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# Weekly Current Affairs November 2017: Week II

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## BANKING AND FINANCIAL AWARENESS

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- **23rd GST Council meeting** was held in Guwahati, Assam in which the council decided to slash tax rate on a wide range of mass use items.
- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has simplified the Foreign Exchange Management Regulations, to encourage investments.
- **Bank of China** has formally started its operations in Pakistan. The first branch was opened at **Karachi**.
- The government has doubled the **import duty** on wheat to 20 percent.
- The government of India has formed a panel of experts, led by **M Vinod Kumar** to review the laws governing goods and services tax.
- **HDFC bank** has announced to make online transactions through **RTGS and NEFT** free of cost from November 1, 2017.
- After **7th Pay Commission**, the **Home Loan limit** for central government employees has been raised from Rs.7.5 Lakh to Rs.25 Lakh.
- RBI released **new outsourcing norms for NBFCs** that they cannot outsource Core management functions.
- **Federal Bank** got a **grant from RBI** to open branches in Kuwait and Singapore.
- **IDFC Bank** has partnered with mobile wallet Mobikwik for launching a prepaid card.
- Digital Payment company **PayPal** launched **domestic operations in India**.
- ICICI launched **India's first Voice based International Remittance Service** by partnering with Tech Giant Apple.

## APPOINTMENTS

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- Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has appointed **Sanjeev Kaushik** a whole-time member of the board.
- **Hasmukh Adhia**, Revenue Secretary has been named as the new Finance Secretary.

## OBITUARIES

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- Famous Author and Padma Shri awardee **Manu Sharma** passed away.
- **A. G. Milkha Singh**, Veteran Indian cricketer passed away.

## HONOURS AND AWARDS

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- **Thumri Queen late Girija Devi** will be honoured with the prestigious Sumitra Charat Ram Award for Lifetime Achievement, posthumously.
- CMC Skills' Founder **Ms. Maya Swaminathan Sinha** was conferred with the 'Entrepreneur of the Year Award 2017' by ASSOCHAM.
- Veteran actor **Mohan Joshi** was conferred with the prestigious Vishnudas Bhave award 2017.
- UNHCR, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees is to be conferred with **Mother Teresa Memorial Award 2017**.
- Apollo Munich Health Insurance wins **"General Insurance company of the year" 2017**.

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## RANK AND INDEX

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- **India ranks 7th in the Business Optimism Index**, which is released by International Business Report.

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## IMPORTANT DAYS

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- **National Education Day of India** is celebrated on 11 November every year since 2008
- **World Science Day for Peace and Development** is celebrated every year on 10th November.
- **Legal Services Day** is celebrated every year in all states authorities of India on 9th of November.
- **World Tsunami Awareness Day** is observed on 5th November.
- International Day for Preventing the Exploitation of the Environment in War and Armed Conflict is observed on 6 November.

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## BOOKS AND AUTHORS

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- Eric Vuillard's book **"L'ordre du jour"** has won the Prix Goncourt Prize, a prestigious French award.

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## MOUS AND PARTNERSHIPS:

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- The joint military exercise India and Bangladesh, **'Sampriti-7'** has commenced in Meghalaya and Mizoram.
- **Adani Power (Jharkand)** has inked power agreement with Bangladesh Power Development Board.
- Government of Kerala signed an MoU with Intel and UST Global

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## IMPORTANT NEWS- WORLD

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- **Guinea** becomes a new member of India - initiated International Solar Alliance.
- **World Youth Forum** is organized in Egypt, which was attended by Rajya Vardhan Singh Rathore, Minister of Sports and Youth Affairs.

- Lebanon's Prime Minister Saad-al Hariri resigned from his post.

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## IMPORTANT NEWS- INDIA

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- The Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship (MSDE) organized the **National Entrepreneurship Awards 2017** to mark the completion of three years of its establishment.
- Ministry of Environment formed a **seven-member committee** to formulate measures to solve the problem of air pollution in the Delhi-NCR region.
- **India has been re-elected** as a member of the executive board of the UN educational, scientific and cultural organization (**UNESCO**)
- **India Disaster Response Summit** was jointly organised by the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) and Facebook.
- The government reconstituted a **Multi-Agency Group**, led by **Sushil Chandra** to investigate cases relating to the 'Paradise Papers' data disclosure.
- Maneka Sanjay Gandhi, the Minister of Women & Child Development has launched an online complaint management system titled **Sexual Harassment electronic-Box (SHe-Box)**
- The Indian Railways has achieved a milestone by launching the main arch of the **world's highest bridge on Chenab**.
- Ministry of Coal has launched "**Grahak Sadak Koyla Vitara**" App to benefit the customers of Coal India Limited.

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## IMPORTANT NEWS- STATES

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- **Haryana** has become the first state in the country to treat Hepatitis-C patients through oral medicine
- The state government of Kerala has launched '**She Pad**' scheme for 300 government schools, to provide free sanitary napkins.
- Sri Ranganathaswamy Temple in Srirangam of Tamil Nadu has won the **UNESCO Asia Pacific Award of Merit 2017** for cultural heritage conservation.
- **Goa is set to host the Nobel Prize Series-India 2018** which is scheduled from February 1 to 28 2018.
- The famous **Banaganapalle mangoes of Andhra Pradesh** and Tulaipanji rice of West Bengal have been granted Geographical Indication (GI) by the Indian patent office.
- The government of Telangana declared **Urdu as Second Official language**.

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## SPORTS NEWS

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- India boxer **Mary Kom** won the gold medal for the fifth time at the Asian Boxing Championship
- Indian shuttler **Saina Nehwal** defeated PV Sindhu in the final match of Senior National Badminton Championship.
- Indian shuttler **H S Prannoy** defeated Kidambi Srikanth in the final match of Senior National Badminton Championship.
- **India** defeated China to win the women's Asia Cup Hockey Title 2017.

## SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

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- Twitter has officially expanded its character count from **140 to 280**.
- Ola is to build a vehicle Platform by partnering with Tech Major Microsoft.
- India test-fired its indigenously developed long cruise missile **Nirbhay**.

