state from the next academic year.
- Labor ministers from the BRICS countries are attending the two-day 2017 BRICS Labor and Employment Ministers' Meeting in **China**.
- **Virat Kohli** is currently the only batsman in the world with an average of over 50 across all three formats.
- Kidambi Srikanth ranked **8** in the latest BWF (Badminton World Federation) world rankings.
- The Asian Football Confederation (AFC) Competition Committee has officially awarded **Indonesia** the hosting of the AFC U-19 championship next year.
- **Ravi Mittal** has been appointed as a part-time member of the IRDAI (Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India) board.
- **Delhi** metro has become the only completely 'green' Metro system in the world for adhering to green building norms for its residential colonies.
- **Punjab** government has launched its flagship health scheme "Care Companion Programme" (CCP) targeted at improving patient outcomes through better family engagement and education.
- Over **12 lakh** businesses have applied for fresh registration under the Goods and Services Tax (GST) regime.
- **Ministry of Health and Family Welfare** released Operational Guidelines for Planning and Implementation of Family Participatory Care (FPC) for improving newborn health.
- Canara Bank launched its first 'Digital Banking Branch' in **Bangalore**.
- India's largest lender State Bank of India (SBI) cut interest rates on savings bank deposits by **0.50** percentage points effective July 31.
- The **USA** military has successfully tested the Terminal High Altitude Area Defense (THAAD) system over the Pacific Ocean.
- The smallest spacecraft ever launched are successfully travelling in low Earth orbit and communicating with systems on Earth, which named as **Sprites**.
- **Maharashtra** has topped the list for the maximum number of applications for fresh registration under Goods and Services Tax with over 1.3 lakh applications.
- The 7<sup>th</sup> edition of South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) Artists Camp and Exhibition of Paintings has begun **Nepal**.

- **Chhattisgarh** announced that ambulance service for cows will be started in 10 districts of the state over the next few months.
- 2017 BRICS national security advisors (NSAs) meeting held in **China**.
- C. Vidyasagar Rao and Chief Minister of Maharashtra Devendra Fadnavis have released the book 'Mann Ki Baat - A Social Revolution on Radio' at Raj Bhavan in **Mumbai**.
- Sri Lanka has signed a \$1.1bn (£837m) deal with **China** for the control and development of the southern deep-sea port of Hambantota.
- The world's longest hanging pedestrian bridge opened in **Switzerland**.
- Indian Boxers won five gold, two silver and one bronze medal at 48<sup>th</sup> Grand Prix event held in **Czech Republic**.
- **Sebastian Vettel** won the Hungarian Grand Prix title 2017.
- K.E. Mammen who passed away recently was a/an **Freedom Fighter**.
- Niti Aayog vice-chairman **Arvind Panagariya** has resigned from his position.
- **Abhay Krishna** has been appointed as the new chief of the Army's Eastern Command amid border tensions with China along the Sikkim Border.
- Union Government launched 'Swachh Survekshan-2018' to rank all the **4041** cities and towns in the country.
- Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Minority Affairs & Parliamentary Affairs Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi launched "Jiyo Parsi Publicity Phase-2" in **Mumbai**.
- India and **Bhutan** mutually decided to bring into force the 'new' bilateral Agreement on Trade, Commerce and Transit with effect from July.
- **Three** Indian companies have been featured on Forbes' 2017 list of 'Best Under a Billion' in Asia.
- 19<sup>th</sup> round of the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) Trade Negotiating Committee (TNC) meetings and other related meetings were held in **Hyderabad**.
- **Maharashtra** government is planning to introduce cycling tracks along the arterial roads of 10 cities.
- Typhoon **Haitang** struck China's eastern Fujian Province with incessant rain battering different parts of the region recently.
- **Dhanraj Pillay** has been awarded with East Bengal football club's highest honor - Bharat Gaurav on their foundation day.
- Indian cricketer **Gautam Gambhir** has started a free community kitchen in Delhi under his charitable foundation to provide meals free of cost to the poor.
- India bagged a rich haul of **24** medals, including 7 gold, at the Jordan Junior and Cadet Open table tennis tournament (ITTF Junior Circuit).
- Indian shuttler C Rahul Yadav and men's doubles pair of Manu Attri and B Sumeeth Reddy clinched the men's singles and men's doubles title respectively at Lagos International challenge in **Nigeria**.
- **Los Angeles** has been selected to host the Olympics for the third time in 2028 by the International Olympic Committee.
- **John Isner** won the Atlanta Open tennis title 2017.
- Ustad Hussain Sayeeduddin Dagar who passed away recently, he was a maestro and custodian of the venerable Dhrupad tradition of **Hindustani classical music**.

- **Dhirendra Swarup** has been appointed as new chairman of Bombay Stock Exchange.
- The government has constituted a 10 member committee to recommend a framework for securing personal data in the increasingly digitised economy; Committee is headed by **Justice B N Srikrishna**.
- C. P Gurnani re-appointed as the Managing Director & CEO of **Tech Mahindra**.
- Amazon Prime Video has signed deal with Bollywood star **Salman Khan** to premiere his all future films first exclusively on Amazon Prime Video right after the theatrical release.
- The government has launched a portal, **e-RaKAM** to provide a platform to sell agricultural produce.
- The Government has approved establishment of Post Graduate Institutes for Research in Yoga and Naturopathy in **Karnataka and Haryana**.
- **Jharkhand** government has approved the draft anti-conversion Bill that forbids religious conversion through allurements or coercion and has penal provisions.
- E-commerce Company **Flipkart** has completed the merger with eBay India's operations.
- **Airtel Payments Bank** has announced a strategic partnership with Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL).
- India and **Somalia** have signed a bilateral agreement for the transfer of sentenced persons, thus deepening humanitarian cooperation between the two countries.
- **China** has formally opened its first overseas military base in Djibouti with a flag raising ceremony and military parade.
- The US senate confirmed the appointment of **Christopher Wray** as the Director of Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI).
- Actor Dhruv Sharma who passed away recently, he was an actor in **Kannada** film industry.
- **Sanjaya Baru** has been named as new secretary general of the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI).
- The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) has approved doubling of tracks of three railway lines and their electrification in **Tamil Nadu and Kerala**.
- India is permitted to construct hydroelectric power facilities on tributaries of the **Jhelum and Chenab** Rivers with certain restrictions.
- Chief Information Commissioner RK Mathur has reconstituted a larger bench to hear complaints against six national political parties, the three-member panel headed by **Sridhar Acharyulu**.
- Peter O'Neill has been reappointed as Prime Minister of **Papua New Guinea**.
- **State Bank of India** and Samsung India announced the availability of Samsung Pay for higher variants of debit card, giving a major boost to government's 'Digital India' initiative.
- **Bangalore** will soon have India's first helicopter-taxi service.
- Regulator SEBI has set up a committee on 'fair market conduct', the committee under the chairmanship of **T K Viswanathan**.
- U.S. President Donald Trump has signed legislation imposing new sanctions on **Russia** into law.
- The 7<sup>th</sup> Meeting of Brazil Russia India China and South Africa (BRICS) Countries with the corresponding Trade Ministers was held in **Shanghai, China**.
- Politician Santosh Mohan Dev who passed away recently, he was associated with **Congress Party**.

- Sergio Tapiro Velasco has won the 2017 National Geographic Travel Photographer of the Year Contest, he belongs to **Mexico**.
- In an attempt to promote innovation and entrepreneurship in agriculture, Government launched the 2<sup>nd</sup> AGRI-UDAAN program in **New Delhi**.
- Women Cricketer **Harmanpreet Kaur** to be appointed as Deputy Superintendent of Police by Punjab government.
- **Maharashtra** Government launched two online portals MahaDBT and MahaVASTU to streamline the process of direct benefit transfer (DBT).
- Lok Sabha passes bill to raise NABARD's capital to Rs. **30000** crore.
- **Bihar** government has decided to give compulsory retirement to non-performing teachers and education department officials above 50 years of age.
- **State Bank of India** plans to raise Rs 2,000 crore by allotting Basel-III compliant bonds to various investors.
- The National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) has approved the proposed merger between **Airtel** and Telenor India
- Multi Commodity Exchange of India Limited (MCX) and **Mahindra Agri Solutions Ltd** have signed a MoU to provide agriculture related price information.
- **BigBasket**, online grocery firm has received the government's nod for foreign direct investment to undertake retailing of food products, which are manufactured or produced in India.
- **Mohammad Mustafa** has been appointed as Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) in Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI).
- The Indian Army has developed a mobile application **Humraaz** through which serving soldiers can track details like postings and promotions.
- Hassan Rouhani is the new President of **Iran**.
- A ban on travel by U.S. passport holders to **North Korea** will take effect on September 1 and Americans in the country should leave before that date.
- **Anwesh Upadhyay** won the National Rapid Chess Championship title 2017.
- India's Manju Kumari won the **Bronze** medal in the Junior World Wrestling Championship in Tampere, Finland.
- **Neymar** has become the world's most expensive footballer.
- **Sharada** has been selected for this year's Prem Nazir Award.
- **JK Rowling** has been named the world's most highly-paid author with earnings of £72.2m (\$95m) this year.
- **Rajiv Kumar** has been appointed as new Vice Chairman of NITI Aayog.
- **Hemant Narayan Bhagwat** has been appointed as Air Officer-in-Charge Administration of Indian Air Force.
- Prabhat Kumar has been appointed as Ambassador of India to **Republic of Kazakhstan**.
- Paul Kagame has been re-elected as the President of **Rwanda**.
- The AIFF has named senior advocate **Ushanath Banerjee** as the chairman of a special committee that will be dealing with players' transfer disputes.
- **IndusInd Bank** became the sixth Indian bank whose market capitalisation soared past the Rs. 1 lakh crore-mark.

- Kotak Mahindra Bank has launched **Kotak Remit** an Aadhaar-based integrated outward forex remittance solution for both customers and non-customers.
- **Maharashtra** has launched a motorbike ambulance service to provide swift medical assistance to patients.
- India signed a loan agreement with **Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank** for financing USD 329 million in the India.
- **Uttar Pradesh** students sent a 100-feet long rakhi that they made for Indian soldiers at the border with colored papers, clothes, laces, and many other decorative materials.
- Finance Minister Arun Jaitley launched **Bharat-22** an exchange-traded-fund (ETF) to divest government assets in 22 state-run and private firms.
- Microsoft is going to help the government of **Telangana** use artificial intelligence to provide eye care screening for children in the State.
- **S Aparna** has been appointed as an Executive Director in the World Bank in the US.
- Chabahar Port likely to be operational by **2018**.
- **Russia** and Indonesia have signed a preliminary deal to trade Sukhoi Su-35 jets for commodities like tea and coffee.
- Nasscom Foundation and post-trade technology firm Arcesium jointly established the first rural digital literacy centre in **Telangana**.
- Starting from September, **Punjab National Bank** will charge customers for depositing cash above Rs. 5,000 in non-base branches, even if these are located in the same city.
- Karnataka's first child-friendly courts were inaugurated in **Bangalore**.
- **Indian Institute of Science** researchers have developed a highly sensitive nanometer-scale carbon monoxide sensor by employing an innovative fabrication technique.
- **Assam** has decided to distribute 13 lakh Soil Health Cards among farmers.
- A High-Level Committee set up to review the Institutionalization of Arbitration Mechanism in India submitted its report to the Union Law Ministry. It was headed by **Justice BN Krishna**.
- Mobile wallet major MobiKwik has entered into a strategic partnership with **Bajaj Finance** to transform itself into a financial services app from a payments app at present.
- The first meeting of the Japan-India Coordination Forum (JICF) for Development of North-Eastern Region was held in **New Delhi, India**.
- **August 15** was observed as 'Sankalp Parva', or 'Day of Resolve', and urged people to dedicate themselves in creating a new India.
- **Canara Bank** has hit the international debt market with a benchmark dollar bond issue that will have a tenor of 5 years.
- India's first micro forest being built in **Chhattisgarh**.
- **Rayichapalu** fish has been declared as one of the rarest species of fish in the world by Marine Living Resources Department, Andhra University.
- **Anny Divya** became the youngest female commander of a Boeing 777 in India and in the world.
- Indian shooter Ankur Mittal bagged the **Gold** medal in men's double trap at the 7th Asian Shotgun Championship in Astana, Kazakhstan.
- An Indian businessman **Firoz Merchant** in the UAE has been honoured with the country's prestigious Community Service Medal.

- **Mimaansa** was awarded in the Young Innovators Challenge 2017 event hosted by 3M India and the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII).
- **Dipak Misra** has been appointed as the 45<sup>th</sup> Chief Justice of India with effect from August 28, 2017.
- **Dev Patel** has to be honored by a leading educational organization for making a “transformative and positive” difference for the future of Asia and the world.
- **Madan Lal** has been appointed chairman of the newly-formed Cricket Affairs Committee (CAC) of Delhi & Districts Cricket Association (DDCA).
- **Dilip Chauhan** has been appointed to a key position of Deputy Comptroller for Minority Affairs in New York’s Nassau County.
- **IIM Ahmedabad** and Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) have jointly launched a central scheme to promote agri-startups in the country.
- According to the survey, almost all rural households in **Kerala and Haryana** had access to a toilet report.
- NITI Aayog has announced partnership with three States each to radically transform their Health and Education sectors, they are **Uttar Pradesh, Assam and Karnataka**.
- A special event, ‘The dawn of cruise tourism in India’ was inaugurated in **Mumbai**.
- ONGC Videsh plans to invest \$150 million in exploration this fiscal year to drill more wells in **Colombia, Kazakhstan and Bangladesh**.
- India’s leading FMCG Britannia Industries would set up its largest plant in **Maharashtra**.
- **Flipkart** has launched “Budding Star Programme’.
- Amazon India has signed an agreement with the **Telangana** government to promote handlooms on the e-commerce platform.
- The government merged the National Crimes Records Bureau (NCRB) with **Bureau of Police Research and Development**.
- **Mastercard** and PayPal have extended their partnership into Asia Pacific to enhance the consumer experience.
- **Kotak Mahindra Bank** will offer debit card at a special price of Rs.99 for the first year for customers who will open account under its zero balance account scheme till September 15.
- **Real Madrid** won the European Super Cup Title.
- India’s Amit Kumar Saroha clinched **Silver** in men’s club throw F51 competition in World Para Athletics Championships.
- ASSOCHAM has conferred the best skilling award on National Centre for Excellence of RSETIs (NACER), NACER is an apex level organization for mentoring and monitoring RSETIs working under **Ministry of Rural Development**.
- **Gujarat** has become the first state in India to come up with the policy of coal utilization between power units based on fuel-efficiency.
- The second round of National Deworming Day (NDD) was observed on **August 10** in 33 States and Union Territories to tackle worm Infections, targeting more than 11 crore children.
- Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath will flag off the ‘Namami Gange Jagriti Yatra’ in **Lucknow**.
- Vijaya Bank has disbursed loan sanction letters to beneficiaries who were trained at the Vijaya Bank Self Employment Training Institute (VIBSETI) in **Madya Pradesh**.

- For promoting an e - payments solution, private lender **IDFC Bank** has partnered with digital payments brand Zeta.
- **ICICI Bank** has announced the launch of Instant Credit Card Service, which will enable its savings account customers to get a credit card instantly, in a completely digital and paperless manner.
- 8<sup>th</sup> meeting of Regional Technical Group on Trade, Commerce and Investment CBM of the Heart of Asia – Istanbul Process held in **New Delhi**.
- India ranked **43** out of 45 countries in a global innovation index.
- Bangladesh will soon open a new diplomatic station in **Chennai**.
- India shooter Kynan Chenai won a **Bronze** in men’s trap event, his first international medal at the senior level, at the 7th Asian Shotgun Championship in Astana, Kazakhstan.
- **Debraj Shome** has been awarded with the prestigious ‘Indian of the Year’ award at the 8th Annual India Leadership Conclave & Indian Affairs Business Leadership Awards 2017.
- **Sravanth Malla** clinched the title of national champion at the 2017 South Asian Spelling Bee in Edison, N.J.
- The Hindu Playwright Award 2017 went to **Gerish Khemani and Akshat Nigam** for their play ‘In Search of Dariya Sagar’.
- Vinay Dube has been appointed as chief executive officer of **Jet Airways**.
- **Delhi** will have the fastest growth of any city in Asia, with the economy to be almost 50 percent larger in 2021 than it was at the end of last year.
- The National Green Tribunal (NGT) has imposed an interim ban on use of non-biodegradable plastic bags which are less than 50 microns in **New Delhi**.
- Telangana Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao initiated **2000** crore Sriram Sagar modernization project.
- The National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) has approved 10 projects in **Bihar, West Bengal and Uttar Pradesh** worth about Rs.2,033 crore.
- Markets regulator SEBI has introduced an online registration mechanism for custodians of securities to make it convenient for them to do business; **Ajay Tyagi** is the chairman of SEBI.
- After the Hindi version, Oxford University Press (OUP) has launched online dictionaries in **Tamil and Gujarati**.
- **Facebook** has rolled out ‘Watch’ – a redesigned video platform for creators and publishers.
- The ICC has named **Harmanpreet Kaur** six against England in the final of the ICC Women’s World Cup at Lord’s as the Play of the Tournament.
- **Davinder Singh** becomes the first Indian to qualify for the final round of the javelin throw World Championships.
- **Hindustan Unilever** won the ‘Green Marketer’ award at the debut edition of Marquee Awards 2017.
- The Advertising Agencies Association of India (AAAI) will confer this year’s AAAI Lifetime Achievement Award for **Roda Mehta**.
- **Turkey** has started to construct a wall along the 500-km-long border with Iran.
- **MALABAR Gold & Diamonds** received the ‘Retail Jeweller India Award’ for the special contributions to the gem and jewellery industry.
- Uhuru Kenyatta is the new president of **Kenya**.

- **I V Subba Rao** has been appointed as secretary to Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu.
- David Rasquinha was appointed as managing director of **Export-Import Bank of India**.
- **Milkha Singh** has been appointed as WHO Goodwill Ambassador for Physical Activity in South-East Asia Region.
- The Delhi High Court has appointed **SY Quraishi** as administrator of Archery Association of India (AAI).
- Initiative for a New India movement from 2017 - 2022, a Sankalp Se Siddhi (Attainment through Resolve) Programme was organized at **Coimbatore**.
- Heritage Conservation Society has launched a scheme - 'Nabin Tan Mon Bikash Yojana' - in memory of Nabin Sharma. The scheme is especially for **School children**.
- The Government of India has decided to launch a new sub-scheme named "Aajeevika Grameen Express Yojana (AGEY)" as part of **Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana - National Rural Livelihoods Mission**.
- **Dilip Asbe** has been appointed as Chief Executive Officer of National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI).
- **Vidya Balan** was appointed as part of the reconstituted Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC).
- **Jharkhand** state assembly has passed Religious Freedom Bill 2017; it aims to stop the forced conversions in the state.
- The Hugo Award for Best Novel 2017 was given to **N. K. Jemisin**.
- **NALCO** has been awarded for its initiative in areas like environment, safety and health in large mines category.
- **Prasoon Joshi** has been appointed as Chairman of the Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC) for a period of three years.
- **Telangana** state government in association with the World Resources Institute (WRI) India - Ross Centre and the Indian School of Business (ISB) launched the 'Smart Streets Lab' program.
- Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion (DIPP) under Ministry of Commerce and Industry have approved two projects for development of industrial clusters in **Andra Pradesh**.
- **Aishwarya Rai Bachchan** has become the first female actor ever to hoist the Indian National Flag at the Indian Film Festival of Melbourne (IFFM).
- Reenat Sandhu has been concurrently accredited as the next Ambassador of India to the **Republic of San Marino**.
- Around 3.5 lakh college students in **Gujarat** will get tablets at a subsidized rate of Rs 1,000 each under a state government scheme.
- **India** has now emerged as one of the most open economies in the world for receiving foreign direct investments (FDI).
- **Hike** has acquired Bangalore-based tech startup CREO for an undisclosed amount.
- **Multi Commodity Exchange** will launch the country's first gold options contract in September.
- **Canara Bank** unveiled two new digital services Bharat QR (Quick Response) and Bharat Bill Payment System (BBPS) for online payments.
- **Punjab National Bank** has introduced biometric attendance in the place of the existing system of signing attendance in the attendance register.
- Markets regulator SEBI has entered into a pact with its counterpart in **Iran** to promote technical assistance and facilitate cross-border co-operation in the area of securities regulations.

- India ranked **97<sup>th</sup>** in the latest edition of the FIFA rankings issued.
- Yisrael Kristal certified last year by Guinness World Records as the world's oldest man passed away recently, he was from **Israel**.
- Vijay Nambisan who passed away recently was a **Poet**.
- Dr Ruth Pfau, popularly known as Pakistan's 'Mother Teresa' who passed away recently, she was a **German** doctor.
- The US-based Marconi Society has announced its Lifetime Achievement Award to Indian born professor **Thomas Kailath**.
- **T J S George** has been chosen for the first Kesari Media Award, instituted by the Kesari Memorial Journalist Trust.
- **Earthport** has appointed Sandeep Gupta as its head of India.
- **Shashi Shekhar Vempati** has been appointed as the chief of Rajya Sabha TV.
- **Santosh Sharma** was appointed as chairman and managing director (CMD) of Hindustan Copper Ltd (HCL).
- **Sankara Rao** has been appointed as a new Managing Director & CEO of IFCI Ltd.
- President Donald Trump has appointed **Neil Chatterjee** as chair of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC).
- Second Seminar on 'MAKE' projects for Indian Army was held in **New Delhi**.
- India's first railways disaster management centre to come up in **Bangalore**.
- **Maharashtra** state government has launched Namo Yuva Rojgar Kendra an initiative providing job opportunities to unemployed youth.
- The country's first aviation university opens in **Uttar Pradesh**.
- **Odisha** state government launched 'She Means Business' programme of Facebook for women entrepreneurs in state.
- Indian Coast Guard ship "Shaurya", the fifth in the series of six 105-metre offshore patrol vessels (OPVs) commissioned in **Goa**.
- The India-ASEAN Youth Summit held in **Bhopal**.
- India and **Russia** will hold a mega war game in October involving their armies, navies and the air forces for the first time to further ramp up military ties.
- The UN World Health Organization (WHO) declared **Somalia** free of polio for three consecutive years.
- **Nepal** and China have signed three pacts to further boost their ties in power and energy sectors.
- The first South Asian Youth Summit-2017 is all set to be organized in **Bhubaneswar**.
- The greatest sprinter of modern times, Usain Bolt retired from the Athletics world, he belongs to **Jamaica**.
- **Mitali Madhumita** has become the first woman officer to receive a gallantry award in the Indian Army.
- UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres has appointed senior UN official Ruby Sandhu-Rojon as his new Deputy Special Representative for **West Africa**.
- **Odisha** government will soon launch "Durgama Anchalare Malaria Nirakaran" (DAMON), a special programme to prevent the spread of malaria in remote areas.

- India's first partition museum was opened in **Punjab**.
- **India** will host the next steering committee meeting of the proposed 1,814 kilometre-long Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan-India (TAPI) gas pipeline.
- Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis has inaugurated the next generation projection mapping system at the iconic Gateway of India in **South Mumbai**.
- The international exchange from BSE, IndiaINX received an approval from **Securities and Exchange Board of India** to commence trading in Gold Options contracts – the first for India at GIFT IFSC.
- **ICICI Prudential Mutual Fund** has launched a new website 'PlanYourGoal.com' to help users plan their investments according to their future financial goals.
- Scientists from **Canada** have developed an injectable tissue bandage dubbed as AngioChip, smaller than a postage stamp can repair damaged hearts.
- **Australia** has approved the world's biggest single tower solar thermal power plant.
- **China** halts iron, iron ore and seafood imports from North Korea.
- **Norway** has the fastest mobile Internet in the world, According to global leader in broadband testing Ookla.
- **Melbourne** has once again been named the world's most livable city by The Economist, receiving a perfect score for healthcare, education and infrastructure.
- **Alexander Zverev** won the Rogers Cup tennis title 2017.
- **Corporation Bank** bagged the best performance awards for SHG-bank linkage program for Karnataka for 2015-16 and 2016-17 from National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD).
- **Marg ERP** has been actively involved in the government Skill India Program, was awarded the Best Start-Up in Skill Development.
- National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) conferred the 'best performance award' for 2015-16 and 2016-17 to **Karnataka Vikas Grameena Bank** for its work in the field of credit-linking joint liability groups (JLGs).
- **Neymar** has become a goodwill ambassador for Handicap International, pledging to work for millions who are 'less visible' but deserve equality.
- **Tata Power** has become the first power utility to introduce a QR code based bill payments system in India.
- Congress vice-president Rahul Gandhi has launched the Indira Canteen scheme in **Karnataka**.
- State Bank of India launched a CSR (Corporate Social Responsibility) initiative, **SBI Gram Seva** which will work in the areas of health, education, environment and rural infrastructure.
- **City Union Bank** is going to offer instant credit cards and customers can generate a credit card online.
- **Qatar** has launched a new direct route between the country's Hamad Port and Pakistan's port of Karachi.
- **Italy** will host a summit of G-7 interior ministers centered on security issues.
- **Bappi Lahiri** was awarded 7<sup>th</sup> Bharat Ratna Dr. Ambedkar Award for his legendary 48 years of musical work in both Bollywood and Hollywood.
- **Five** Indian-origin persons have featured in Fortune's annual list of 40 young and influential people in the field of business.

- **Emma Stone** has been named Hollywood's best-paid female actor in Forbes' annual list of top earners.
- General Motors (GM) India announced the appointment of **Sanjiv Gupta** as the new President and Managing Director of the company.
- The government has banned exports of gold jewellery, medallions and other articles above **22** carat purity in a bid to check round tripping of the precious metal.
- **Ministry of Human Resource Development** has announced November 13 as the date for conducting its National Assessment Survey (NAS) for the students of class 3, 5, and 8.
- The Union Cabinet approved a proposal to complete the balance works of North Koel Reservoir Project in **Bihar**.
- The government plans to get **1000** electric cars for the ministers in the country by November.
- **Karur Vysya Bank** has unveiled the Aadhaar Enrolment Centre here following UIDAI's directive last month.
- **BSNL** has unveiled its mobile wallet in partnership with MobiKwik to enable one-tap bill payment for its over 100 million subscribers.
- **Lakshya Sen** won the Bulgaria Open International Series title 2017.
- Russian President Vladimir Putin has appointed career diplomat **Nikolay Kudashev** as Russia's new ambassador to India.
- **Travis Sinniah** has been appointed as the chief of Sri Lanka's naval forces to head the Navy.
- India's first world peace university inaugurated in **Pune**.
- **China** launched its first cyber court specializing in handling Internet-related cases in the e-commerce hub.
- Uber has launched the UberEATS service in **Bangalore**, partnering with over 300 restaurants.
- **Union Bank of India** entered into a corporate agency agreement with Bajaj Allianz General Insurance and Cholamandalam MS General Insurance for distribution of their insurance products.
- Saudi Arabia's King Salman has ordered the reopening of the border with **Qatar** to facilitate the annual haj pilgrimage.
- **USA and Japan** have agreed to advance their multilateral security and defence cooperation with India, South Korea and Australia in view of North Korea's dangerous provocative behavior.
- S Paul who passed away recently was a **Photographer**.
- **K Chandrashekhara Rao** has been selected for the prestigious Agriculture Leadership Award-2017.
- **Mamta Suri** took charge as Executive Director of Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI) in New Delhi.
- A MoU was signed between Government e-Marketplace (GeM) SPV and the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) to establish **GeM Samvaad**.
- **Haryana** has directed all government hospitals to charge a fee ranging from Rs. 10 to Rs. 500 for medical facilities that were free of cost earlier.
- The Reserve Bank of India will shortly issue Rs. 50 denomination banknotes in the Mahatma Gandhi (New) Series; the base color of the note is **Fluorescent blue**.
- World's largest data centre to be built in **Arctic Circle**.
- Sadbhavana Diwas or Harmony Day was observed on **August 20**.

- **Rahul Doshi** has been crowned as the UK's 'Child Genius' in a popular television quiz competition.
- Pakistani Nobel Prize winner Malala Yousafzai to study at **Oxford University**.
- MK Damodaran who passed away recently was a **Former Advocate General**.
- **Ministry of Defence** has decided to delegate administrative and financial powers to the Border Roads Organization (BRO).
- **Rajasthan** state government and state owned oil firm HPCL inked an agreement to form a joint venture company for Barmer petroleum refinery and petrochemical complex.
- India's first calf delivered by a surrogate or recipient cow through In Vitro Fertilisation (IVF) technology carried out in a mobile laboratory in **Pune**.
- **China** is going to launch the world's first nuclear power plant, the Sanmen Nuclear Power Station that is immune to meltdown.
- State-run power transmission utility Power Grid Corp announced that it will get a loan of USD 500 million from the **Asian Development Bank** for its various projects.
- South Delhi Municipal Corporation (SDMC) has joined forces with the Northern Railway in order to launch the **Mosquito terminator train** at the Delhi Railway station.
- NASA has launched the latest in a series of satellites aimed at ensuring astronauts at the International Space Station can communicate with **Earth**.
- **China** is re launching the fastest bullet trains in the world, which run at 350 kilometres per hour.
- **UK** scientists have developed the world's smallest surgical robot which could transform daily operations for tens of thousands of patients.
- Nestle India has joined hands with ecommerce company **Amazon India** to exclusively sell the newly launched Nutri-Licious range of Maggi noodles.
- Prime Minister Sher Bahadur Deuba was visited to India. He is the prime minister of **Nepal**.
- **Serena Williams** heads the highest-paid female athletes in 2017.
- Teenager Shapath Bharadwaj has won a **Bronze** medal in the double trap event competition at the ISSF Junior Shotgun World Cup in Porpetto, Italy.
- **Oinam Bembem Devi** will be honored with the prestigious Arjuna Award 2017.
- **Dharmendra Kumar** has been appointed as the Director General, Railway Protection Force, Railway Board.
- **Karnataka** state government launched clouding seeding Project Varshadhari in Bangalore under which an aircraft will spray chemicals to induce rainfall.
- NITI Aayog will launch the Mentor India Campaign; **Amitabh Kant** is the CEO of NITI Aayog.
- **Rajnath Singh** launched the digital police portal under the CCTNS project, which aims to create a national database of crimes and criminals.
- State-owned Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) will invest about Rs 52,000 crore in expanding Paradip refinery in **Odisha**.
- The National Bank of Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) has sanctioned a loan assistance of Rs 1,349.55 crore to the **Rajasthan** for creation of rural infrastructure in the state.
- The board of state-owned Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) given 'in-principle' approval to acquire government's **11%** stake in Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited.

- The first regional centre of the New Development Bank, set up by India and other BRICS nations, was officially opened in **South Africa**.
- **Delhi** government has announced a complete ban on manual cleaning of sewers.
- The Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) and Ministry of Health inked Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with **South Korea** for vaccine.
- Tata Power its joint venture company Adjaristsqali Georgia LLC (AGL) synchronized 186 MW Shuakhevi Hydro Project in **Georgia**.
- Google has launched its version 8.0 of the operating system as Android **Oreo**.
- The Sports Ministry announced the National Sports Awards on 22 August 2017, Selection Committee for Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna Award and Arjuna Awards was headed by **Justice C.K. Thakkar**.
- **Padma Viswanathan** is the recipient of the 2017 Porter Fund Literary Prize for fiction.
- **Paynear Solution** was awarded 'Best Use of Mobile Technology in Financial Services in Asia' at the 'Eighth CMO Asia Excellence' awards.
- Ajay Vipin Nanavati was appointed as the chairman of **Syndicate Bank**.
- **Ashwani Lohani** was named as the new Chairman of Railway Board after Ashok Mittal resigned from the post.
- State-owned lender Power Finance Corporation Ltd (PFC) has announced it has appointed **N B Gupta** as the new Director (Finance).
- **Andra Pradesh** power distribution companies are India's first state-owned discoms to accept payments through Bharat QR.
- **Estonia** plans to launch own crypto currency.
- The first edition of Miss Transqueen India, a beauty pageant for transgenders held on **Gurugram**.
- **Rajiv Bansal** has been appointed as the interim Chairman and Managing Director of Air India.
- **Andra Pradesh** government is planning to provide pension to the transgender community in a bid to establish equality and a better standard of living for every citizen in the state.
- The seventeenth Meeting of the Financial Stability and Development Council (FSDC) held in **New Delhi**.
- Union Finance Minister Arun Jaitley announced that the creamy layer ceiling for the Other Backward Classes (OBCs) was hiked to **8 lakh** per annum for central government jobs.
- UIDAI has joined hands with CSC India for launching door step enrolment facility in **New Delhi**.
- The Union Cabinet has given its approval for signing of a MoU between India and **Nepal** on Drug Demand Reduction.
- The Union Cabinet has approved a MoU to be signed between India and **Nepal** for laying down implementation arrangement on Cost sharing, Schedules and Safeguard issues for starting construction of a new Bridge.
- The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs has approved the renaming of the new Central Sector Scheme - SAMPADA as **Pradhan Mantri Kisan Sampada Yojana**.
- The Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports is going to establish National Sports Museum, first of its kind in **New Delhi**.
- The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India has inked an agreement with the **Malaysia** Communications and Multimedia Commission (MCMC) to deepen bilateral cooperation in telecom and broadcasting regulation.

- Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh will attend a meeting of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) on disaster prevention and relief in **Kyrgyzstan**.
- Most prolific and influential science fiction writer Brian Aldiss who passed away recently, he was from **UK**.
- Rishang Keishing who passed away recently, he was a former chief minister of **Manipur**.
- **Karnataka** signed a MoU with software giant Microsoft India to develop a unique price forecasting model.
- **Odisha** launches grid-connected rooftop solar programme through net-metering system.
- **3** Indian actors in Forbes' top 10 list of highest paid actors in the world.
- India and **Nepal** have inked eight pacts, including on cooperation in countering drug trafficking.
- **USA** has sent the first-ever shipment of its coal to Ukraine.
- **Maharashtra** education board has launched a web portal with online question banks to help students prepare for competitive exams on their own.
- **Walmart** and Google are announcing a new partnership that will enable voice shopping through Google Assistant.
- England's Wayne Rooney announced retirement recently, he was associated with **Football**.
- **LaRoda** was crowned Miss India America 2017 at the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary gala, in Los Angeles, California.
- Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik has conferred the Biju Patnaik Award for Scientific Excellence for the year 2016 to **Digambar Behera**.
- **Tata Docomo** won DigitAnalysis' award for best Wi-Fi services in North India.
- **Nandan Nilekani** has been appointed as the chairman of the board of directors of Infosys.
- **Qantas Airways** Airways is set to offer a 20-hour non-stop flight from Sydney to London, making this the world's longest non-stop commercial flight.
- The Haryana government will organize Digital Haryana Summit in **Gurugram**.
- An Indian Navy band will participate in the International Military Music Festival "Spasskaya Tower" at **Moscow**.
- Out of the 56 regional rural banks (RRBs), **Karnataka Vikas Grameena Bank and Andhra Pragathi Grameena Bank** recorded net profit of more than Rs. 150 crore during 2016-17.
- **Microsoft** has announced its Project Brainwave deep learning acceleration platform for real-time artificial intelligence (AI).
- **Kerala** government has begun e-waste disposal in its state schools.
- Google is extending its successful Google Station program to **Indonesia**.
- **Karnataka** government will soon come out with an 'Electric Vehicle and Energy Storage Policy' aimed at reducing pollution.
- **Brazil** has abolished a vast national reserve in the Amazon to open up the area to mining.
- **England** to host 2018 ITTF Team World Cup.
- **Cristiano Ronaldo** was named UEFA Player of the Season for 2016-2017.
- Tony de Brum who passed away recently, he was a former foreign minister of **Republic of Marshall Islands**.
- Ramanda Sengupta who passed away recently was a **Cinematographer**.

- **Jammu and Kashmir** has decided to build an Eco-Park on over 34 acres of land reclaimed from encroachers in the state's Rajouri District.
- Air Chief Marshal BS Dhanoa inaugurated the 56<sup>th</sup> annual three-day conference of Indian Society of Aerospace Medicine in **Bangalore**.
- External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj inaugurated India's first 'Videsh Bhavan' in **Mumbai**.
- **Seven** Indian companies have made it to the latest Carbon Clean 200 list, which features the world's largest publicly traded companies making significant revenue from clean energy.
- The CA Institute has signed a MoU with the Institute of Chartered Accountants of **Nepal**.
- The Reserve Bank has launched the bright yellow Rs. 200 notes, his currency notes bears motif of **Sanchi Stupa**.
- **HDFC Bank** announced a software upgrade to create a single point-of-sale (PoS) machine which will accept payments through Unified Payments Interface (UPI), BharatQR, SMS Pay and the bank's mobile wallet.
- Banks importing gold and precious metals will have to pay **3** per cent tax under the GST.
- **Lionel Messi** became the first ever player to score 350 goals in La Liga.
- Justice Dipak Misra was sworn in as the **45<sup>th</sup>** Chief Justice of India.
- Tata Sons appointed **Roopa Purushothaman** as Chief Economist and Head of Policy Advocacy.
- External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj was participated in the two-day Indian Ocean Conference to be held in **Sri Lanka**.
- **Karnataka** Department of Tourism has announced Dasara Special Tour Packages.
- Defence Minister Arun Jaitley handed over the Long-Range Surface-to-Air Missile (LRSAM) jointly developed by India and **Israel**, to the Indian Navy.
- **Uber** has announced a phased rollout of two new features, namely 'In-app chat' and 'multi-destination'.
- **Indian Commodity Exchange** commenced operations as the world's first diamond futures exchange.
- **Taiwan** has launched Formosat-5, the first homegrown observation satellite, from an air base in the US.
- Union Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports Minister Mr. Vijay Goel announced that the first edition of Rural Games or GrameenKhel Mahotsav will kick-start from **Delhi**.
- PV Sindhu grabbed a **Silver** medal at World Badminton Championships at Glasgow.
- Saina Nehwal won **Bronze** medal at World Badminton Championships at Glasgow.
- **India** won the SAFF Under-15 Championships 2017 in Kathmandu.
- **Lewis Hamilton** won the Belgian Grand Prix 2017.

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**CURRENT AFFAIRS: AUGUST-2017**  
**MODEL QUESTIONS**

**List of Important Days**

1. What is the theme of the 2017 World Day against Trafficking in Persons?  
(1) Protect rights of human trafficking victims  
(2) Eliminate human trafficking  
(3) Unite to eradicate human trafficking  
(4) Act to protect and assist trafficked persons  
(5) None of these
2. What is the theme of 2017 World Breastfeeding Week (WBW)?  
(1) Sustaining Breastfeeding Together  
(2) Breastfeeding: A key to Sustainable Development  
(3) Breastfeeding: SDG 2022 goals  
(4) Mother's Absolute Affection  
(5) None of these

**Reserve Bank of India**

3. What is the current repo rate, as per recently released RBI's 3rd bi-monthly monetary policy statement for FY 2017-18?  
(1) 6.25%      (2) 6.0%      (3) 5.75%      (4) 6.50%      (5) None of these

**Other Banks**

4. The Canara Bank has launched its first digital banking branch "CANDI" in which city?  
(1) Bengaluru    (2) Kolkata      (3) Kochi      (4) Gandhinagar    (5) None of these
5. Which bank has recently launched two digital products: Bharat QR and Bharat Bill Payment System (BBPS) for online payments?  
(1) Dena Bank    (2) Central Bank    (3) Canara Bank    (4) PNB      (5) None of these

**Supreme Court**

6. The constitution bench of Supreme Court has declared right to privacy as Fundamental right under constitution. The bench was headed by whom?  
(1) A M Sapre    (2) R F Nariman    (3) JS Khehar      (4) D Y Chandrachud    (5) None of these

**States**

7. Which state government has launched its flagship health scheme "Care Companion Programme (CCP)"?  
(1) Punjab      (2) Uttar Pradesh    (3) Kerala      (4) Manipur      (5) None of these
8. Which state government has recently banned use Of Liquid Nitrogen in Drinks & food items?  
(1) Odisha      (2) Maharashtra    (3) Kerala      (4) Haryana      (5) None of these
9. Which state government has launched Aadhaar-authenticated Direct Benefit Transfer portal "MahaDBT"?  
(1) Kerala      (2) Maharashtra    (3) UP      (4) MP      (5) None of these
10. Which state will become the India's first state to implement coal utilization between power units?  
(1) Gujarat      (2) Rajasthan      (3) Assam      (4) MP      (5) None of these
11. Which state government has launched mobile therapy vans for elderly people?  
(1) Bihar      (2) Assam      (3) UP      (4) Kerala      (5) None of these

12. Which state government has launched an exclusive 24×7 helpline '181' for women?  
 (1) Telangana (2) Assam (3) Jharkhand (4) Uttar Pradesh (5) None of these
13. Which state government will launch a new scheme for Compassionate Family Pension (CFP) in lieu of compassionate appointment?  
 (1) Assam (2) Manipur (3) Gujarat (4) J& K (5) None of these
14. The Karnataka government has tied up with which tech giant to develop India's first Farm Price Forecasting Model?  
 (1) Google (2) Infosys (3) Microsoft (4) Facebook (5) None of these
15. Which state government has launched a new 'E-Waste Disposal' scheme in state schools?  
 (1) Kerala (2) Jharkhand (3) UP (4) HP (5) None of these

### Place in the News

16. Which country to host the 2018 Asian Football Confederation (AFC) U-19 championship?  
 (1) India (2) Indonesia (3) Malaysia (4) Japan (5) None of these
17. Which city to host the 2024 Summer Olympics?  
 (1) New York (2) London (3) Paris (4) Los Angeles (5) None of these
18. The world's longest pedestrian suspension bridge has opened in which country?  
 (1) Japan (2) Indonesia (3) United States (4) Switzerland (5) None of these
19. Where is the headquarters of the Indira Gandhi National Forest Academy (IGNFA)?  
 (1) Bhopal (2) Dehradun (3) Kanpur (4) Udaipur (5) None of these
20. Which country is hosting the 2017 FIBA Asia Championship?  
 (1) China (2) India (3) Lebanon (4) Nepal (5) None of these
21. Where is the headquarters of the Bureau of Police Research and Development (BPRD)?  
 (1) Jaipur (2) New Delhi (3) Pune (4) Lucknow (5) None of these
22. India's first-ever railways disaster management centre will come up in which city?  
 (1) Kolkata (2) Bengaluru (3) Lucknow (4) Pune (5) None of these
23. Where is the headquarters of the Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC)?  
 (1) Pune (2) Mumbai (3) Kolkata (4) Chennai (5) None of these
24. Which city hosted the Chief Electoral Officers' Conference of all States and Union Territories?  
 (1) Pune (2) Lucknow (3) Jaipur (4) New Delhi (5) None of these
25. Which city is hosting the 8<sup>th</sup> World Renewable Energy Technology Congress?  
 (1) Pune (2) Guwahati (3) New Delhi (4) Bhopal (5) None of these
26. Where is the headquarters of the Nehru Memorial Museum and Library (NMML)?  
 (1) Raipur (2) New Delhi (3) Allahabad (4) Chennai (5) None of these
27. Which city will host the first-ever beauty pageant for transgenders "Miss Transqueen India"?  
 (1) Pune (2) Chennai (3) Kochi (4) Gurugram (5) None of these

### Personalities

28. Which Indian-origin boy has been crowned as the UK's 'Child Genius' in a popular television quiz competition?  
(1) Rahul Doshi (2) Naveen Jain (3) Preethi Singh  
(4) Kalpana Chauhan (5) None of these

### Defence and National Security

29. India's first private sector missile sub-systems manufacturing facility has set up in which city?  
(1) Guwahati (2) Pune (3) Hyderabad (4) New Delhi (5) None of these
30. Which country will chair the IONS maiden International Maritime Search and Rescue Exercise (IMMSAREX)-2017?  
(1) India (2) Bangladesh (3) China (4) Nepal (5) None of these

### Committees/Commissions

31. Which committee has been constituted by the SEBI on fair market conduct?  
(1) K M Krishna committee (2) G S Prasad committee  
(3) T.K. Viswanathan committee (4) P S Chauhan committee (5) None of these
32. The Maharashtra government has constituted committee on safety measures for women in IT sector?  
(1) Nirmala Patil committee (2) Rashmi Shukla committee  
(3) Sadhana Jadhav committee (4) R M Savant committee (5) None of these
33. Which parliamentary panel has recently recommended 100% pension to widow of deceased soldier?  
(1) K P Saxena panel (2) B C Khanduri panel (3) P C Chaku panel  
(4) K T Prasad panel (5) None of these
34. Who will be the chairman of the technical committee for the 48th International Film Festival of India (IFFI)-2017?  
(1) Nagesh Kukunoor (2) Piyush Pandey (3) Shoojit Sarcar  
(4) Prasoon Joshi (5) None of these
35. Who will be the head of a newly constituted preview committee for International Film Festival of India (IFFI) 2017?  
(1) Aniruddha Roy Chowdhury (2) Khalid Mohamed (3) Vivek Agnihotri  
(4) Narendra Kohli (5) None of these
36. Which RBI committee has recently recommended that banks should link home loan rates to repo rate?  
(1) H R Khan (2) Viral Acharya (3) Tarun Ramadorai  
(4) Amitav Ghosh (5) None of these

### Schemes/Initiatives

37. Which state government has launched "Apni Gaddi Apna Rojgar" scheme for jobless youth?  
(1) Maharashtra (2) Punjab (3) Assam (4) Haryana (5) None of these
38. The 2<sup>nd</sup> Agri UDAAN, food & agribusiness accelerator program has launched from which city?  
(1) New Delhi (2) Lucknow (3) Bhopal (4) Jaipur (5) None of these
39. Which union minister has recently launched a Swachh Survekshan (Gramin) -2017?  
(1) Rajnath Singh (2) Narendra Modi (3) M Venkaiah Naidu  
(4) Narendra Singh Tomar (5) None of these

40. The 'Dawn of cruise tourism in India' has launched in which city to promote cruise tourism in India?  
 (1) Mumbai (2) Kochi (3) Chennai (4) Kolkata (5) None of these
41. The National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) has launched Android Skill Development programme with which tech giant?  
 (1) Microsoft (2) Google (3) Facebook (4) Wipro (5) None of these
42. Which union minister has launched the NCERT web portal for home delivery of books?  
 (1) Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi (2) Dharmendra Pradhan (3) P P Choudhary  
 (4) Upendra Kushwaha (5) None of these
43. Which union minister has launched the live twitter wall for promoting Bharat Ke Veer portal?  
 (1) Narendra Modi (2) Narendra Singh Tomar (3) Rajnath Singh  
 (4) Arun Jaitley (5) None of these
44. The United Nations (UN) has launched which global campaign for 2017 World Humanitarian Day (WHD)?  
 (1) #ShareHumanity (2) #NotATarget (3) #Help  
 (4) #ProtectCivilians (5) None of these
45. Which union minister has launched "Swasth Bachche Swasth Bharat" programme?  
 (1) Prakash Javadekar (2) Rajnath Singh (3) Narendra Modi  
 (4) Arun Jaitley (5) None of these
46. India's first Videsh Bhavan will come up in which of the following states?  
 (1) Jharkhand (2) Maharashtra (3) Uttar Pradesh  
 (4) Madhya Pradesh (5) None of these

#### Summit/Conference

47. Which city to host the 2017 India - ASEAN Youth summit?  
 (1) Bhopal (2) Lucknow (3) New Delhi (4) Gandhinagar (5) None of these
48. Which city to host the Global Entrepreneurship Summit (GES-2017)?  
 (1) New Delhi (2) Mumbai (3) Chennai (4) Hyderabad (5) None of these
49. The National Conference on "Insolvency and Bankruptcy: Changing Paradigm" was held in which city?  
 (1) New Delhi (2) Chennai (3) Mumbai (4) Patna (5) None of these
50. Which city to host Digital Haryana Summit (SHS)?  
 (1) Rohtak (2) Gurugram (3) Panipat (4) Sonipat (5) None of these

#### Agreement/Deal/Signed

51. India has recently signed how much amount of loan pact with AIIB for Gujarat road project?  
 (1) \$429 million (2) \$329 million (3) \$229 million (4) \$529 million (5) None of these
52. Amazon India has signed a MoU with which state handloom department to educate weavers and artisans to directly sell their products to Amazon customers?  
 (1) Telangana (2) Karnataka (3) Madhya Pradesh  
 (4) Andhra Pradesh (5) None of these

53. The Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) has signed a pact with which organization to collaborate on vaccine research and development?  
(1) World Food Programme (2) International Committee of the Red Cross  
(3) World Health Organization (4) International Vaccine Institute (5) None of these

54. TRAI has signed a Letter of Intent (LoI) with which country's telecom regulator to jointly conduct capacity building exercises in telecom sector?  
(1) Indonesia (2) Malaysia (3) Vietnam (4) Maldives (5) None of these

### Meet/Visit

55. Which country hosted the 19<sup>th</sup> RCEP Trade Negotiating Committee (TNC) meeting?  
(1) Philippines (2) Singapore (3) India (4) South Korea (5) None of these
56. Which city hosted the 2017 meeting of BRICS Trade Ministers?  
(1) Shanghai (2) Brasília (3) Cape Town (4) Moscow (5) None of these
57. Which country to host the steering committee of the proposed TAPI Gas pipeline?  
(1) India (2) Afghanistan (3) Pakistan (4) Turkmenistan (5) None of these
58. Under the chairmanship of whom the 17<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Financial Stability and Development Council (FSDC) was held?  
(1) Urjit Patel (2) Arun Jaitley (3) Rajnath Singh (4) Narendra Modi (5) None of these
59. Who is leading the Indian delegation in the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) meeting on disaster prevention?  
(1) Rajnath Singh (2) Sushma Swaraj (3) Arun Jaitley  
(4) Narendra Singh Tomar (5) None of these

### Economy

60. The Union government has recently hiked OBC creamy layer ceiling limit to how much for central government jobs?  
(1) Rs.6 lakh (2) Rs.8 lakh (3) Rs.7 lakh (4) Rs.11 lakh (5) None of these

### 22. Companies/Industry

61. Microsoft has tied up with which Indian state to use its AI-based MINE platform to screen children for eye problems?  
(1) Kerala (2) Telangana (3) Karnataka (4) HP (5) None of these
62. BSNL has launched its "BSNL Wallet" in partnership with which digital payment company?  
(1) Jio Money (2) PhonePe (3) MobiKwik (4) Paytm (5) None of these
63. Which of the following has become the first power utility to introduce a QR code based bill payments system in India?  
(1) Tata Power (2) Adani Power (3) Reliance Power  
(4) Jindal India Thermal Power (5) None of these
64. Which tech giant has launched 'Project Brainwave' for real time Artificial Intelligence (AI)?  
(1) Infosys (2) Microsoft (3) Facebook (4) Google (5) None of these

### Stock Market

65. SEBI has recently allowed Multi Commodity Exchange of India (MCX) to launch gold options. The headquarters of MCX is located in which city?  
(1) Lucknow (2) New Delhi (3) Mumbai (4) Pune (5) None of these

### Exports/Imports

66. Which country is the world's largest exporter of beef, as per recently released OECD-FAO Agricultural Outlook 2017-2026 report?  
(1) India (2) Australia (3) Pakistan (4) Brazil (5) None of these

### Space

67. Which country has successfully launched satellite-carrying rocket "Simorgh" into space?  
(1) Germany (2) France (3) Japan (4) Iran (5) None of these
68. ISRO and NASA are jointly working on which mission to launch dual frequency SAR satellite by 2021?  
(1) NISAR (2) INSAR (3) SARIN (4) SARNI (5) None of these
69. ISRO will launch a full-fledged niche Earth observation (EO) satellite "HySIS" to enable distinct identification of objects from space. What does "HySIS" stands for?  
(1) Hyperspectrum Imaging Satellite  
(2) Hyperspectral Imaging Satellite  
(3) Hyperspecialist Imaging Satellite  
(4) Hyperspectacle Imaging Satellite  
(5) None of these

### Environment

70. Which union minister has launched "Harit Diwali, Swasth Diwali" campaign to celebrate pollution-free diwali?  
(1) Arun Jaitley (2) Rajnath Singh (3) Modi (4) Harsh Vardhan (5) None of these

### Education

71. Which IIT institute has invented a low-cost dirt detector that alerts authorities when a place needs cleaning?  
(1) IIT Bombay (2) IIT Madras (3) IIT Indore (4) IIT Kharagpur (5) None of these
72. Which Indian institute has developed a highly sensitive nanometre-scale carbon monoxide sensor?  
(1) Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Kharagpur  
(2) Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Bombay  
(3) Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bengaluru  
(4) Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Madras  
(5) None of these
73. The Oxford University Press (OUP) has recently launched online dictionaries in which of the following Indian languages?  
(1) Tamil and Gujarati (2) Assamese and Bangla (3) Telugu and Marathi  
(4) Gujarati and Telugu (5) None of these

### Transport/Cars/Scooters

74. Which Indian metro has become the world's first completely green metro system?  
(1) Lucknow Metro (2) Mumbai Metro (3) Delhi Metro  
(4) Kolkata Metro (5) None of these
75. India's first helicopter-taxi service will start in which city?  
(1) Bengaluru (2) New Delhi (3) Chennai (4) Kolkata (5) None of these

76. The National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) has launched which consumer mobile app for smooth functioning of electronic toll collection?  
 (1) MyFASTag (2) MFASTag (3) MineFASTag (4) MiFASTag (5) None of these
77. Where is the headquarters of the Border Roads Organisation (BRO)?  
 (1) Pune (2) Guwahati (3) Srinagar (4) New Delhi (5) None of these

### Festival

78. The 2017 Aadi Perukku festival is celebrated in which Indian state?  
 (1) Karnataka (2) Kerala (3) AP (4) Tamil Nadu (5) None of these
79. Which country is hosting the International Military Music Festival (IMMF-2017)?  
 (1) India (2) United States (3) China (4) Russia (5) None of these

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

80. Who has been appointed as the part-time member of the board of Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDA)?  
 (1) Sriram Taranikanti (2) Ravi Mittal (3) Maruthi Tangirala  
 (4) N S Rao (5) None of these
81. Who has been named as the new secretary general of the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI)?  
 (1) N N Patil (2) Sanjaya Baru (3) A Didar Singh (4) Pankaj Patel (5) None of these
82. Who has been sworn-in as the new President of Iran?  
 (1) Mohammad Khatami (2) Ayatollah Ali Khamanei (3) Sadeq Larijani  
 (4) Hassan Rouhani (5) None of these
83. Who has been appointed as the new chairman of the Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE)?  
 (1) Pankaj Patel (2) S Ramadorai (3) Sudhakar Rao  
 (4) Dharendra Swarup (5) None of these
84. Who is the newly elected Prime Minister of Papua New Guinea?  
 (1) Salamo Injia (2) Don Polye (3) Peter O'Neill  
 (4) Nick Kuman (5) None of these
85. Who has been appointed as the new CMD of Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI)?  
 (1) Manoj Mittal (2) Mohammad Mustafa (3) Ajay Kumar Kapur  
 (4) Kiran Sharma (5) None of these
86. Who will be the new Vice-Chairman of NITI Aayog?  
 (1) Rajiv Kumar (2) Vinod Paul (3) Ritesh Gupta  
 (4) S L Shivappa (5) None of these
87. Who has been appointed as the new Ambassador of India to the Republic of Kazakhstan?  
 (1) Rajesh Kumar Sachdeva (2) Manoj Mittal (3) Ajay Bisaria  
 (4) Prabhat Kumar (5) None of these
88. Who has been appointed as new Executive Director of the World Bank (WB) to represent the constituency of India, Bangladesh, Bhutan and Sri Lanka?  
 (1) S. Aparna (2) Ajay Bhadoo (3) K C Sampat  
 (4) Subhash Garg (5) None of these

89. Who has been appointed as the brand ambassador for Swachh Bharat Mission in Uttar Pradesh?  
 (1) Sachin Tendulkar (2) Amitabh Bachchan (3) Akshay Kumar  
 (4) Aamir Khan (5) None of these
90. Who has won the 2017 Rwandan presidential election?  
 (1) Frank Habineza (2) Juvenal Habyarimana (3) Philippe Mpayimana  
 (4) Paul Kagame (5) None of these
91. Who has been appointed as the new Chief Justice of India (CJI)?  
 (1) Ranganath Misra (2) K K Mittal (3) Dipak Misra  
 (4) G B Pattanaik (5) None of these
92. Who is the chairman of the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE)?  
 (1) Alok Prakash Mittal (2) Manik S Das (3) Anil Sahasrabudhe  
 (4) Krishna S Patil (5) None of these
93. Who has been appointed as the new CMD of Hindustan Copper Limited (HCL)?  
 (1) Nidhi Sen (2) Kirti Singh (3) J P Gupta (4) Santosh Sharma (5) None of these
94. Who has taken charge as the new Pakistan's high commissioner to India?  
 (1) Salman Bashir (2) Sohail Mahmoodm (3) Mir Basit  
 (4) Shahid Malik (5) None of these
95. Who has been appointed as the new Russia's new ambassador to India?  
 (1) Nikolay Kudashhev (2) Alexander Kadakin (3) Vladimir Lukin  
 (4) Yuri Ushakov (5) None of these
96. Who has taken charge as new Executive Director of Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI)?  
 (1) A Unnikrishnan (2) Ajay Tyagi (3) G. S. Yadav  
 (4) Mamta Suri (5) None of these
97. Who has been appointed as the new director general of Railway Protection Force (RPF)?  
 (1) Brij Mohanty (2) S H Prakash (3) Dharmendra Kumar  
 (4) Nikhil Singh (5) None of these
98. Who has been appointed as the new Chairman of Railway Board?  
 (1) Ashwani Lohani (2) A K Mittal (3) P S Thakur  
 (4) Neelmani Reddy (5) None of these
99. Who has been appointed as the new Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) of Air India?  
 (1) Rajiv Bansal (2) Kirti Das (3) Nitant Agrawal  
 (4) Vinay Kumar (5) None of these
100. Who has been appointed as the new non-executive Chairman of Infosys?  
 (1) Ravi Venkatesan (2) R. Seshasayee (3) Nandan Nilekani  
 (4) U B Pravin Rao (5) None of these

#### Deaths

101. K E Mammen, the noted Gandhian and freedom fighter has passed away. He hailed from which state?  
 (1) Karnataka (2) Tamil Nadu (3) Kerala (4) Andhra Pradesh (5) None of these

102. Hussain Sayeeduddin Dagar, the noted Dhrupad Maestro passed away. He hailed from which state?  
 (1) Assam (2) Rajasthan (3) UP (4) MP (5) None of these
103. Jeanne Moreau, the legendary film actress passed away. She hailed from which country?  
 (1) Italy (2) Germany (3) United States (4) France (5) None of these
104. Santosh Mohan Dev, the veteran political leader passed away. He hailed from which state?  
 (1) Odisha (2) Assam (3) UP (4) Rajasthan (5) None of these
105. Pushpa Bhargava, the renowned scientist passed away. He was related to which field?  
 (1) Physics (2) Biology (3) Chemistry (4) Maths (5) None of these
106. BB Shivappa, the noted Indian political leader passed away. He hailed from which state?  
 (1) Punjab (2) Kerala (3) Karnataka (4) Andhra Pradesh (5) None of these
107. Sanwar Lal Jat, the former Union minister has passed away. He hailed from which state?  
 (1) Madhya Pradesh (2) Haryana (3) Rajasthan  
 (4) Punjab (5) None of these
108. Vijay Nambisan, who passed away recently, was the renowned personality of which field?  
 (1) Poetry (2) Politics (3) Sports (4) Law (5) None of these
109. Dr Bhakti Yadav, who passed away recently, was the first woman doctor of which state?  
 (1) Uttar Pradesh (2) Rajasthan (3) Haryana  
 (4) Madhya Pradesh (5) None of these
110. MK Damodaran, who passed away recently, was the former Advocate General of which state?  
 (1) Odisha (2) Uttar Pradesh (3) Haryana (4) Kerala (5) None of these
111. Brian Aldiss, the renowned science fiction writer passed away. He hailed from which country?  
 (1) France (2) Portugal (3) England (4) Italy (5) None of these

#### **Awards/Honours**

112. Which Indian sportsperson has been honored with the East Bengal football club's highest honor "Bharat Gaurav"?  
 (1) Syed Naeemuddin (2) Boddupalli Amit (3) Dhanraj Pillay  
 (4) Subhash Bhowmick (5) None of these
113. Who has been selected for the 2017 Prem Nazir Award?  
 (1) Suraj Venjaramoodu (2) Salim Kumar (3) K.J. Yesudas  
 (4) Sharada (5) None of these
114. Which Indian-origin personality will be honoured with the 2017 Asia Game Changers Award?  
 (1) Jasleen Laghari (2) Anuja Ravindra Dhir (3) Dev Patel  
 (4) Ishani Duttgupta (5) None of these
115. Who has been chosen for the first-ever Kesari Media Award?  
 (1) Adoor Gopalakrishnan (2) R S Babu (3) M G Radhakrishnan  
 (4) T J S George (5) None of these
116. Who has won the 2017 Kalpana Chawla Award for courage and daring enterprise?  
 (1) Preethi Srinivasan (2) K. Satyagopal (3) S.P. Thyagarajan  
 (4) V.P. Elayapari (5) None of these

117. Which state chief minister has been chosen for the National Agriculture Leadership Award-2017?  
 (1) Madhya Pradesh (2) Telangana (3) Maharashtra  
 (4) Tripura (5) None of these
118. Who of the following have been selected for the 2017 Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna Award?  
 (1) Brij Bhushan Mohanty and Syed Shahid Hakim  
 (2) Varun Singh Bhati and SV Suni  
 (3) Devendra Jhajharia and Sardar Singh  
 (4) Harmanpreet Kaur and P N Prakash  
 (5) None of these
119. Which state government has launched a new 'E-Waste Disposal' scheme in state schools?  
 (1) Himachal Pradesh (2) Jharkhand (3) Uttar Pradesh  
 (4) Kerala (5) None of these

### Sports/Game

120. Lovepreet Singh, who has won bronze at the Asian Youth and Junior Weightlifting Championships, is associated with which men's junior category?  
 (1) 44kg category (2) 69kg category (3) 105kg category  
 (4) 77kg category (5) None of these
121. Which Indian sportsperson has won bronze in the Under-7 rapid championship at the 2017 Asian Schools Chess Championship (ASCC)?  
 (1) Kuldeep Lohia (2) T S Mani (3) Aditya Patil  
 (4) Kiaan Agarwal (5) None of these
122. Gaurav Bidhuri is associated with which sports?  
 (1) Chess (2) Boxing (3) Swimming (4) Judo (5) None of these
123. Who has won the 2017 Formula One Hungarian Grand Prix tournament?  
 (1) Valtteri Bottas (2) Lewis Hamilton (3) Sebastian Vettel  
 (4) Kimi Raikkonen (5) None of these
124. Which Indian shuttler has won the men's singles Lagos International 2017?  
 (1) Karan Rajan Rajarajan (2) Rahul Yadav Chittaboina (3) Manu Attri  
 (4) B Sumeeth Reddy (5) None of these
125. Ankur Mittal is associated with which sports?  
 (1) Sprint (2) Football (3) Shooting (4) Basketball (5) None of these
126. Kynan Chenai has won bronze in men's trap event at the 7<sup>th</sup> Asian Championship Shotgun. He hails from which city?  
 (1) New Delhi (2) Hyderabad (3) Jaipur (4) Bhopal (5) None of these
127. Shapath Bhardwaj has become the India's youngest athlete to be named in the Target Olympic Podium (TOP) scheme. He is associated with which sports?  
 (1) Boxing (2) Wrestling (3) Shooting (4) Sprint (5) None of these
128. Rinku Hooda, who won silver at the World U-20 Para Athletics Championships, is associated with which sports?  
 (1) Javelin throw (2) Wrestling (3) Sprint  
 (4) Judo (5) None of these

129. Who has become the first Indian athlete to qualify for javelin throw final at the IAAF World Athletics Championships (WAC)?  
 (1) Anil Singh (2) Davinder Singh Kang (3) Devendra Jhajharia  
 (4) Neeraj Chopra (5) None of these
130. The 58<sup>th</sup> edition of Subroto Cup International Football Tournament has started in which city?  
 (1) New Delhi (2) Pune (3) Chandigarh (4) Patna (5) None of these
131. Sanjivani Jadhav, who won silver in the World University Games, is associated with which sports?  
 (1) Boxing (2) Sprint (3) Wrestling (4) Judo (5) None of these

### Report

132. What is the India's rank in the 2017 Digital Evolution Index (DEI)?  
 (1) 53rd (2) 64th (3) 29th (4) 35th (5) None of these
133. Which Indian has become the Asia's second richest man, according to latest Bloomberg Billionaires Index (BBI)?  
 (1) Lakshmi Mittal (2) Mukesh Ambani (3) Pallonji Mistry  
 (4) Kalanithi Maran (5) None of these
134. Which international organisation has recently released 2017 ICT Facts and Figures report?  
 (1) International Telecommunication Union (ITU)  
 (2) International Labour Organization (ILO)  
 (3) International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)  
 (4) International Organization for Migration (IOM)  
 (5) None of these
135. What is the India's rank in the 2017 Natixis Global Retirement Index (GRI)?  
 (1) 43rd (2) 52nd (3) 35th (4) 24th (5) None of these
136. Which country has been declared the world's most liveable city by The Economist's Global Livability Report-2017?  
 (1) Melbourne (2) Sydney (3) London (4) Perth (5) None of these
137. As per 2017 UNWTO report on least-visited nations, which is the least visited country in 2016?  
 (1) Bangladesh (2) Moldova (3) Comoros (4) Tuvalu (5) None of these

### General - National

138. The CCEA has approved the proposal of DIPAM for strategic disinvestment. What does "DIPAM" stands for?  
 (1) Department of Investment and Proper Asset Management  
 (2) Department of Investment and Public Asset Management  
 (3) Department of Investment and Property Asset Management  
 (4) Department of Investment and Private Asset Management  
 (5) None of these

### General - International

139. Which country is not taking part in the 7<sup>th</sup> edition of SAARC Artists Camp and Exhibition of Paintings?  
 (1) Nepal (2) Sri Lanka (3) India (4) Afghanistan (5) None of these

## Books and Authors

140. Who is the author of the book "I am HIV positive, so what"?

- (1) Pradip Kumar  
(4) Amitav Ghosh

- (2) Vikram Seth  
(5) None of these

(3) Jayanta Kalita

**Answer:** 1-4, 2-1, 3-2, 4-1, 5-3, 6-3, 7-1, 8-4, 9-2, 10-1, 11-1, 12-1, 13-1, 14-3, 15-1, 16-2, 17-3, 18-4, 19-2, 20-3, 21-2, 22-2, 23-2, 24-4, 25-3, 26-2, 27-4, 28-1, 29-3, 30-2, 31-3, 32-2, 33-2, 34-1, 35-3, 36-3, 37-2, 38-1, 39-4, 40-1, 41-2, 42-4, 43-3, 44-2, 45-1, 46-2, 47-1, 48-4, 49-3, 50-2, 51-2, 52-1, 53-4, 54-2, 55-3, 56-1, 57-1, 58-2, 59-1, 60-2, 61-2, 62-3, 63-1, 64-2, 65-3, 66-4, 67-4, 68-1, 69-2, 70-4, 71-4, 72-3, 73-1, 74-3, 75-1, 76-1, 77-4, 78-4, 79-4, 80-2, 81-2, 82-4, 83-4, 84-3, 85-2, 86-1, 87-4, 88-1, 89-3, 90-4, 91-3, 92-3, 93-4, 94-2, 95-1, 96-4, 97-3, 98-1, 99-1, 100-3, 101-3, 102-2, 103-4, 104-2, 105-2, 106-3, 107-3, 108-1, 109-4, 110-4, 111-3, 112-3, 113-4, 114-3, 115-4, 116-1, 117-2, 118-3, 119-4, 120-3, 121-3, 122-2, 123-3, 124-2, 125-3, 126-2, 127-3, 128-1, 129-2, 130-1, 131-3, 132-1, 133-2, 134-1, 135-1, 136-1, 137-4, 138-2, 139-4, 140-3.

