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## First Community Toilet for Third Gender Opened in Bhopal

- Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan inaugurated a toilet for the third gender in the Mangalwara area for their exclusive use.
- The toilet is built at a cost of Rs 35 lakh, also has a "change room/make-up room".
- Different signs for men, women, handicapped and transgender people are emblazoned on the doors of the toilet. Transgender people live in large numbers in the Mangalwara locality.
- CM also announced to convene a 'third gender panchayat' at his residence to redress their problems.

## Global Financial Centres Index: GIFT-IFSC Ranks 10

Gujarat International Finance Tec-City International Financial Services Centre (GIFT IFSC) has been ranked tenth in the latest edition of Global Financial Centres Index 22 (GFCI)-London.

### The 15 Centres Likely to Become More Significant

Centre	Mentions in the last 24 months
Shanghai	97
Qingdao	95
Singapore	45
Dublin	32
Casablanca	26
Shenzhen	26
Frankfurt	24
Hong Kong	23
Chengdu	21
GIFT	20
New York	14
Seoul	14
Beijing	13
Luxembourg	12
Toronto	12
Abu Dhabi	9

- Global Financial Centres Index 22 is produced bi-annually by The China Development Institute (CDI) in Shenzhen and Z/Yen Partners in London

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- GIFT IFSC has ranked tenth in the list of the GFCI report which has 15 centres that are likely to become more significant in the next few years

## About GIFT-IFSC

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- Gujarat International Finance Tec-City (GIFT) is India's first multi-service SEZ with International Financial Services Centre (IFSC) status which is catering to India's large financial services market by offering global firms, world-class infrastructure and facilities.
- The recognition of GIFT IFSC as one of the most significant emerging financial centres by GFCI, London is the testimony of the contribution GIFT IFSC is making in the international financial services business
- GIFT IFSC is operational with approximately 10 leading banks, 8 insurance companies and participating brokers, and 2 International Exchanges (India INX and NSE IFSC) along with around 100 capital market players have established their base at GIFT IFSC.
- GIFT, a Gujarat government project in partnership with IL&FS is developing India's first global financial hub.

## Rajghat Gets First Mahatma Statue

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- Vice-President of India Shri M.Venkaiah Naidu unveiled a 1.80 metre tall bronze statue of Mahatma
- Gandhi at Rajghat on the occasion of the 148 Birth Anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi.
- The statue is sculpted by the renowned Shri Ram Sutar
- It is installed in the Parking Area of Rajghat Samadhi Complex
- It is mounted on two feet high pedestal clad with granite.
- The famous message of Gandhi "**Be the Change You Wish to See**" is inscribed on the front side of the pedestal.
- An Interpretation Centre in the Parking Area of the complex was also inaugurated.
- The Samadhi Complex also got a new administrative block that is equipped with Visitors Room, Publication Unit, Staff Room, Drinking Water facility. This has been built at a cost of about Rs.75 lakhs.

## Nepal, India to Conduct Joint Tiger Census

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- Nepal and India have decided to conduct a joint headcount of tigers in the national parks, forests and sanctuaries.

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- The count will be conducted in Nepal and those in India adjoining Nepal using the same camera tapping method.
- Cameras will be installed in various locations in the tiger habitats as well as their roaming areas and capture and track down their movements.
- The counting of tigers will commence from the second week of November this year.
- Tiger is regarded as an endangered animal and is listed in the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species

**According to the World Wildlife Fund (WWF), tigers have lost 93 per cent of their historical range. Human and wildlife conflict, climate change and poaching and illegal wildlife trade are among the major reasons that has pushed the feline into the endangered category -- facing risk of extinction in the wild -- over the years**

## Three American Get Nobel Prize 2017 in Physiology

- Three Americans won the Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine.
- They received the awards for their discoveries about the body's daily rhythms, opening up whole new fields of research and raising awareness about the importance of getting proper sleep
- **Jeffrey C. Hall, Michael Rosbash and Michael W. Young** won the 9-million-kronor prize for isolating a gene that controls the body's normal daily biological rhythm.
- Circadian rhythms adapt the workings of the body to different phases of the day, influencing sleep, behaviour, hormone levels, body temperature and metabolism.
- Michael Hastings is a scientist at the U.K. Medical Research Council
- Mr Rosbash is on the faculty at Brandeis University
- Mr Young is at Rockefeller University and Mr Hall has been associated with the University of Maine.

## Saudi Arabia Appointed First Woman to Senior Government Post

- The government of Saudi Arabia has announced that a woman had been appointed as assistant mayor of Al Khubar governorate.

A Saudi woman has been named to a senior government post for the first time

- Eman Al-Ghamdi was given the post "as part of a plan to boost the number of females in leadership positions in line with Vision 2030.
- The Saudi government has said Vision 2030, a vast plan of economic and social reforms, will raise women's share of the labour market to 30 per cent from 22 per cent currently.

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## About Saudi Arabia

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- Saudi Arabia is geographically the fifth-largest state in Asia
- It is the second-largest state in the Arab world after Algeria.
- It is bordered by Jordan and Iraq to the north, Kuwait to the northeast, Qatar, Bahrain and the United Arab Emirates to the east, Oman to the southeast and Yemen to the south.
- It is separated from Israel and Egypt by the **Gulf of Aqaba**.
- It is the only nation with both a Red Sea coast and a Persian Gulf coast and most of its terrain consists of arid desert and mountains.

## UAE Begins to Collect 'Sin' Taxes

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- The United Arab Emirates has begun collecting new "sin" taxes on tobacco products, energy drinks and soft drinks.
- Tobacco and energy drinks will be taxed at 100 percent and soft drinks at 50 percent.
- All six members of the Gulf Cooperation Council have agreed to begin collecting so-called VAT taxes, though others may begin later than January.
- **The GCC includes Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the UAE.**

## What is Sin Tax?

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- A sin tax is an excise tax specifically levied on certain goods deemed harmful to society, for example alcohol and tobacco, candies, drugs, soft drinks, fast foods, coffee, sugar, gambling and pornography.
- Sin tax is used for taxes on activities that are considered socially undesirable. In many cases, sumptuary taxes are implemented to mitigate use of alcohol and tobacco, gambling, and vehicles emitting excessive pollutants.

## 'No Helmet, No Petrol' Rule Comes into Force in AP

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- 'No helmet, no petrol' rule for two-wheeler riders has come into force in Andhra Pradesh  
The rule aims to reduce road accident deaths
- Rs 10 crore for equipment to implement this rule has been sanctioned
- A weekly check on the motorists for effective implementation of the rule will be conducted.
- The new traffic rule is expected to make a huge difference in the state.

State and transport departments across the country collated data that said for every 100 accidents, nearly 30 people died every day in 2016 because they were not wearing helmets.

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States reported that one of every five bike occupants, who died in accidents, was not wearing a helmet, bringing the total number up to 10,135.

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## 'Women of India Organic Festival' Inaugurated in Delhi

- The Ministry of Women and Child Development will be hosting the 3rd annual 'Women of India Organic Festival' from October 1st to 15th, 2017, in New Delhi.
- This festival celebrates and promotes women entrepreneurs and farmers in the organic sector from across India
- India's most varied offerings of organic products ranging from food, wellness, personal care, home improvement, kitchen composters and solar products will be showcased in this festival
- The theme of this year's Women of India Organic Festival is '**Good for Women; Good for India; Good for You**'.
- The Festival will have organic products from all across India and is dedicated to The Women of India, especially from rural areas get an opportunity to exhibit and sell their organic products without incurring any cost, be it display charges or travel and accommodation costs.
- A variety of Organic Products like, Cereals, Pulses, Millets, Staples, Spices, Oils, Honey, Tea, Coffee, Organic Ice-creams, Ready-to-Eat Snacks, Kitchen Composters, Skin-care, Hair-care, Beauty-care, Aromatherapy, Organic Cotton Fabric, Linen, Solar Products, Water Hyacinth Craft, Cowdung Air Purifier, Jute Craft, Wild Edible Forest Products, Organic Seeds and Bioproducts, among other genuine organic products will be sold and bought.

## 'Single Click Pension Delivery' Scheme Launched by Madhya Pradesh

- Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan launched 'Single Click Pension Delivery' scheme.
- Now the money will go directly into the account of the beneficiaries.
- 35 lakh people of the state will be benefitted from this initiative.
- The Chief Minister also honoured the people who had completed the age of hundred years with "Shataayu".
- Shawl, Shriphal, which is also termed as the 'God's fruit', and a cash prize of Rs. one thousand were presented in respect to all the senior citizens.

## About Madhya Pradesh

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- It is nicknamed the "heart of India" due to its geographical location in India,
- It is the second-largest state in the country by area.
- Its capital is Bhopal

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## India Opens Border Crossing Points with Myanmar, Bangladesh

- India has opened two immigration check posts along the borders with Myanmar and Bangladesh.
- These check posts reflect the increasing closeness of India with the two countries.
- Zorinpui land check post in Lawngtlai district of Mizoram is an authorised immigration check post for entry into or exit from India with valid travel documents for all classes of passengers to or from Myanmar.
- Kawrpuichhuah land check post in Lunglei district of Mizoram is an authorised immigration check post for entry into or exit from India with valid travel documents for all classes of passengers to or from Bangladesh.
- India shares a 4,096-km-long border with Bangladesh which touches Assam, Tripura, Mizoram, Meghalaya and West Bengal.
- The length of India Myanmar Border border is 1643-km.
- The entire border length touches Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland, Manipur and Mizoram

## G Rohini Committee to Examine Sub-categorization of OBCs

- President Ram Nath Kovind has appointed a five-member Commission to examine sub categorization of Other Backward Classes (OBCs) under Article 340 of the Constitution
- It is headed by Delhi High Court's former Chief Justice G Rohini
- The step is taken to ensure that the more backward among the OBC communities avail the benefits of reservation
- The commission will examine the extent of inequitable distribution of benefits of reservation among the castes or communities included in the broad category of OBCs with reference to such classes included in the central list.
- The commission will also work out the mechanism, criteria, norms and parameters in a scientific approach for sub-categorisation within such classes
- It will take up the exercise of identifying the respective castes or communities or sub-castes or synonyms in the Central List of OBC and classifying them into their respective sub-categories

## The composition of the Commission is as follows:

- Chairperson -Justice (Retd.) G. Rohini,
- Member -Dr. J.K. Bajaj
- Member(Ex-officio)-Director, Anthropological Survey of India,
- Member (Ex-officio)-Registrar General and Census Commissioner, India
- Secretary of the Commission-Joint Secretary, Department of SJ&E, Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment

## National Wildlife Action Plan 2017-2031

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The government of India has unveiled 3rd National Wildlife Action Plan (NWAP) 2017-2031.

## Draft of the Plan

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- It aims at the rehabilitation of threatened species of wildlife while conserving their habitats which include inland aquatic, coastal and marine eco-systems.
- More Protection for Strict conservation zones is required.
- Make the areas free of all urban facilities, tourism and public thoroughfare.
- No mining and irrigation projects in protected areas and wildlife corridors
- Restrictions on number of tourists and vehicles entering a protected area
- Tourism in the wildlife must be strictly monitored and regulated
- Sustainable, environment-friendly, moderately priced, clean and wholesome, rather than lavish tourist facilities
- New regional forensic laboratories, a Special Tiger Protection Force, and setting up of special courts to deal with wildlife crimes like poaching and smuggling.
- Preservation of genetic diversity and sustainable utilization of species and ecosystems which has direct bearing on our scientific advancements and support to millions of rural communities
- Rehabilitation of threatened species of wildlife while conserving their habitats which include inland aquatic, coastal and marine eco-systems.
- Need for people's support for conservation of wildlife and to this effect recommends strengthening the 'core buffer multiple use surround' structure with higher inputs for eco-development, education, innovation, training, extension, conservation awareness and outreach programs.

## Secure Himalaya Project Launched to Conserve Snow Leopard

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- "Secure Himalaya", a six year program, was launched by Government of India on the inaugural day of the Global Wildlife Programme (GWP) conference
- This project will ensure conservation of locally and globally significant biodiversity, land and forest resources in the high Himalayan ecosystem spread over four states in India.
- The project intends to conserve the snow leopards by protecting their habitats and improve the ecology of Himalayan ranges and lives of the mountain communities
- This project will cover Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir, Uttarakhand and Sikkim.
- A total budget sanction of over \$72.3 million is sanctioned to implement the program efficiently.
- The main aim of the project is to curb the smuggling and poaching of snow leopard
- The project includes the Kangchenjunga and Teesta valley areas in Sikkim, the Gangotri-Govind and Darma Bayas valley in the Pithoragarh area of Uttarakhand, Pangi and Kinnaur in

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Himachal Pradesh and Changhang in Jammu and Kashmir, which are home to around 67.57 million people.

**The project's objectives note that "the snow leopard, its prey, its eco-systems face a variety of direct and indirect threats... Habitat degradation and fragmentation of area are a direct threat and increasing due to the high dependence of local communities on natural resources and unplanned infrastructure".**

## **Mahatma Gandhi's Statue Unveiled in Wales**

- To mark the 148th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi a six-foot tall statue of Mahatma Gandhi was unveiled in Wales.
- The statue is situated at Lloyd George Avenue in Cardiff.
- It is made of Indian bronze
- The statue was unveiled by Indian high commissioner to the UK YK Sinha
- It is designed and created by Indian sculptors Ram Sutar and his son Anil Sutar

**Raj Aggarwal, the Honorary Consul General for India in Wales, said: "This statue shows the important bonds between the two nations of India and Wales and the great relations for the Indian Diaspora who have made Wales their home".**

## **Mathru Poorna Scheme Launched in Karnataka**

The State government of Karnataka has launched Mathru Poorna Scheme

### **Highlights of the Scheme**

- This scheme aims to meet the nutritional needs of pregnant and lactating women in rural areas.
- Pregnant and lactating poor women in rural areas will get one nutritious meal daily for 25 days in a month.
- Full meal, consisting of rice, dal with vegetables/sambar, one boiled egg and 200ml of milk, will be given to pregnant women.
- Those who don't eat eggs would be given two varieties of sprouts.
- Iron Folic Acid (IFA) tablets will be administered and gestational weight monitoring will be ensured for pregnant women.
- The scheme has been scaled up in all the districts of the State



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- 12 lakh pregnant women and lactating mother, and Anganwadi assistants and helpers will be benefitted.
- Each meal is estimated to cost around Rs. 20.
- The food will be provided for 15 months, from the start of pregnancy up to six months after delivery.

