

GK Digest: June 2017

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Current Affairs

IMPORTANT DAY

International Workers' Day or Labour Day: 1 May 2017

- International Workers' Day, also known as Labour Day in some countries, is a celebration of labourers and the working classes that is promoted by the international labour movement, socialists, communists or anarchists.
- It occurs every year on May Day which is May 1st. It is the day to pay tribute to the Labourers. Without them nothing will complete.
- In India, the first Labour Day, or May Day, was celebrated in 1923 in Chennai.

Historical Background

- On May 11886, labour unions in the United States of America decided to go on a strike with the demand that workers should not be allowed to work more than 8 hours a day.
- This strike was followed by a bomb blast in Chicago's Haymarket Square on the 4th of May.
- This led to the death of several people and police officers. In addition, more than 100 people were injured in the blast.

NATIONAL EVENT

Government launches new Test and Treat policy for HIV

- The government on Friday launched a new policy for HIV under which anyone who is

tested and found positive will get the necessary treatment.

- HIV destroys the CD4 T cells in the body that strengthen immunity. People with HIV, who have a CD4 cell count below 200, are at significant risk of developing serious illnesses, and the government currently provides free treatment to people with a count of 400 and below.
- As per the new policy, "As soon as a person is tested and found to be positive, he will be provided with ART (antiretroviral therapy) irrespective of his CD count or clinical stage
- This will be for all men, women, adolescents and children who have been diagnosed as a HIV+ case. This will improve longevity, improve quality of life of those infected and will save them from many opportunistic infections, especially TB.

Kerala's Aymanam Becomes Country's First Digitised Panchayat ward

- A ward in the Kerala's Aymanam district became India's first digitised panchayat ward.
- Union minister of state for social justice and empowerment Krishan Pal Gurjar inaugurated the website of the first digitised panchayat ward number 15 of Aymanam grama panchayat at a function held at a temple premises.
- The minister launched the website HYPERLINK "<http://www.digitalaymanam.com>" www.digitalaymanam.com at the function.
- The panchayat ward in Kerala has become the first one to go digital in the country, taking a very important step in fulfilling Prime Minister Narendra Modi's dream of transforming India

into a digitally empowered society.

Assam gets its first Shatabdi Express

- Assam got its first Shatabdi Express with Minister of State for Railways Rajen Gohain flagging off the train from Dibrugarh. The new Shatabdi Express train (No. 12085/12086) will run between Dibrugarh and Guwahati.
- The Shatabdi Express trains are among the fastest and most prestigious trains of the Indian Railways along with Rajdhani and Duronto trains which connect metro cities with other important cities from the point of view of tourism, pilgrimage or business.
- The train would have latest fully air-conditioned LHB Coaches to provide safety and extra comfort. Travellers would be provided with bottled water, juice, coffee or tea, and meals relevant to time of day of the journey,

INTERNATIONAL EVENTS

Syrian refugee and Olympic swimmer Yusra Mardini becomes UNHCR ambassador

- Yusra Mardini, a Syrian woman who helped save a boat carrying fellow refugees, has been appointed by the UN agency for refugees as its new Goodwill Ambassador.
- The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees said Mardini's actions saved the lives of 20 refugees who were fleeing the Syrian capital, Damascus.
- Mardini, 19, was also one of the 10 athletes who made up the historic Olympic Refugee Team and participated at the Rio Olympic Games last year.

- She has been a very powerful voice for the forcibly displaced across the world and an example of their resilience and determination to rebuild lives and positively contribute to host communities.

AWARDS & ACHIEVEMENTS

Hero MotoCorp conferred with 'Indian MNC of the Year' award by AIMA

- Pawan Munjal, Chairman, Managing Director and CEO, Hero MotoCorp Ltd., was felicitated by the All India Management Association (AIMA) for the rapid global expansion of Brand Hero.
- Hero MotoCorp, the India's largest two-wheeler manufacturer, was adjudged the 'Indian MNC of the year' by AIMA at a glittering function in the national capital.
- Brand Hero has expanded to 35 countries spread across Asia, Africa and Central and South America in a very short span of time since charting its solo journey in 2011.
- Hero MotoCorp, which sold more than 6.6 million two-wheelers in FY'17, is the only Indian two-wheeler company to have a manufacturing facility in Latin America. Hero's manufacturing plant is situated at Vila Ricca in Colombia.

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Google introduces 'Solve for India' campaign: Aims to empower developers from Tier II cities

- Google has announced the new "Solve for India" initiative, especially for tier-2 cities such as Pune, Jaipur, Hyderabad, Kolkata, Kochi, Indore, Nagpur, Nashik, Madurai, Kanpur, and

Chennai. This program will aim to support entrepreneurs and developers of the country.

- The program will provide a platform for developers, entrepreneurs in tier 2 cities to hear from experts and learn about the latest Google technologies and get access to direct mentoring and support from Google.
- Entrepreneurs will now have the opportunity to learn directly from Google engineers who will share product usage insights, how to develop mobile first solutions with strong offline and language capabilities and help them to build solutions in many sectors.
- Some of the areas will include agri-tech, healthcare, transportation, education, sanitation and more.
- These developers and entrepreneurs will also have access to the Google Launchpad programme which will help create and accelerate early stage product ideas.

SPORTS

Mercedes' Valtteri Bottas registers maiden Formula One win in Russia

- In a thrilling finish to Russian Grand Prix, Valtteri Bottas claimed his maiden Formula One victory on Sunday when he resisted intense pressure from championship leader Sebastian Vettel to triumph for Mercedes in the last couple of laps.
- The popular Bottas's first win was warmly received by his fellow drivers and the paddock, Hamilton hugging him after he had jumped into the arms of his crew and Vettel joining the reception, Russian President Vladimir Putin also present for congratulations and prize giving.

Rafael Nadal Clinches His 10th Barcelona Open Title

- Rafael Nadal won a record-extending 10th Barcelona Open title by thrashing Dominic Thiem of Austria 6-4, 6-1, collecting his second claycourt title in a row.
- Nadal, who won the Monte Carlo Masters for a 10th time last week, romped to the title without dropping a set on the newly renamed Rafa Nadal court at the Real Tennis Club in Barcelona, and needed just 90 minutes to finish off Thiem.
- The Mallorcan took a while to impose himself on Thiem on an overcast day in Barcelona with the cold weather slowing down the court.

Tejas Express to be launched: New Premier Train between Mumbai and Goa

- Indian Railways is expected to launch a new premier train, called the Tejas Express, between Mumbai and Goa in June.
- Cuisine curated by celebrity chefs, tea and coffee vending machines and individual LCD screens.
- This train is expected to begin operations from June this year.
- The 20-coach Tejas Express will be the first Indian Railways' train to have automatic doors and secured gangways for all coaches.

Paes-Lipsky win Tallahassee Challenger title

- Indian tennis player Leander Paes won his second Challenger-level title of the season
- The top-seeded Indo-American pair of Leander Paes and Scott Lipsky defeated Argentine third seeds Leonardo Mayer and Maximo

Gonzalez to win the Tallahassee Challenger title

Maharashtra becomes first Indian state to use Automated Weather Stations for farmers

- Devendra Fadnavis, Maharashtra CM on Sunday inaugurated the state's first automatic weather stations for farmers in Dongargaon, Nagpur.
- Around 2,065 such weather stations will come in Maharashtra on PPP (public private partnership) models

IIT Roorkee scientists create low-cost solar cells using Jamun

- Researchers used naturally occurring pigment found in jamun as an inexpensive photosensitiser for Dye Sensitised Solar Cells (DSSCs) or Gratzel cells.
- Gratzel cells are thin film solar cells composed of a porous layer of titanium dioxide (TiO₂) coated photoanode, a layer of dye molecules that absorbs sunlight, an electrolyte for regenerating the dye, and a cathode.

Real Estate Act comes into effect

- The Real Estate (Regulation & Development) Act, 2016, the landmark realty law to protect home buyers from unscrupulous developers
- States have to notify the realty rules and set up Real Estate Regulatory Authority (RERA)
- It makes it mandatory for all builders - developing a project where the land exceeds 500 square metre - to register with RERA before launching or even advertising their project.

- Not doing so will invite up to a maximum imprisonment of 3 years or fine of up to 10% of the total project cost.

IMPORTANT DAYS

Ganga Swachhta Sankalp Divas: 2 May 2017

National Mission on Clean Ganga (NMCG) observed Ganga Swachhta Sankalp Divas on May 02, 2017 at 12 locations, namely- Kanpur, Allahabad, Varanasi, Patna, Bhagalpur, Sahibganj, Kolkata, Raj Ghat (Hardoi), Bithoor, Srinagar (Uttarakhand), Vidhur Kuti (Bijnor) and Devprayag.

- The event was also organized at more than 30 other locations through Ganga Vichar Manch, local NGOs and volunteer support.
- The objective of the Ganga Swachhta Sankalp Divas is to spread awareness and evoke active involvement of the masses through Ganga Swachhta Sankalp (Pledge) reiterating their commitment to Swachh Ganga through a series of events like Swachhta sandesh rally, Shram daan, plantation, Swachhta sankalp etc. to develop a sense of pride and ownership among citizens to engender support for Namami Gange programme.

World Press Freedom Day: 3 May 2017

- **Theme: Critical Minds for Critical Times: Media's role in advancing peaceful, just and inclusive societies**
- Every year, 3 May is a date which celebrates the fundamental principles of press freedom; to evaluate press freedom around the world, to defend the media from attacks on their independence and to pay tribute to journalists who have lost their lives in the exercise of their profession.

- The international day was proclaimed by the UN General Assembly in 1993 following a Recommendation adopted at the 26th Session of UNESCO's General Conference in 1991.
- This in turn was a response to a call by African journalists who in 1991 produced the landmark Windhoek Declaration on media pluralism and independence.

NATIONAL EVENTS

U.P. deploys ambulances for cows

- Uttar Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister Keshav Prasad Maurya flagged off an ambulance service that would cater to cows.
- Under the 'Gauvansh Chikitsa Mobile Vans' service, the ambulance would rescue ill or injured cows and transport them to 'gau shalas' or take them for treatment to the veterinary doctor.
- A "gau seva toll-free number" was also released so that common people can come to the help of such cows.
- A veterinarian will be present in the ambulance along with an assistant.
- In its initial phase, the service will be first available in Lucknow, Gorakhpur, Varanasi, Mathura and Allahabad.
- The ambulance service is being run in collaboration with the MNREGA Mazdoor Kalyan Sanghathan, an organisation that says it works for labourers and others employed in the informal sector.

Prakash Javadekar launches Vidya Veerta Abhiyan

- Union Minister of Human Resource Development Prakash Javadekar launched the Vidya Veerta Abhiyan

- Students for soldiers- a nationwide Vidya – Veerta Abhiyan will encourage Universities to display portraits of Param Veer Chakra-decorated soldiers.
- The aim is to promote nationalism among youth, saying instilling of patriotism in the younger generation was “much needed” in the country.
- The Minister unveiled the portraits of Param Veer Chakra decorated-soldiers at a function in New Delhi. Vice Chancellors from Jawaharlal Nehru University, Delhi University, Jamia Milia Islamia, Jammu and IIT Delhi, among others, received the portraits from the Minister to put it in their educational institutions.
- Madhya Pradesh on Tuesday became the first state in India to announce shifting of its financial year format to January-December from the present April-March cycle.
- A decision to this effect was taken during the state cabinet meeting held in Bhopal.
- The state cabinet in its meeting chaired by Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan today (Tuesday) decided to shift the fiscal year to January to December. So, now the budget session of the next financial year would be held in December-January.
- Changing the financial year format to January-December would mean shifting the tax assessment year, changes in infrastructure, especially at the company level.

'Second-tallest' flag post comes up in Kolhapur, Maharashtra

- 300-foot flag post country's second-tallest, was inaugurated at Kolhapur in western Maharashtra
- State revenue minister and district guardian minister Chandrakant Patil inaugurated the flag post installed in Police Garden, located opposite the office of Kolhapur Superintendent of Police, by hoisting the tricolour on the occasion of Maharashtra Day.
- Kolhapur Street Beautification Project (KSBP), a trust, has installed this flag post which is the second-tallest in the country
- The 360-foot flag post inaugurated on March 6 at Attari on Indo-Pak border is said to be the tallest in the country.

Madhya Pradesh Becomes First State To Shift To Jan-Dec Financial Cycle

'UP Diwas' to be celebrated on January 24

- The Yogi Adityanath government decided to celebrate 'UP Diwas' on January 24, the day the erstwhile United Provinces was rechristened as Uttar Pradesh.
- The United Provinces unit was renamed as Uttar Pradesh on January 24, 1950.
- A committee of ministers and officials would be formed to plan for the UP Diwas and supervise preparations for celebrating the day with fervour across the state on January 24, next year

Shri Bandaru Dattatreya Launches One IP- Two Dispensaries" and Aadhaar Based Online Claim Submission" Schemes

- Minister of State (I/C) for Labour and Employment, Shri Bandaru Dattatreya launched two schemes “One IP- Two Dispensaries” and “Aadhaar based Online

Claim Submission" on the occasion of International Labour Day

- Under One IP- Two Dispensaries scheme ESIC has given an option to an Insured Person (IP) to choose two dispensaries, one for self and another for family through an employer. This will benefit all IPs, especially migrant workers who are working in other than home State, while their families are living in their native States.
- By introducing the concept of 'One IP- Two Dispensaries', IP as well as their family members would now be able to get treatment from either of the dispensaries and in case of emergency from any ESI Institution.
- Under Aadhaar based Online Claim Submission scheme all EPF Members who have activated their UAN and seeded their KYC (Aadhaar) with EPFO will be able to apply for PF final settlement (form19), Pension withdrawal benefit (Form10-C) and PF part withdrawal (Form31) from the their UAN Interface directly.
- The three forms collectively form more than 80% of EPFO's claim workload. Members can complete the whole process online and they neither need to interact with the employer nor with the EPFO field office to submit online claim.
- They are not required to give any supporting document while preferring online PF part withdrawal case. Member's applying online will be taken as his self-declaration for preferring the advance claim.

Indian railways to track wagon, coaches using RFID

- The Indian Railways will use radio-frequency identification tags (RFID) for tracking of

wagons, coaches and locomotives to ensure effective and transparent functioning.

- Leveraging information technology in a big way, the public transporter has issued instructions for equipping all wagons with RFID tags to begin with.
- There are about 2.25 lakh wagons, 50,000 coaches and 9,000 locomotives in the railways. Railways have sanctioned Rs 57 crore for the first phase of rollout of the system.
- The tag designed by the Centre for Railway Information System (CRIS) is estimated to cost Rs 1000 per tag. Using RFID devices, it will be easier for the railways to know the exact position of wagons, locomotives and coaches.
- Currently, such data is maintained manually, which leaves scope for errors. While the RFID tag will be fitted in the rolling stock, trackside readers will be installed at stations and key points along the tracks to read the tag from a distance of about two meters and transmit the wagon identity over a network to a central computer.
- In this way, each moving wagon can be identified and its movement tracked. With the introduction of RFID, the issue of shortage of wagons, locomotives and coaches is expected to be addressed in a more transparent and expeditious manner.

International Events

Dubai becomes first city in world with own Microsoft font

- Dubai has become the first city in the world to get its own font
- The type face, simply called "Dubai Font", comes in both Arabic and Latin script and will be available in 23 languages.

- It was created in partnership with Microsoft and is now available to Microsoft Office 365 users around the world.

AWARDS & APPOINTMENTS

Sanjay Pratihar chosen for INSA medal for Young Scientist

- Sanjay Pratihar, a scientist at Tezpur University, has been chosen for the the prestigious Indian National Science Academy (INSA) medal for the Young Scientist Award for the year 2017.
- Pratihar of the Department of Chemical Sciences has been awarded for his excellent contribution to multi-metal complexes, theoretical understanding, selective sensing of Hq2+ions and important applications in agriculture
- The award, consisting of a bronze medal and cash award of Rs. 25,000 will be given to him during INSA's anniversary meeting scheduled in December.
- Instituted in 1974 by the Indian National Science Academy, the INSA medal for young scientists are awarded annually to honour talented young Indian scientists in recognition of their outstanding contributions in any branch of science or technology coming within the purview of the Academy.
- The research carried out in India by the nominees are taken into consideration for the award.
- Pratihar had earlier received 'DST-INSPIRE Faculty' award in July 2012 and had done his PhD in Organometallic Chemistry from the Indian Institute of Technology, Kharagpur.

Padma Venkataraman bestowed with Avvaiyar award

- Tamil Nadu government honoured social worker Padma Venkataraman with the state's "Avvaiyar Award" for 2017.
- Padma, daughter of former President of India, the late R Venkataraman, was honoured for her efforts in the areas of women's welfare and rehabilitation of leprosy-affected persons for the past 30 years
- The "Avvaiyar Award" was constituted by late Chief Minister J Jayalalithaa in 2012 to honour women actively working in the areas of social reform, women's development, culture, media, inter-faith harmony, and administration, among others.
- Venkataraman, Chairperson of Women's Indian Association (WIA), called the award a "great honour."

Andhra Pradesh CM Chandrababu Naidu bags award for advancing US-India partnership at state level

- Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu has been selected for the Transformative Chief Minister Award in recognition for his role in advancing the US-India partnership at the state level.
- The award by the US-India Business Council would be presented to Naidu during the USIBC West Coast Summit in the Silicon Valley on May 8
- The summit will convene 150 industry leaders from sectors such as information technology, banking, food processing, healthcare, clean energy, digital payments, manufacturing and Government of India officials to explore the

impacts of manufacturing in India, digitisation, India's move towards a cashless society and the future of the US-India trade relations

- The summit will also honour Sundararajan with the Transformative Leadership Award for excellence in public service and for her commitment to advancing US-India cooperation and Digital India.
- Last year's recipient for the award was Amitabh Kant, CEO of Niti Aayog.

Rajive Kaul gets diplomatic service award from South Korea

- Chairman of Nicco group and past president of CII Rajive Kaul was conferred with the Order of Diplomatic Service Merit Sungnye Medal of the Republic of Korea for his services rendered as honorary consul general of South Korea in Kolkata.
- The award was conferred by the acting President and Prime Minister of South Korea Hwang Kyo-ahn at a programme in New Delhi recently.
- Kaul was appointed as honorary consul general in November 1998

Anthony Lianzuala Takes Over as New Controller General of Accounts

- Anthony Lianzuala took over as the New Controller General of Accounts (CGA) in national capital on Monday. Earlier, the Government of India had appointed Anthony Lianzuala, a 1982-batch Indian Civil Accounts Service (ICAS) Officer, as the new Controller General of Accounts (CGA), Department of Expenditure, Ministry of Finance with effect

from May 1, 2017. He will be the First person from the North-Eastern Region to hold this position.

- Lianzuala was the first Director of training institute in the field of Public Financial Management and Accounting in the North-East named INGAF-NER, based in Aizawl, Mizoram. He is highly credited for his IT initiatives in the North-Eastern Region.
- He was instrumental in computerising the functions of the State Treasuries of Mizoram.
- He has also served in Mizoram as Secretary in various departments including Agricultural Marketing, Border Trade and Relief & Rehabilitation.
- He was also selected as Managing Director of North-Eastern Agricultural Marketing Corporation (NERAMAC), a Public-Sector Undertaking, based in Guwahati.

SCIENCE & INNOVATION

Department of Telecom launches portal for info on mobile tower radiation

- The Telecom Department launched a portal that will allow people to track radiation emitted from mobile towers within a locality and check their compliance with the stipulated norms.
- Launching the 'Tarang Sanchar' web portal will help in clearing "myths and misconceptions" about mobile towers and emissions from them.
- The portal will empower consumers to know, at the click of the mouse, about the towers working in a particular area and whether they are compliant to the Electromagnetic field

(EMF) emission norms defined by the government.

IMPORTANT DAYS

May 4: International Firefighters' Day

- International Firefighters' Day (IFFD) is observed on May 4.
- It was instituted after proposal emailed out across the world on January 4, 1999 due to the deaths of five firefighters in tragic circumstances in a bushfire in Australia.
- May 4 used to be a traditional Firefighters' Day in many European countries, because it is the day of Saint Florian, patron saint of firefighters.

UN marks first World Tuna Day on May 2

- The United Nations is marking the first World Tuna Day with calls to conserve one of the globe's most popular fish to be caught and eaten.
- tuna plays a critical role "in sustainable development, food security, economic opportunity, and livelihoods of people around the world
- The General Assembly established World Tuna Day in December to reinforce its importance to nations around the globe.

NATIONAL EVENTS

Odisha's Sualgiri, Swalgiri communities notified as scheduled castes

- Odisha's Sualgiri and Swalgiri communities have been notified as Scheduled Castes

following President Pranab Mukherjee's assent to a new law.

- The Rajya Sabha had last month passed the bill on it after it was cleared by the Lok Sabha in March.
- The President gave the nod to the Constitution (Scheduled Castes) Order (Amendment) Act, 2017
- The SC category status will entitle these communities to reservation in government jobs and admission in educational institutions, besides some other financial benefits.
- Some of the major schemes for the scheduled castes include post-matric scholarship, national overseas scholarship, Rajiv Gandhi national fellowship, concessional loans from National Scheduled Castes Finance and Development Corporation, hostel facilities for the SC boys and girls etc.

World's highest railway bridge is coming up over the Chenab in J&K

- In around two years from now, the Chenab river in Jammu and Kashmir will be spanned by the world's highest railway bridge that is expected to be 35 metres taller than the Eiffel Tower.
- The massive arch-shaped structure, being constructed at a cost of around Rs1,100 crore in hostile terrain, will use over 24,000 tonnes of steel and will rise 359 m above the river bed.
- Designed to withstand wind speeds of up to 260 km per hour, the 1.315 km long "engineering marvel" will connect Bakkal (Katra) and Kauri (Srinagar).
- The bridge forms a crucial link in the 111-km stretch between Katra and Banihal, which is

part of the Udampur- Srinagar-Baramulla rail link project.

- Slated to be completed by 2019, it is expected to become a tourist attraction in the region. There will also be a ropeway in the bridge for inspection purposes.
- Once completed, it will surpass the record of the Beipan river Shuibai railway bridge (275 m) in China.

UberEATS Food Delivery Service Launched in India, Starting With Mumbai

- Uber's standalone food delivery service - UberEATS - has arrived in Mumbai. At launch, it'll be available in Powai, Bandra East, Bandra Kurla Complex, and the west-lying regions from Lower Parel uptown to Andheri.
- Though there is no minimum order size, a delivery fee of Rs. 15 will be levied on each order.
- UberEATS will deliver seven days a week, at all times of the day, be it breakfast, lunch, dinner or the times in between.
- The service will be live in six Indian cities by the end of the year, and Uber says it's looking at Bengaluru, Chennai, Delhi, and Kolkata.
- The ride-sharing giant has partnered with over 200 restaurants in Mumbai.
- Some of the featured places are The Good Wife, Fresh Menu, Coffee by Di Bella, The Bohri Kitchen, Le15 Patisserie, Nom Nom, and The Bombay Canteen.

The new Humsafar Express revolutionises the AC 3-tier coach

- The Indian Railways have sought a 'major makeover' for the AC 3-tier coach in a bid to make it more passenger-friendly.
- The all new Western Railways' first AC 3-tier Humsafar Express between Ahmedabad and Chennai was flagged off by Railway Minister Suresh Prabhu at a function held in Udvada town in Valsad district
- The Indian Railways have sought a 'major makeover' for the AC 3-tier coach in a bid to make it more passenger-friendly.
- The all new Western Railways' first AC 3-tier Humsafar Express between Ahmedabad and Chennai was flagged off by Railway Minister Suresh Prabhu at a function held in Udvada town in Valsad district

Chhattisgarh auctions India's most expensive limestone block

- Chhattisgarh successfully auctioned its third limestone block, Kesla-II to Dalmia Cement in a bidding that went on for a record 23 hours with the highest bid received 96.15% of IBM prices which is 20times more than the reserve price.
- Kesla-II block is situated in the Tilda Tehsil of Raipur district and covers over 357 hectare in area with an average grade of 43% CaO. The block is located at a distance of 40 km from Raipur.
- The reserve price of Kesla-II was fixed at 5% of IBM prices and the floor price was 21% of IBM prices.

SPORTS

Paddler Soumyajit Ghosh Bags Singles, Doubles at Chile Open

- Soumyajit Ghosh has bagged both the singles and doubles gold at the Seamaster 2017 ITTF Challenge Chile Open in Santiago.
- This is the first time India had won a men's doubles title on either the ITTF Challenge Series or ITTF World Tour.
- Ghosh, meanwhile, became the third Indian to win a men's singles title at an ITTF Challenge Series or ITTF World Tour tournament, while Amalraj became the fourth Indian to reach a final of such a competition.
- Selby, 33, had trailed 10-4 but claimed nine out of 10 frames to lead 13-11.
- Higgins had a mini revival helped by a contentious refereeing decision, but Selby kept his composure to win.
- The world number one is only the fourth player after Steve Davis, Stephen Hendry and Ronnie O'Sullivan to claim back-to-back titles in the modern era.

India drop to No. 4 in ICC T20 rankings

- India have dropped two places to slip to fourth position in the ICC Twenty20 International team rankings following the annual update on May 1.
- Having dropped six points, India are now on 118 points, three behind second placed England and third placed Pakistan -- both of whom are on 121 points each.
- Pakistan joined England on 121 after earning five points. However, they are a rank behind England by a fraction of a point.

Top 5

1. New Zealand
2. England
3. Pakistan
4. India
5. South Africa

Mark Selby beats John Higgins to retain his World Championship title

- Mark Selby defended his World Championship title with a stunning comeback to beat John Higgins 18-15 and secure his third crown in four years.

AWARDS & APPOINTMENTS

I-League 2016-17: Sunil Chhetri wins 'Hero of the League' Award

- The individual awards of the Hero I-League 2016-17 are finally confirmed following the votes cast by coaches and captains of the respective ten team.
- List of Awardees
- Debjit Majumder (MB)→ Best goalkeeper award
- Anas Edathodika (MB)→ Jarnail Singh Best Defender' of Hero I-League 2016-17 award
- Alfred Kemah Jaryan (AFC)→ Best Midfielder of Hero I-League 2016-17.
- Aser Pierrick Dipanda Dicka→ Best Striker award
- Jerry Lalrinzuala→ 'Best Emerging Player of Hero I-League' award
- Khalid Jamil→ 'Syed Abdul Rahim Best Coach Award'.
- **Sunil Chhetri→ Hero of the League**

Shabana Azmi starrer The Black Prince awarded at film fest in Houston

- Hollywood film The Black Prince, featuring singer-poet Satinder Sartaaj and veteran

actress Shabana Azmi, was awarded the Special Jury Remi Award at the 50th annual Worldfest-Houston International Film Festival.

- The film is a historic biopic on the poignant life story of the last king of Punjab - Maharajah Duleep Singh and is set for international release on July 21. Sarttaaj, who marks his acting debut with the film, essays the role of Maharajah Duleep Singh while Shabana portrays Rani Jindan, the exiled King's mother.
- The film also features Jason Flemyng, Amanda Root, Keith Duffy, David Essex OBE, Canadian actor Rup Magon and Sophie Stevens.

Lion actor Sunny Pawar chosen for Rising Star Award in the UK

- Child actor Sunny Pawar, best known for his performance in the Oscar-nominated film Lion, has been chosen for the Rising Star Award here. The award will be presented to Sunny at the 7th Annual Asian Awards
- Sunny, grew up in the Mumbai slums, shot to global fame with his role in the Australian drama where he worked alongside award-winning actors Dev Patel and Nicole Kidman.
- Founded in 2010, the Asian Awards acknowledge pan-Asian success across all walks of life.
- Previous award winners include Shah Rukh Khan, Bruce Lee, Zayn Malik, Jack Ma, Dr Amar Bose, David Tang, Freddie Mercury, Kunal Nayyar and Ahmed Kathrada.

Mallikarjun Kharge appointed as new chairman of PAC

- Congress leader Mallikarjun Kharge is the new chairman of the 21-member Public Accounts

Committee of Parliament. Kharge replaces Congress leader K V Thomas whose term ended on April 30.

- The Parliamentary panel, which is headed by an opposition leader, has a majority of its members from the ruling NDA. The new committee has only two new faces while the remaining members have been renominated.
- Subhash Chandra Baheria and Ram Shankar, both of the BJP, have replaced their party members Richard Hay and Janardan Singh Sigrival.
- The Committee on Public Accounts is the oldest Parliamentary committee that examines the accounts showing the appropriation of sums granted by Parliament for expenditure of Government of India and such other accounts of autonomous and semi-autonomous bodies.

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Chinese scientists build world's first quantum computing machine

- China has beaten the world at building the first ever quantum computing machine that is 24,000 times faster than its international counterparts.
- Making the announcement at a press conference in the Shanghai Institute for Advanced Studies of University of Science and Technology, the scientists said that this quantum computing machine may dwarf the processing power of existing supercomputers.
- Researchers also said that quantum computing could in some ways dwarf the processing power of today's supercomputers.

- Quantum computers could, in principle, solve certain problems faster than classical computers.
- Despite substantial progress in the past two decades, building quantum machines that can actually outperform classical computers in some specific tasks - an important milestone termed "quantum supremacy" - remains challenging.

- Hengerabari-Chachal Road Khagen Mahanta Road
- Beltola-Khanapara Road Peer Azan Fakir Road

Cabinet approves New Central Sector Scheme – SAMPADA

- The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs, chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has given its approval for re-structuring the schemes of the Ministry of Food Processing Industries (MoFPI) under new Central Sector Scheme – SAMPADA (Scheme for Agro-Marine Processing and Development of Agro-Processing Clusters) for the period 2016-20 coterminous with the 14th Finance Commission cycle.
- SAMPADA with an allocation of Rs. 6,000 crore is expected to leverage investment of Rs. 31,400 crore, handling of 334 lakh MT agro-produce valuing Rs. 1,04,125 crore, benefit 20 lakh farmers and generate 5,30,500 direct/indirect employment in the country by the year 2019-20.
- The objective of SAMPADA is to supplement agriculture, modernize processing and decrease agri-waste.
- The SAMPADA is a comprehensive package to give a renewed thrust to the food processing sector in the country.
- It includes new schemes of Infrastructure for Agro-processing Clusters, Creation of Backward and Forward Linkages and Creation / Expansion of Food Processing & Preservation Capacities aim at development of modern infrastructure to encourage entrepreneurs to set up food processing units based on cluster

NATIONAL EVENTS

Assam: Sarbananda Sonowal govt renames all major Guwahati roads

- All the major roads of Guwahati have been rechristened.
- The Sarbananda Sonowal government has changed the names of all the major roads of the most important city of Assam.
- Assam Finance Minister Himanta Biswam Sarma announced the government's decision to rename the Guwahati roads.
- The roads have been given new names after either the local leaders from the past of the BJP ideologues.

Old Names	New Names
GS Road	
Mahapurush Sankerdev Path	Srimanta
AT Road	
Mahapurush ev Path	Damodard
VIP Road	
Mahapurush v Path	Madhabde

approach, provide effective and seamless backward and forward integration for processed food industry by plugging gaps in supply chain and creation of processing and preservation capacities and modernization/ expansion of existing food processing units.

Vijayawada Airport is now international airport

- The Union Cabinet approved Vijayawada Airport as International Airport.
- The decision to give the airport, which is undergoing infrastructural changes due to increase in air traffic, international status will boost domestic and international tourism beside promoting socio-economic development.
- The approval was given as per provisions of Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation Act, 2014. It will improve the connectivity to the Andhra capital and give wider choice of services at competitive costs to air travelers.
- The Airports Authority of India has undertaken up-gradation of requisite infrastructure and facilities for international operations.

Indore ranked the cleanest city in India, Gonda in UP the dirtiest

- Indore has been ranked as the cleanest city in India+ while Gonda in Uttar Pradesh has been ranked the dirtiest among 434 cities in Swachh Suvexshan 2017
- Bhopal, another city from MP has been ranked second while Visakhapatnam in Andhra Pradesh and Surat in Gujarat have emerged as the third and fourth cleanest cities.

- Cities in West Bengal have not been ranked as the Mamata Banerjee government did not participate in the Swachh Survekshan.
- According to the survey, four of the dirtiest cities are from UP, two each from Bihar and Punjab and one each from Uttarakhand and Maharashtra.
- The criteria for this year's ranking included 45% marks for cities becoming open defecation free, solid waste management (including sweeping, collection, transportation and processing of garbage), education and capacity building. Another 25% marks was kept for field inspection and 30% for citizen feedback.

Top 10

- Indore
- Bhopal
- Vishakhapatnam
- Surat
- Mysore
- Tiruchillaplli
- New Delhi Municipal Corporation
- Navi Mumbai
- Tirupati
- Vadodara

Gadkari inaugurated The Highway Saga, SRISHTI exhibitions

- Minister of Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari inaugurated two exhibitions namely The Highway Saga: Past Present and Future and Safe Road and Inter-State Highways Transforming India (SRISHTI)' at Vigyan Bhawan in New Delhi.
- The Highway Saga exhibition will depict the evolution of road transport in India.The

sections exhibit the modes of transportation used during Indus Valley Civilization and through the years into the current times. The pavilion on road safety is a fun and interactive pavilion that seeks to enhance awareness of road safety issues.

- The pavilion has many creatives emphasising safety in driving.
- India has, for the first time, started planning for an integrated, multi-modal transport system.

Andhra Pradesh's Banganapalle mango gets Geographical Indication tag

- The Banganapalle mango has received the geographical indication (GI) tag, making Andhra Pradesh the owner of the variety that originates in its Kurnool district.
- The Registrar of Geographical Indications Registry (RGIR) granted Banganapalle the GI status on Wednesday on a six-year-old application from Andhra Pradesh's horticulture department.
- The Banganapalle mango is one the most preferred varieties of the fruit in both Andhra Pradesh and Telangana.
- The application for the GI tag was made in 2011, prior to the bifurcation of Andhra Pradesh in 2014 to create Telangana. The life of the Banganapalle mango after it fully ripens is about 10 to 12 days and more than a month in cold storage.

'Living entity' status given to Narmada river

- A month after the Uttarakhand High Court declared Ganga and Yamuna and their tributaries as "living entities having the status

of a legal person", Madhya Pradesh government has decided to give similar recognition to Narmada river by passing a law in the state assembly

- Giving living entity would not only conserve the river but also save the environment.
- Narmada is the biggest river in the state, and state government has initiated the conservation programme from Amarkantak.

SPORTS

Sports to be included in the national youth awards

- The Union Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports, Vijay Goel, announced a wide spectrum of fields including sports that would fetch the national youth award
- The minister pointed out that instead of the States nominating the persons or organisation for the National Youth Awards, it would be an online process henceforth.
- Instead of one organisation, the award would be given to ten organisations every year for their services.
- The award has been enhanced to Rs. 200,000, a trophy and a certificate.
- The individual awards of Rs. 50,000 each, increased from Rs. 40,000, apart from a medal and certificate would be given to 25 eligible youth in the age group of 15 to 29 years, for their good work in the field of health, research, innovation, culture, promotion of human rights, art and literature, tourism, traditional medicines, active citizenship, community service, sports and academic excellence and smart learning.

- The National Youth awards were first presented in 1985. They are given every year on January 12.

India 100th in FIFA rankings, highest in 21 years

- The Indian national football team scaled further heights to break into the top 100 of FIFA rankings. The rankings, which were released on Thursday, saw India perched at 100, one place above their April ranking of 101st. The Blue tigers are placed at 100 alongside Nicaragua, Lithuania and Estonia.
- India ranked 101st in the FIFA rankings for April. This was a 72-place jump from being 173rd in March 2015. The last time India had been in the top 100 was in 1996, with the 94th spot in February 1996 being the country's best ever FIFA ranking.
- Brazil remain top of the latest FIFA
- World champions Germany are third followed by Chile and Colombia in a South American-dominated top five.

Fifa standings:

1. Brazil
2. Argentina
3. Germany
4. Chile
5. Colombia
6. France
7. Belgium
8. Portugal
9. Switzerland
10. Spain

BANKING & FINANCE

Reliance, SAP launch 'SARAL GST' solution for taxpayers

- Reliance Corporate IT Park (RCITPL) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with enterprise application software major SAP SE to launch 'SARAL GST' solution for taxpayers.
- According to the subsidiary of Reliance Industries, the new offering will enable taxpayers to be GST compliant and smoothly access the government's GST System, once GST is rolled out from July 1, 2017.
- The company said SARAL GST will leverage the expertise of RCITP as GST Suvidha Provider (GSP) and SAP as Application Service Provider (ASP).
- The SARAL GST envisages RCITPL to connect ASPs to the government's GST system through Jio MPLS network. Further, SAP, in its role as ASP, will enable taxpayers to effectively create, manage and file GST Returns in a simple, safe and seamless environment.

APPOINTMENTS

Bharti Enterprises appoints Soumen Ghosh as MD, financial services

- Bharti Enterprises has appointed Soumen ("Sam") Ghosh as managing director, financial services.
- In his new role, Ghosh will build strategic business value proposition for Bharti's financial services businesses and will be responsible for further strengthening the management processes, business expansion and governance of these businesses.
- Before joining Bharti, Ghosh was heading the financial services business at Reliance Capital as Executive Director & Group CEO across a variety of business lines like Insurance, Mutual

Funds, commercial and housing finance, broking & distribution.

BOOKS & AUTHORS

M. Venkaiah Naidu releases set of books titled 'Swachh Jungle ki kahani – Dadi ki Zubani'

- Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu, Minister for Information & Broadcasting today released a set of books titled 'Swachh Jungle ki kahani – Dadi ki Zubani' published by Publications Division.
- The books aimed at sensitizing and creating awareness amongst children would provide a fillip to the Prime Minister's Swachh Bharat Abhiyan which has become a Jan Andolan across the nation.
- The set of four books written in a storytelling format by renowned children's author Dr. Madhu Pant would convey the message in an interesting manner through the clean Jungle tales.
- The books contain lot of interesting and eye-catching illustrations made by young artists.
- The series of books had been published in 15 Indian languages and would help develop a habit of cleanliness among school going children.
- Children had been the best 'medium' to bring about behavioural change in the society and motivate their parents, relatives and friends to adopt cleanliness.

NATIONAL EVENTS

India opens small arms manufacturing unit in MP in a joint venture with Israel

- Strengthening defence ties, India opened its first private small arms manufacturing plant at Malanpur, Madhya Pradesh in a joint venture with Israel.
- The plant has been setup as a joint venture -- Punj Lloyd Raksha Systems -- between Indian defence conglomerate Punj Lloyd and Israel Weapons Industries (IWI).
- The joint venture plans to develop it as a hub for providing weapons to Israel and Indian but to the world markets.
- The plant will manufacture weapons like X95 assault rifle, Galil sniper, Tavor assault rifle, Negev light machine gun and the Ace assault rifle, which is similar to the Tavor but less advanced.
- IWI is working on a few bids to provide the Indian Army with the Tavor assault rifle and Negev light machine gun. All the guns to be produced in the factory are already in service with the army's Special Forces, Navy's MARCOS and IAF's Garud Commandos, besides the Border Security Force.
- The weapons will be assembled based on 100 per cent transfer of technology, said Lt Col RK Sharma (retd), Additional General Manager-Defence, Punj Lloyd. The capacity of prod ..

(IBBI) constitutes Technical Committee to lay down Technical Standards for the performance of core services

- The Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI) has constituted a Technical Committee in accordance with Regulation 14 of the IBBI (Information Utilities) Regulations, 2017. The Technical Committee (Committee) shall consist of the following:
 - **Chairperson:** Dr. R. B. Barman

- **Member:** Dr. Nand Lal Sarda
- **Member:** Dr. Pulak Ghosh
- **Member:** Sh. V. G. Kannan
- The Committee shall give its recommendation for laying down Technical Standards for the performance of core services and other services under Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (Information Utilities) Regulations, 2017

No-fly list: New rules for banning unruly passengers out, 3 levels of offences set

- The Civil Aviation Ministry has proposed a national no-fly list of the passengers, who behave unruly during journey.
- There will be three types of unruly behaviour:
- **Level 1-** Disruptive behaviour such as physical gestures for which a passenger will be handed out a suspension of three months
- **Level 2-** Physically abusive behaviour and sexual harassment for which suspension from flying will be for six months
- **Level 3 -** Murderous assault or life-threatening behaviour, damage to aircraft operating systems for which suspension will be for 2 years or more.
- By June 30, it is possible for us to come up with the finalisation of the amendment
- India will be the first country in the world to have a national no-fly list based on safety.

Biggest combing operation in Kashmir since 90s

- In view of growing attacks on policemen and incidents of bank robberies, a massive "cordon and combing" operation had been launched

by the security forces in south Kashmir's Shopian district.

- According to army sources, the massive door-to-door joint search operation launched by the Army, paramilitary and J&K Police is probably the biggest such exercise in the past 15 years in the violence-hit South Kashmir.
- The operation was launched after a vehicle carrying soldiers of 62 Rashtriya Rifles, who were involved in the operation, were attacked by militants near the Imam Sahib area, leading to the death of a civilian driver and injuries to four jawans.

eVIN Project of Health Ministry becomes global best practise in immunisation

- eVIN (Electronic Vaccine Intelligence Network) is an indigenously developed technology system in India that digitizes vaccine stocks and monitors the temperature of the cold chain through a smartphone application.
- The innovative eVIN is presently being implemented called across twelve states in India.
- eVIN aims to support the Government of India's Universal Immunization Programme by providing real-time information on vaccine stocks and flows, and storage temperatures across all cold chain points in these states.
- The technological innovation is implemented by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).
- eVIN aims to strengthen the evidence base for improved policy-making in vaccine delivery, procurement and planning for new antigens in India.

- Members of a five-country international delegation called on Shri C K Mishra, Secretary Ministry of Health & Family Welfare
- They interacted with the Health Secretary to learn more about the global best practice of eVIN (electronic vaccine intelligence network) project of the Health Ministry and to understand how it is being implemented in the country and the ways in which it be replicated in their own countries. Representatives from Philippines, Indonesia, Bangladesh, Nepal and Thailand are on a visit to India to study the project.

India launches South Asia Satellite

- India successfully launched the South Asia Satellite, intended to serve "economic and developmental priorities" of South Asian nations, using its heavy rocket Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle (GSLV-F09)
- Precisely at 4.57 pm, the GSLV-F09 took off to the sky from the second launch pad at the Satish Dhawan Space Centre at the Sriharikota spaceport in Andhra Pradesh, carrying the GSAT-9 satellite.
- The 49-metre, 415 tonne rocket slung the 2,230 kg satellite into geosynchronous transfer orbit, from where it would be taken up to its final geostationary orbit.
- The satellite, with its 12-Ku band transponders-transmitters and receivers of radio signals, will enable telecommunication, tele-education and tele-medicine as well as mapping of natural resources.
- It would also provide/augment internet connectivity and would be useful in disaster management.

BUSINESS & ECONOMY

Facebook, Airtel launch Express Wi-Fi in India

- Social media giant Facebook has partnered with country's largest telecom player Airtel to deploy 20,000 internet hotspots through Facebook's Express Wi-Fi service in India.
- These hotspots will be installed by the company in the coming few months.
- Express Wi-Fi is part of Facebook's global initiative to spread internet connectivity. It is currently operational in five countries-India, Kenya, Tanzania, Nigeria and Indonesia.
- Facebook started testing the service in 2015 and has nearly 700 internet hotspots already deployed across the four Indian states of Uttarakhand, Gujarat, Rajasthan and Meghalaya with the help of internet services providers (ISPs) like AirJaldi, Tikona, LMES and over 500 other local entrepreneur-retailers.
- To access Express Wi-Fi network, user needs to first sign up with an Express Wi-Fi retailer and then purchase a daily, weekly or monthly data pack.
- User will only then be able to connect to the Express Wi-Fi hotspot, register or create an account, login and start browsing or use any app on the entire internet.

Quikr acquires Zimber to strengthen home service business

- Online classifieds platform Quikr has acquired home services marketplace Zimber for an undisclosed amount as it looks to grow deeper into the home services space.
- Zimber is Quikr's tenth acquisition and offers a marketplace for plumbers, electricians,

carpenters and cleaning agents. For the time being the company will continue to function independently of the parent company's own services.

- Founded by Anubhab Goel, Amit Kumar and Gaurav Shrivastava, Zimber had raised nearly \$7.5 million from investors such as IDG Ventures and Omidyar Networks.
- The company raised its last round of \$5 million in July 2016 and is suspected of having run out of money, leading to a sale.

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

World's fastest camera records five trillion frames per second

- World's fastest film camera can 'capture' light
- We all know that according to Einstein's theory, nothing can travel faster than the speed of light in a vacuum that makes it difficult to capture.
- But, now researchers at Lund University in Sweden have built the world's fastest film camera that is capable of taking five trillion images per second, which means an image every 0.2 trillionths of a second. In other words, the camera is fast enough to visualize the movement of light or capture molecular processes.
- The camera could be used to observe extremely rapid natural processes and reactions in chemistry, physics, biology and biomedicine that until now have not been captured on film
- The researchers exposed an object to be filmed to brief flashes of laser light, which were reflected by the object. The new technology called Frequency Recognition

Algorithm for Multiple Exposures (FRAME) is based on an innovative algorithm, and instead captures several coded images in one picture and later sorts them into a video sequence.

- This method took four separate images per frame instead of taking images one by one in a sequence, like other high-speed cameras.

World's biggest X-ray laser generates first light

- The world's biggest X-ray laser has generated its first beam of light, that will allow scientists to get a glimpse of new materials, drugs and chemical reactions at the atomic level.
- The 3.4-kilometre-long European XFEL, most of which is located in underground tunnels in Germany, will usher a new era of European research
- The X-ray light has a wavelength of 0.8 nanometre - about 500 times shorter than that of visible light. At first lasing, the laser had a repetition rate of one pulse per second, which will later increase to 27,000 per second.
- The achievable laser light wavelength corresponds to the size of an atom, meaning that the X-rays can be used to make pictures and films of the nanocosmos at atomic resolution - such as of biomolecules, from which better understanding of the basis of illnesses or the development of new therapies could be developed.

APPOINTMENTS

Government appoints chiefs of Coffee, Tea Boards

- Prabhat Kamal Bezboruah and M S Boje Gowda were appointed as chairmen of the Tea Board and the Coffee Board, respectively.

- Bezboruah is a leading tea association industrialist and he becomes the first non-IAS and an industry insider to be at the helm of the Kolkata-headquartered Tea Board, the governing body of the industry and Gowda is a renowned coffee grower.
- The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet has approved their appointments, an order issued by the Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT) said.
- Bezboruah will have a tenure till November 1, 2018 and Gowda will be in the post till December 14, 2018

Kashmiri wins 2016 Wisden-MCC Cricket 'Photograph of the Year' award

- A Srinagar based freelance photographer has done Kashmir proud, pocketing the prestigious 2016 Wisden-MCC (Melbourne Cricket Council) Cricket Photograph of the Year for a stunning image, which captured boys playing cricket in the outskirts of the city, clicked by him.
- Saqib Majeed, an engineer by profession clicked the award-winning picture at the Nishat garden in Srinagar. Majeed is the first Kashmiri and second Asian after Atul Kamble to receive the prestigious award.
- Every year MCC publishes a book titled Wisden Cricketer Almanack, which includes best sports pictures from across the globe. This year's edition includes Majeed's picture.

RBI tightens JLF rules

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on Friday moved to make the joint lenders' forum (JLF)

more effective, directing banks to not break any rules and to meet all deadlines.

- The regulator said any breach of rules would attract a monetary penalty.
- JLFs are meetings at which banks attempt to red-flag stress early and work to try and keep it in check by putting in place a corrective action plan (CAP). Although the mechanism has been in place for some time now, decisions have been few and far between thanks to disagreements between lenders.
- RBI lowered the threshold needed for implementing a CAP — decisions agreed to by a minimum of 60% of creditors by value and 50% of creditors by number will now be valid. Earlier, 75% of the lenders by value and 60% by number needed to sign off on a CAP.

Govt appoints heads of 7 PSU banks, shifts MDs of PNB and BoI

- The government, which vested more powers with the Reserve Bank of India to deal with public sector banks' ballooning bad assets, also announced a major restructuring of the PSU bank boards with the appointment of new heads of seven PSU banks and a reshuffle of the management of Punjab National Bank and Bank of India.

List of Appointments

- R Subramania Kumar MD and CEO of Indian Overseas Bank (IOB).
- Rajkiran Rai G MD and CEO of the Union Bank of India.
- Usha Ananthasubramanian MD and CEO Allahabad Bank \
- Melwyn Rego MD and CEO Syndicate Bank .

- Sunil Mehta MD and CEO Punjab National Bank.
- Dinabandhu Mohapatra MD and CEO Bank of India in place of
- M O Rego MD and CEO Syndicate Bank
- R A Sankara Narayanan MD and CEO of Vijaya Bank.
- Sunil Mehta head of PNB
- Sankara Narayanan MD and CEO of Vijaya Bank.

Justice Leila Seth, first woman judge of Delhi High Court, passes away

- Justice Leila Seth, the first woman judge of Delhi High Court, passed away on Saturday after a brief illness at her home in Uttar Pradesh's Noida. She was 86.
- She died of cardiac seizure
- Seth, who broke many a glass ceiling in the legal field, was the first woman to have topped the London Bar exam, first woman judge of the Delhi High Court and also the first woman chief justice of a state high court (Himachal Pradesh).
- Seth was also one of the three members of the Justice Verma Committee which was constituted in 2012 to recommend amendments to the Criminal Law so as to provide for quicker trial and enhanced punishment for criminals accused of committing sexual assault against women, post the gruesome December 16 gangrape in Delhi.

3 Indian-origin scientists elected fellows of UK Royal Society

- Three Indian-origin scientists have been elected fellows of the Royal Society, Britain's independent fellowship of many of the world's most eminent scientists, for their "outstanding contributions to science".
- Krishna Chatterjee from Cambridge University, Subhash Khot from New York University and Yadvinder Malhi from Oxford University are among 50 distinguished people from across the world elected as the 2017 cohort of fellows of the academy.
- Royal Society's first Indian-origin president, Nobel Prize-winning scientist Venki Ramakrishnan, welcomed the latest batch into the ranks of the society
- Chatterjee has been recognised for his discoveries of genetic disorders of thyroid gland formation, regulation of hormone synthesis and hormone action, which have advanced the fundamental knowledge of the thyroid axis.
- Khot is a theoretical computer scientist who is credited with providing insight into unresolved problems in the field of computational complexity.

IMPORTANT DAYS

World Redcross Day

- World Red Cross day means 8th of May is celebrated every year as the birthday anniversary of founder of the Red Cross. Henry Dunant was the founder of the Red Cross as well as the founder of International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), born in the Geneva in the year 1828. He was the most famous person and became the recipient of 1st Nobel Peace Prize.

- World Red Cross Day is an annual event celebration, celebrating the principles of "International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement".
- It is celebrated every year to pay tribute to the volunteers participated in the event as well as welcome their precious contribution for helping people in need.

NATIONAL EVENTS

Government Declares Entire Assam As 'Disturbed' Area

- The Central government has declared the entire Assam as a "disturbed" area under the Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act - the AFSPA - for three more months, citing various violent activities by insurgent groups ULFA, NDFB and others.
- the entire Assam, besides bordering areas of Meghalaya, have been declared "disturbed" under the AFSPA for three months with effect from May 3.
- The ministry said there were 75 incidents of violence in Assam in 2016 in which 33 people, including four security personnel, were killed and 14 others were abducted.
- Besides, there were nine violent incidents in the state in which four people, including two security personnel, were killed in 2017.
- In another gazette notification, the ministry declared three districts of Arunachal Pradesh - Tirap, Changlang and Longding - besides areas falling under 16 police stations bordering Assam as "disturbed" area under the AFSPA for three more months.

Country's 1st bio refinery plant inaugurated in Pune

- Union Minister for Road Transport and Highway Nitin Gadkari inaugurated the country's first bio refinery plant which produces ethanol from variety of biomass.
- The project is situated at Rahu in Pune district. Mr Gadkari said a great revolution will take place in India's agriculture sector with the help of this kind of projects.
- AIR correspondent reports, the plant can produce one million litre of ethanol per annum by processing a variety of agro-residue like rice and wheat straw, cotton stalk, cane trash, corn cobs with superior product yields.

Jharkhand announces Jan-Dec FY

- Jharkhand has decided to become the second state in the country to reschedule its financial year from January to December.
- The new budget will be tabled in December
- As per the direction of the Chief Minister the new fiscal year for Jharkhand would commence from January 1, 2018 and end on December 31, 2018.
- In the earlier system, it commenced from April 1 and ended on March 31.
- Madhya Pradesh was first state to adopt the new financial year.
- In 2017, Jharkhand was the first state to table its budget in January.

Odisha to introduce boat ambulances in four districts

- Odisha will introduce boat ambulance service in four districts where people face difficulties in getting health service.
- The boat ambulance service will be available in the districts of Koraput, Malkangiri,

Kendrapara and Kalahandi where people face problems in availing 108 ambulance service due to intervening large water bodies in the form of rivers and dams disrupting road communication

- The state government has sanctioned six boat ambulances for these areas out of the state funds, Meherda said adding that these will be part of the 108 ambulance service.
- This is part of an MoU signed on Saturday between the State Government and the Ziquitza Health Care.
- IIT, Chennai is providing technical support to this project and the request for proposal (RFP) for the same is being finalised.

ballots ahead of Le Pen on between 33.9 percent and 34.5 percent.

- Unknown three years ago, Macron is now poised to become one of Europe's most powerful leaders, bringing with him a hugely ambitious agenda of political and economic reform for France and the European Union.

India To hold festival in Egypt to Mark Tagore's Birth Anniversary

- India will organise a cultural festival in Egypt to mark the 156th birth anniversary of the famous Indian poet, Rabindranath Tagore.
- Tagore Festival which is being organised by the Maulana Azad Centre for Indian Culture (MACIC), the cultural wing of the Indian Embassy in Cairo, from May 8-12 will feature a dance show, film screening, a play and painting competition.
- On May 8, the movie 'Kabuliwala' directed by Hemen Gupta will be screened at the Hanager Cinema, Opera House Complex. The movie is based on a novel written by Tagore about an immigrant from Kabul who forms a bond with a young girl in India who reminds him of his daughter in Afghanistan.
- The festival will conclude on May 12 with 'Rituranga – Play of Seasons' which will be performed by members of the Indian community at the Hanager Theatre, Opera House Complex at 7:30 pm.
- The Embassy is also organising a painting/drawing competition to the Indian community children on May 12.
- Rabindranath Tagore received the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1913. He was the first non-European to win this prestigious award, in recognition for his collection of poems,

INTERNATIONAL EVENT

At 39, Emmanuel Macron To Be France's Youngest President

- Pro-European centrist Emmanuel Macron resoundingly won France's landmark presidential election, first estimates showed Sunday, heading off a fierce challenge from the far-right in a pivotal vote for the future of the divided country and Europe.
- The victory caps an extraordinary rise for the 39-year-old former investment banker, who will become the country's youngest-ever leader.
- He has promised to heal a fractured and demoralised country after a vicious campaign that has exposed deep economic and social divisions, as well as tensions around identity and immigration.
- Initial estimates showed Macron winning between 65.5 percent and 66.1 percent of

'Gitanjali'. His poetry, novels, plays, short stories and essays are widely read in India and across the world.

India redrawing BBIN transport plan as Bhutan withdraws

- India is back at the drawing board on BBIN (Bangladesh-Bhutan-India-Nepal) Motor Vehicles Agreement (MVA), an ambitious sub-regional transport project, even as Bhutan has shelved it for the time being.
- The BBIN, which is promoted by India and aimed at creating seamless connectivity between the four countries for enhanced sub-regional trade and movement of people, suffered a body blow on April 29, with Bhutan announcing that it will not be able to ratify the plan before it addresses some of concerns raised domestically over the project.
- "This is Bhutan's internal matter. The plan can come into force even without Bhutan.
- Just that India and the other three countries will have to redraw plan. They can join it once they are ready, but as a new member," a top official, involved in the project. The remaining three countries have already ratified it.
- With the final approval from Bhutan, the plan would have come into force.
- The lower house of Bhutanese Parliament had also rejected it in November last year but there were hopes that the Upper House would approve it.

Hinduja brothers top UK's annual rich list

- The Hinduja brothers have topped the 2017 list of the richest people in the UK with an estimated fortune of £16.2 billion, a massive

£3.2 billion hike in their fortunes over the previous year.

- Besides the Hinduja brothers, there are over 40 Indian-origin super-rich in this year's list of the UK's 1,000 wealthiest people, who seem to be reaping a so-called "Brexit bonanza".
- 'The Sunday Times Rich List' says that uncertainties triggered by Britain's vote to leave the European Union (EU) last June have not impacted the country's billionaires' ability to make money, as they grew in numbers with a 14% rise in their fortunes since last year to earn a record £658 billion collectively.
- Another set of India-born entrepreneurial brothers, David and Simon Reuben, who had topped the list last year have moved down to third place with a fortune of £14 billion and steel tycoon Lakshmi N. Mittal is at fourth with £13.2 billion.

SPORTS

Shiva Thapa settles for silver at Asian Boxing Championships

- Fourth seed Shiva Thapa (60kg) settled for a silver medal at the Asian Boxing Championships after an injury-forced loss in the final here on Saturday, becoming the first Indian to claim three back-to-back medals at the continental showpiece.
- Shiva, up against second seed and local favourite Elnur Abduraimov, lost in a split verdict after a head-butt from his opponent resulted in a cut.
- It was in the final few seconds of the opening round when Shiva sustained the cut, forcing a stoppage by the referee.

- The disappointment of missing out on the gold aside, the silver is his third successive medal at the continental showpiece after a gold in 2013 and a bronze in the 2015 edition.

Azlan Shah 2017: Great Britain defeated Australia to Reclaim Title After 23 Years

- Great Britain won the Sultan Azlan Shah Cup title after a gap of 23 years with a rousing 4 -3 victory in the final against defending champions Australia on Saturday.
- Entering the final for the first time since their lone title win in 1994, Great Britain led all the way after securing an early lead in the eighth minute.
- Nine-time champions Australia fought back to take the encounter to the wire, but the British team defended their citadel well and banked on brisk counters to assert pressure on the rivals.
- India outplayed New Zealand 4-0 to claim the bronze medal, while Malaysia beat Japan 3-1 in the playoff for the fifth spot.

AWARDS & ACHIEVEMENTS

Sachin Tendulkar conferred with Fellowship Award in UK

- India's cricket icon Sachin Tendulkar plans to support charities and various initiatives to help the under-privileged people in the second innings of his life.
- Tendulkar, 44, made the remarks here while receiving the Fellowship Award at the 7th annual Asian Awards
- The ceremony, which celebrates excellence in the global Asian community, also paid tribute to Indian actor Om Puri.

- The award for outstanding achievement in Cinema was posthumously conferred on Om Puri who died earlier this year at the age of 66.
- India's playback singer Adnan Sami won the award for 'Outstanding achievement in Music.'
- Krishnan Guru-Murthy: Outstanding Achievement in Televisio,
- Ajay Banga: Business Leader of the Year,
- Masayoshi Son: Entrepreneur of the year,
- Nisha Dutt: Social Entrepreneur of the year,
- Dr Jack Preger: Philanthropist of the year,
- Ding Punhui: Outstanding achievement in sport
- Demis Hassabis: Outstanding achievement in Science and Technology
- Sir Harpal Kumar: Outstanding contribution to the community

NATIONAL EVENTS

Maharashtra bans junk food in school canteens

- The Maharashtra government has banned the sale of junk food in school canteens. Based on recommendations the Centre issued over two years ago, the state has told schools not to sell food 'High in Fat, Salt and Sugar' (HFSS) and has suggested healthy alternatives. The decision has been taken looking at childhood obesity and related diseases.
- The suggested alternatives include chapatis, rice, vegetables and pulses, rajma, wheat upma, khichdi, payasam, idli and vada sambar, coconut water, lemonade and jaljeera.
- Though not many state-affiliated schools have canteens, the education department's government resolution (GR) banning junk food in schools can be interpreted to include

vendors who sell prepackaged or pre-cooked food on campus during breaks.

Haryana to start door-to-door survey to collect data of every resident, issue smart IDs to every house

- The Manohar Lal Khattar government has decided to gather a detailed data of every resident and issue a sleek identity for every house in Haryana.
- The objective of this two-month long data generating exercise, to be launched on June 15, is to get details of land holdings and status of facilities such as social security pension, scholarship, MGNREGA, loans and LPG connection.
- During the survey, address of each house, photo, location, details of owner of the house, electricity connection, water connection, details of electronic devices, bank account numbers, IFSC code and Aadhaar and personal details such as mobile number, e-mail ID, educational qualification, religion and other details will be gathered.
- The data will be used to make sure that benefits of 150 services of 87 departments are provided online
- This real time-based survey will be conducted to gather socio-economic data by the teams of 'Saksham and e-Numerator' who will visit houses to feed their GPS location in their tablets, create smart house IDs online and link each house with biometric.

DIPP, WIPO to set up innovation support centres

- The Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion (DIPP) and World Intellectual

Property Organisation (WIPO) have signed an agreement to establish Technology and Innovation Support Centres (TISC) that would help innovators in developing countries exploit their potential.

- WIPO's Technology and Innovation Support Centres (TISC) programme provides innovators in developing countries with access to locally based, high quality technology information and related services, helping them to exploit their innovative potential and to create, protect, and manage their intellectual property (IP) rights.
- Services offered by TISCs include access to online patent and non-patent (scientific and technical) resources and IP-related publications.
- The support centres would also provide assistance in searching and retrieving technology information, training in database search, on-demand searches (novelty, state-of-the-art and infringement), monitoring technology and competitors.

INTERNATIONAL EVENTS

Sohail Mahmood to replace Abdul Basit as Pakistan's envoy to India

- Amid the ongoing tensions between India and Pakistan, the government has approved the appointment of Sohail Mahmood as Pakistan's next high commissioner to India
- Mahmood is a top diplomat of Pakistan and will replace the incumbent envoy to India Abdul Basit this month.
- Mahmood joined Pakistan's foreign service in 1985

- Mahmood served as Islamabad's envoy to Turkey from 1991-1994 for the first time. He served in various Pakistan missions abroad, including Washington, New York after that. He worked as Pakistans Ambassador to Thailand from 2009-2013.

INDIA ELECTED PRESIDENT OF UN-HABITAT

- India has been unanimously elected as the president of the UN-Habitat, an organ of the United Nations to promote sustainable human settlements across the globe.
- Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation Minister M Venkaiah Naidu will chair the four-day meeting of the 58-member Governing Council (GC) of UN-Habitat
- Since the UN-Habitat came into being in 1978, it is the third time that India has been elected to lead this organisation after 2007 and 1988.
- The theme of the 26th meeting of the GC is 'Opportunities for effective implementation of the New Urban Agenda'.

Eager Lion: Jordan, US launch major military exercises

- Jordan and the United States kicked off annual military exercise known as "Eager Lion", with about 7,400 troops from more than 20 nations taking part
- The manoeuvres would include border security, cyber defence, and "command and control" exercises, to bolster coordination in response to threats including terrorism.
- The highlight of this year's exercise will be that "for the first time ever a global strike mission" will be conducted by "two US Air Force B-1B

bomber aircraft" – a long-range multi-mission bomber.

SPORTS

Vikram Malhotra wins 5th PSA title

- India's Vikram Malhotra won his fifth PSA title after beating Egypt's Youssef Ibrahim in the final of the Abu Dhabi Open.
- The US-based Indian won 6-11 11-4 11-3 9-11 13-11 against his opponent.
- The top seeded Indian, fresh from the Asian Championship held in Chennai, beat Hesham Mohamed Aly of Egypt in the first round and then seventh seed Ahmad Al-Saraj of Jordan in the quarters.
- In the semi-final, he took out Pakistan's Khwaja Adil Maqbool who retired in the third game after trailing by two games.
- The stiff test then came for him in the title-match where the Egyptian took him to extra points in the decider.

Grand Prix of Liberation Plezn 2017: Heena Sidhu wins bronze, India come back with 7 medals

- Heena Sidhu claimed a bronze medal in the women's 10m Air Pistol as India ended the Grand Prix of Liberation Plezn 2017 Shooting championships with seven medals.
- Indians made it to four more finals with Pooja Ghatkar finishing fourth in Women s 10m Air Rifle, Gurpreet Singh finishing 6th in the Men s 25m Rapid Fire Pistol which was won eventually by Germany s Olympic champion Christian Reitz and Chain Singh finishing seventh in the Men s 50m Rifle 3 Positions final. Gagan Narang finished 4th in the Men s

50m Rifle Prone event while Sushil Ghaley representing India finished fifth.

- Tejaswini Sawant also won silver in the 50m Rifle Prone event while Pemba Tamang won bronze in the Men's 25m Centre Fire Pistol.
- Anmol Jain had won a bronze in Men's 10m Air Pistol event on the first day of the championship.

Devender Singh becomes 2nd Indian javelin thrower to qualify for London Worlds

- Devender Singh of Services joined world junior champion Neeraj Chopra by becoming the second Indian to meet the javelin qualifying mark for the August world athletics championships
- Devender won the Indian Grand Prix first leg with a throw of 84.57m, meeting the qualifying mark of 83m.
- Neeraj Chopra, 19, qualified on April 28 when he won silver in the second leg of the Asian Grand Prix in Jianxing, China.
- Chopra had won the 2016 World U-20 championships in Poland with a throw of 86.48m, a junior world mark as well as the Indian national record.

BUSINESS & BANKING

Bank of India cuts MCLR by 5-10 bps

- Bank of India has cut its marginal cost of funds-based lending rates by 5-10 basis points for May
- The public sector lender has reduced the rate for three-month loans by 5 bps, and that of six-month and one-year loans by 10 bps each.

- The revised rates are in the 8.25-8.40 per cent range.

Techmagnate Acquires BlogX, the Largest Blog Conference in India

- Techmagnate, India's leading Digital Marketing Agency acquired BlogX, India's largest blog conference where bloggers and content managers connect.
- The first BlogX event took place in July 2016 in New Delhi, and since then the platform has gained heights in terms of popularity. In the event, top bloggers from across the country share their experiences and stories of journey towards becoming successful bloggers. The blogger's meet emphasizes on content, relationship and brand building.
- The new venture will substantially open doors to new opportunities for Techmagnate and further give a competitive edge to its growth.

Reserve Bank of India to soon start picking bad loan cases for action

- Armed with additional legislative powers, the RBI will soon start identifying cases for resolution of non-performing assets in consultation with IBA for necessary action, a senior government official said.
- The government will not get into individual cases as it has already given authorisation to the banking regulator RBI to resolve NPA cases through the ordinance passed last week
- The Indian Banks' Association (IBA) and the corporate debt restructuring cell already have information about the NPA cases that have not come to fruition. The central bank can

seek such cases and pass direction to banks on specific ones

benefits are guaranteed and are payable in case of maturity or death

APPOINTMENTS

SBI cuts home loan rates in affordable housing push

- State Bank of India (SBI) on Monday cut rates on home loans of up to Rs30 lakh by 25 basis points for new borrowers as it seeks to capitalize on demand generated by government efforts to spur affordable housing.
- The rate was reduced to 8.35% from 8.60%—the second time in 2017 that India's largest lender has slashed home loan rates after an effective 50 basis point cut that led other lenders to follow suit.
- One basis point is one-hundredth of a percentage point.
- For loans ranging from Rs30 lakh to Rs75 lakh, the bank has cut rates by 10 basis points.

Edelweiss Tokio launches India's first insurance that can be bought at PoS

- The country's first, and perhaps the simplest life insurance product that can be bought at a point of sale (PoS) has finally been launched.
- Edelweiss Tokio Life Insurance has recently launched PoS Saral Nivesh -- the first product to be approved by the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India's (IRDAI) guidelines on point of sale-life insurance products.
- PoS Saral Nivesh is a non-linked, non-participating endowment life insurance plan which offers both protection and saving. The

Indian-American appointed chief diversity officer at New York college

- Baruch College in downtown Manhattan, a senior college of the City University of New York, has appointed Indian-American Mona Jha, to a permanent position as Chief Diversity Officer.
- Jha hopes that her role will help to effectuate change in the staffing and faculty at the college to reflect the diversity of the student body. Jha told Desi Talk she found it most gratifying to assist those in need.
- Her position also involves investigating claims brought under the University's Non-Discrimination Policies, serving as Title IX Coordinator, and as the Section 504/ADA Coordinator to assure compliance with federal and state laws and regulations concerning persons with disabilities. The CDO is the liaison to the University Office of Diversity and Recruitment

Venu Rajamony Appointed Indian Ambassador To Netherlands

- IFS officer Venu Rajamony, Press Secretary to President Pranab Mukherjee, was today appointed India's Ambassador to the Netherlands.
- Venu Rajamony has been appointed as the next Ambassador of India to the Kingdom of the Netherlands.
- He is expected to take up his assignment shortly

- A journalist-turned-career diplomat, Mr Rajamony, an 1986 batch Indian Foreign Service officer, had been serving in the Rashtrapati Bhawan since August 2012, where among other achievements, he had increased the popularity of the President's social media profiles.

Usha Ananthasubramanian appointed as Allahabad Bank MD, CEO

- Usha Ananthasubramanian has been appointed as the MD & CEO of Allahabad Bank. She took charge from May 6.
- Her term ends on August 13, 2018.
- Rakesh Sethi was previously the Chairman and Managing Director of the Kolkata-based lender.
- Prior to her joining here, Ananthasubramanian was the MD & CEO of Punjab National Bank, the lender told in a release to the bourses.
- Ananthasubramanian had joined the industry in 1982 as a specialist officer with Bank of Baroda.
- An industry veteran, she was tasked with setting up of the first women focussed bank and was part of the core management team constituted by the Finance Ministry for coordinating the setting up of the Bharatiya Mahila Bank.
- She also served as CMD of Bharatiya Mahila Bank (BMB) between November 2013 and August 2015.

AWARDS & HONOURS

Emma Watson bags first ever 'genderless' award

- Hollywood actor Emma Watson picked up the first-ever Genderless Acting Award for the Best

Actor category at the MTV Movie and TV Awards.

- MTV's move to create a genderless award for acting will mean something different to everyone

IIT-Bombay professor wins Young Scientist award

- A scientific model that can prove to be a long-term solution for carbon dioxide emissions in the country has helped a faculty from the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Bombay, win the tag of India's Young Scientist.
- Vikram Vishal, a 31-year-old assistant professor in the Earth Sciences department of the institute, received the Young Scientist award from the Indian National Science Academy, the country's apex scientific society, for the year 2017.
- He was awarded with a bronze medal and a cash prize of Rs 25,000.
- The model proposed by Vishal involves trapping the carbon dioxide emitted by industries and injecting them in hard rocks within the sub-surface of earth.
- While Vishal is currently focused on carbon dioxide emissions, he has also worked on studies on pollution levels in Mumbai.

Adil Hussain's Mukti Bhawan wins the Best Film award at the New York Indian Film Festival

- "Mukti Bhawan", a movie about a man who accompanies his father on a journey to Varanasi, has won the Best Film at the New York Indian Film Festival (NYIFF).
- The makers say this appreciation has multiplied the joy of winning a Special Mention

at the National Film Awards. NYIFF was held in New York April 30-May 7.

- NYIFF been known to support films about India and Indian diaspora since 2001, has been actively trying to educate America and Americans about India and its people.

NDTV Wins Media For Sanitation Award For Banega Swachh India Campaign At Indian Sanitation Coalition-FICCI Awards 2017

- NDTV was felicitated with the 'Media For Sanitation' award by Railways Minister Suresh Prabhu at the ISC-FICCI Sanitation Awards & India Sanitation Conclave for the Banega Swachh India Campaign.
- The awards were jointly organized by FICCI and India Sanitation Coalition (ISC)
- This prestigious award was given to NDTV for its flagship campaign on sanitation in partnership with Dettol – Banega Swachh India Campaign, which kick-started in September 2014.
- The aim of the campaign is to work towards Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Swachh Bharat Abhiyan's goal of an open defecation free India by 2019.

India bags five Gold medals at Montreux Festival 2017

- Indian companies and creative agencies struck five gold and sixteen finalists at the Goldenaward Montreux Festival this year in Switzerland. As is their tradition, Goldenaward Montreux Festival only awards Golds and Finalists with no Silvers and Bronzes.
- PHD won a Gold and 5 finalists for HUL brands while Viacom 18 won a Gold and 3 Finalists.

Jagran Prakashan did well with a Gold and 3 Finalists . Tree Design and Mathrubhumi won a Gold and Finalist each.

- Other Indian winners were Living Foods channel (two finalists) and Dainik Bhaskar Publication-one finalist award.
- HUL and PHD won a Gold in Best Use of Mobile for their work "Kheloge toh jeetoge", Colors program " Shakti Ek Astitva" won a Gold in Best Use of Integrated Media, Tree Design's Print ad for The Heritage School won a Gold in the Non-Profit Category, Jagran Prakashan won a Gold in the Best Use of Print Media for "A newspaper invests in the future of the country" while Mathrubhumi won a Gold for their Corporate Film "Yatra".

Veerendra Kumar awarded K Chandrasekharan Memorial award

- Chairman and Managing Director of Malayalam daily Mathrubhumi M P Veerendra Kumar was today presented with the seventh K Chandrasekharan Memorial Award for his contribution to the nation as a socialist.
- Former Kerala chief minister Oommen Chandy presented the award, instituted by Kasargod-based Chandrasekharan Memorial Trust, in memory of socialist leader K Chandrasekharan.
- Chandrasekharan was a true socialist leader who treated both his supporters as well as opponents equally and I see his qualities in Veerendra Kumar,".
- Chandy said Kumar is a multi-faceted personality, who has made his contributions to the nation as a socialist, parliamentarian and administrator.

IMPORTANT DAYS

World Migratory Bird Day: 10 May 2017

- World Migratory Bird Day (WMBD) was initiated in 2006 and is an annual awareness-raising campaign highlighting the need for the conservation of migratory birds and their habitats.
- It has a global outreach and is an effective tool to help raise global awareness of the threats faced by migratory birds, their ecological importance, and the need for international cooperation to conserve them. All the activities organised for World Migratory Bird Day are united by a common theme.
- With the 2017 theme **"Their Future is our Future"**, WMBD will throw light on the topic of "Sustainable Development for Wildlife and People".

NATIONAL EVENTS

IRCTC starts cash-on-delivery service on train tickets

- IRCTC has offered delivery of rail tickets allowing passengers to make payment through any payment mode, including cash.
- Broad-basing the customer service, the Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation has now introduced pay-on-delivery service allowing passengers to book train tickets online and pay at the time of delivery.
- Delivering tickets at the consumer's doorstep by offering the pay-on-delivery (PoD) option will facilitate those consumers who book through travel agents to move to online medium.
- It will also encourage people who book at railway reservation counters to move to online

medium as there is a cost and effort to reach the reservation counters.

- The customer will have to do a one-time registration for availing PoD as a payment option.

Calcutta HC's Justice Karnan gets 6 months in jail for contempt

- The Supreme Court sentenced a high court judge to six months in prison on charges of contempt a first for a serving judicial officer in what has been an unprecedented face-off in the upper judiciary over alleged corruption.
- The move against Justice CS Karnan of Calcutta high court came after a months-long
- Karnan's arrest orders came a day after he sentenced Chief Justice of India JS Khehar and six other judges of the Supreme Court to five years in jail under the SC/ST act.
- The controversy began in January when Karnan wrote to Prime Minister Narendra Modi to order an investigation against judges of the Madras high court and the apex court of corruption.

Rajnath's 'Samadhan' for Naxal violence

- Presiding over a review meeting of the states affected by Left-Wing Extremism (LWE) here today, Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh announced a new strategy against the Maoists—SAMADHAN.
- The Minister explained the acronym as
- S-smart leadership,
- A-aggressive strategy,
- M-motivation and training,
- A-actionable intelligence,

- D-dashboard-based KPIs (key performance indicators) and KRAs (key result areas),
- H-harnessing technology,
- A-action plan for each theatre and N-no access to financing.

Details of the new strategy:

- **Smart leadership:** In the LWE-affected areas, there is a need of leadership which, despite adversity, can keep the jawans enthusiastic and teach them only to win.
- **Aggressive strategy:** Singh explained that it is necessary to analyse incidents where security forces suffered heavy losses.
- **Motivation and training:** Focus should be on training of security forces and providing them adequate facilities. Security forces must learn the culture and languages of the locals to earn their trust.
- **Actionable intelligence:** It is important to establish a good network with the locals. "Surrendered LWE cadre should be used for intelligence collection
- Dashboard KPIs and KRAs, Harnessing technology, Action plan for each theatre, No access to financing are also included in the strategy.

INTERNATIONAL EVENTS

Trump picks Indian-American for key post in Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

- US President Donald Trump on Tuesday nominated Indian-American Neil Chatterjee to a key administration position in the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, an agency charged with overseeing America's power grid and deciding on multibillion-dollar energy projects.

- The White House said Trump intends to nominate Neil Chatterjee, 40, of Kentucky as a Member of Federal Energy Regulatory Commission for the term expiring June 30, 2021.
- Chatterjee, who is the energy policy advisor to US Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, has played an integral role in the passage of major energy, highway and farm legislation.
- Chatterjee needs to be confirmed by the Senate before he can be sworn in as member of Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.

29th India- Indonesia Co-Ordinated Patrol (Corpat) Commences

- The 29th series of IndiaIndonesia CORPAT is scheduled from 09 to 25 May 17 with the opening ceremony being conducted at Port Blair under the aegis of Andaman and Nicobar Command.
- The Indonesian Naval Ship KRI Sutedi Senoputra has arrived at Haddo Wharf, Port Blair to mark the commencement of the 29th series of INDINDO CORPAT.
- An Indonesian Maritime Patrol Aircraft also flew in with the Indonesian Naval delegation led by First Admiral Bambang Irawanto to INS Utkrosh, Port Blair.
- First Admiral Bambang Irawanto called on Maj Gen PS Sai, Chief of Staff, Andaman and Nicobar Command and the delegation also interacted with Commodore Ashutosh Ridhorkar, the Naval Component Commander.

Sachin Tendulkar welcomes INS Tarkash to London

- Hundreds of UK-based Indians turned out to cheer as cricket legend Sachin Tendulkar

welcomed an Indian naval frigate as it docked on the river Thames in London

- INS Tarkash, a state-of-the art stealth ship, is in the UK for naval exercises and to mark UK India Year of Culture 2017.
- The frigate's arrival in London was marked by a series of Indian cultural performances, with the crowds dancing to patriotic tunes.
- INS Tarkash, under the command of Captain Rituraj Sahu, set sail from Mumbai last month and will remain docked in London until next week.

Moon Jae-in: South Korean liberal claims presidency

- Liberal candidate Moon Jae-in has claimed victory in South Korea's presidential election.
- Mr Moon favours greater dialogue with North Korea, in a change to current South Korean policy.
- With 80% of the votes counted, Mr Moon was ahead with 40% of the total, the National Election Commission said.
- His conservative challenger, former prosecutor Hong Joon-pyo, was next with 25.5% followed by centrist candidate Ahn Cheol-soo on 21.4%.

India beats China on list of Nepal's top development partners

- India has again emerged as one of the top ODA (Official Development Assistance) donors to Nepal, clawing its way back to the list of top 5 bilateral development partners of the country.
- According to the latest report, India disbursed US \$ 35.76 million from July 16 2015 to July 15

2016 to claim its place among the top 5 bilateral development partners of Nepal.

- This is 3.33 per cent of total ODA received by Nepal in the year.
- China in the same period accounted for 3.29 per cent of the overall ODA to Nepal.

SPORTS

Jhulan Goswami Becomes The Highest Wicket-Taker In Women's One-Day Internationals

- Former India captain Jhulan Goswami has surpassed Australian Cathryn Fitzpatrick to become the leading wicket-taker in Women's One-Day International (ODI) cricket, taking her haul to 181 wickets from 153 outings.
- The 34-year-old pacer took three wickets against hosts South Africa during the ongoing Women's Quadrangular Series to achieve the landmark.
- With 271 International wickets (Tests, ODIs and T20I), Goswami, who was once the fastest bowler in women's cricket has been the mainstay of India women bowling unit since her debut in 2002.
- Goswami is also the all-time leading wicket-taker in women's cricket. After winning the ICC Women's Cricketer of the Year 2007 she captained India. She was conferred with the Arjuna Award in 2010, and the Padma Shri two years later.

Olive Ridley to be mascot of Asian Athletics

- Chief minister of Odisha Naveen Patnaik unveiled the logo and mascot of the Asian Athletics Championships scheduled here at Kalinga Stadium from July 6 to 9 in presence

of athletic legends like P T Usha and Anju Bobby George.

- While the logo depicts an athlete crossing the finishing line with historical tourist attractions of Odisha in the backdrop, the mascot is named OLLY that represents the famous Olive Ridley sea turtle.
- Beaches of Odisha are a prime nesting site for these endangered sea turtles.
- He also formally announced Bhubaneswar as the host for the international sports event.

other payment products of YES Bank in the near future.

- The initiative will now enable YES Bank debit card holders to earn customised cashback offers from a wide range of participating online merchants as well as brick and mortar stores, including Forever 21, TataCliq, Chaayos, Junkyard Café, UrbanClap, Zivame, Nearbuy, Limeroad, Netmeds, BigBasket, Fortis Healthworld, The Beer Café and FreshMenu.
- This initiative removes the need for additional coupon codes and merchant integrations, thereby offering users a hassle-free experience with offers being personalised to their unique needs the credit of cashback to YES Bank Savings Account and YES PAY Wallet is also completely automated right from tracking to settlement.

BANKING & BUSINESS

Apple becomes first company to hit \$800 bn valuation mark

- Apple briefly touched \$800 billion market valuation, making it the world's first ever company to hit the milestone.
- At \$800 billion, Apple's valuation was higher than the combined market cap of all the 30 Sensex companies, which stood at \$784 billion.
- The world's most valuable company
- Apple is followed by Google parent Alphabet, and Microsoft in market valuation.

Cashkaro.com ties up with YES Bank to launch card-linked offers

- Banking on the Government's drive to promote a cash-less economy, cashback portal Cashkaro.com has tied up with YES Bank to launch card-linked offers as part of its loyalty programme for both offline and online shoppers.
- The offer will be currently available on all YES BANK debit cards, and will be extended to all

AWARDS & ACHIEVEMENTS

N'Golo Kante wins Football Writers' Association award

- Chelsea midfielder N'Golo Kante has been chosen as the Football Writers' Association Footballer of the Year.
- The Blues' Belgium winger Eden Hazard was second, with Tottenham and England midfielder Dele Alli third.
- It follows Kante, 26, being voted the Professional Footballers' Association Player of the Year for 2016-17.
- The France international helped Leicester City win the Premier League title last season and is close to doing the same with Chelsea.
- The Blues, who have four top-flight matches left, lead the table with a four-point

advantage over second-placed Spurs, who have played a game more.

Konkona bags Best Director and Best Actress awards at New York Indian Film Festival

- Konkona Sensharma has been named the best director for her directorial debut 'A Death in the Gunj' and the best actress for 'Lipstick Under My Burkha' at 2017's New York Indian Film Festival (NYIFF).
- K Kaladharan won the best actor for Malayalam film 'Ottayaal n Paatha'" ('A Narrow Path').
- Shubhashish Bhutiani's 'Mukti Bhawan' was declared the best film at the 17th annual film extravaganza. 'An Insignificant Man' won the best documentary and Malayalam film 'Kammatipaddam' was honoured for the screenplay.
- Onir's film 'Aaba' was declared the best short film at the festival.

IMPORTANT DAYS

National Technology Day: 11 May 2017

- Every year, 'National Technology Day' is celebrated across India on May 11; being commemorated to memorise the anniversary of Shakti, the Pokhran nuclear test held on 11 May 1998.
- The day glorifies the importance of science in day to day life and motivates students to adopt science as the career option.
- National Technology Day marks India's scientific prowess and technological advancements. It was the same date in 1998 when India successfully conducted first among

the five nuclear tests in Pokhran under Vajpayee's leadership.

- The tests showcased India's might to the entire world.

NATIONAL EVENTS

Indian Railways To Acquire System To Run Trains Without Guards

- The Indian Railways will float global tenders worth over Rs. 100 crore for acquiring sophisticated equipment to run 1000 trains without guards.
- The End of Train Telemetry (EoTT) equipment is used to establish communication between the locomotive driver and the last wagon of the train to ensure that the train is running with all coaches/wagons as a complete unit.
- The equipment is designed to do the guard's job by giving indication to the loco driver in case of parting of coaches or wagons from the rear side of the train. Each set of EoTT device is estimated to cost approximately Rs. 10 lakh.
- EoTT system comprises two units one unit called cab display unit (CDU) fitted on the locomotive and the other is sense and brake unit (SBU) fitted on the last coach or wagon of the train.
- Railways will acquire 1000 EoTT equipment to begin with for its container operations and later more such unit will be procured for all trains.
- All goods trains on the proposed dedicated freight corridors will run with EoTT system.

Government asks NGOs to open bank accounts in core banking format

- Tightening the rules for NGOs, the Home Ministry has asked as many as 5,845 organisations to open their accounts in banks having core banking facilities and furnish details for real-time access to security agencies in case of any discrepancy.
- It is the latest in a series of steps taken by the NDA government aimed at checking "errant" NGOs. The move came after it was detected that many NGOs have their bank accounts in cooperative banks or state government-owned apex banks or banks which do not have core banking facilities.
- The home ministry wants that all NGOs registered under the Foreign Contribution Regulation Act mandatorily have their accounts in either nationalised banks or in a few private banks which have core banking facilities.

Government sets up a high-level task force to compute timely data on employment

- Government has set up a high-level task force to compute timely data on employment in the country, a move that will go a long way to help government frame policies and take steps that can create jobs in the country.
- In view of the importance of timely and reliable data on employment, the Prime Minister has directed the Prime Minister's Office and concerned Ministries to come up with a solution to fill this long-standing gap in the country's statistical architecture,
- Accordingly, a task force has been created under the chairmanship of Aayog's vice chairman Arvind Panagariya with labour secretary Sathiyavathy, secretary statistics T.C.A. Ananth, Pulak Ghosh of NITI Aayog and

Manish Sabharwal (member RBI Board) as members.

- Labour bureau computes data only for eight sectors and that also comes with a lag. Consequently, the country and its policy makers do not have a holistic view on the employment scenario in the country.

CJI pitches for digital filing of cases

- PM uploads 'Integrated Case Management Information System' on the Supreme Court website.
- Digital filing of cases would make the judicial system "extremely transparent" and rule out any manipulation of records
- The Prime Minister Narendra Modi uploaded the system on the Supreme Court website at the function held at Vigyan Bhavan in New Delhi. It was attended by Law Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad and a large number of judges from the Supreme Court and High Courts and senior lawyers.
- The system would be different from the present e-filing process as lawyers will be required to file only the grounds of appeal in the apex court and the remaining judicial files would be automatically transferred.
- This programme is the resource from the database which exists. So if you are filing an appeal in the Supreme Court from a case in the High Court, all you need to do is to put in the number of the case you are filing. And besides that, you have to file the grounds.
- As soon as you file the grounds, the entire paper book of the High Court gets transferred to the Supreme Court. So the paperwork of the Supreme Court is finished.
- It is replaced by the grounds of appeal.

Iowa varsity to set up Mega Seed Park in A.P.

- The Andhra Pradesh State government entered into the MoC with the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship, Iowa State, to promote research and development in science, agriculture and life sciences.
- Iowa Secretary of Agriculture Bill Northey, World Food Prize Foundation President Kenneth M. Quinn and Director Craig Hill, Consul General of India in Chicago Neeta Bushan and others were present.
- Mr. Naidu visited the Seed Science Center at the university to initiate the launch of the park project.

SPORTS

NBA officially opens first academy of its kind in India

- The National Basketball Association (NBA) today announced the official opening of NBA Academy India, an elite basketball training center at Jaypee Greens Integrated Sports Complex in Delhi National Capital Region (NCR) for the top male and female prospects from throughout India.
- Twenty-one elite male prospects, who were selected following a three-month, nationwide basketball talent search, will receive scholarships and training at NBA Academy India, the first of its kind in the country.
- NBA Academy India will employ a holistic, 360-degree approach to player development with focuses on education, leadership, character development and life skills.

- As part of the program, the students will compete against top competition throughout the year and will have an opportunity to be selected for travel teams that play in international tournaments and exhibition games.

Harpreet Singh wins bronze in Greco-Roman at Asian Wrestling Championship

- Harpreet Singh was the lone bright spot for India on the opening day of the Asian Wrestling Championship as he bagged a bronze medal in Greco-Roman 80kg category
- Harpreet bagged his second successive bronze medal at the Asian Championship after defeating Junjie Na of China 3-2.
- Harpreet's medal was the only silver lining on a day

Ganguly leads Cricket Aus' Greatest CT XI, Sachin excluded

- Former Indian captain Sourav Ganguly was named skipper of Cricket Australia's Greatest Champions Trophy XI, which also features ex-Indian captain Rahul Dravid as wicketkeeper.
- The two are the only Indians in the team, which does not include Sachin Tendulkar.
- The team features three Australians, including former players Damien Martyn, Glenn McGrath and Shane Watson.

BANKING & BUSINESS

RBI restricts loss-making IDBI Bank from hiring, opening branches

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has initiated 'prompt corrective action' on IDBI BankBSE 0.45 % which will restrict bank from hiring, opening branches and giving big ticket loans. The directions from the RBI is aimed at ensuring that the bank takes measures to cut down its losses by reducing expenses and recovering problem loans.
- The bank had suffered historic loss of Rs 2,255 crore in the December quarter 2016 as it had to make huge provisions for bad loans.
- The 'prompt corrective action' is triggered when a bank's bad loan is above 6%,

Paytm signs non-exclusive term sheet to acquire FreeCharge

- Alibaba Group-backed Paytm has signed a non-exclusive term sheet to acquire rival FreeCharge, the digital payments platform owned and operated by beleaguered online marketplace Snapdeal, in what is expected to be an all-cash deal.
- If successful, the deal, estimated at between \$45 million and \$90 million, could be finalised in a month,.

APPOINTMENTS

Sanjay Mitra appointed as new Defense Secretary

- The government named Road Transport and Highways Secretary Sanjay Mitra as its new Defence secretary in a top-level bureaucratic reshuffle
- Mitra will take over as the secretary after the present incumbent, G Mohan Kumar, completes his tenure on May 24, an order issued by the Department of Personnel and

Training (DoPT) said. The Appointments Committee of Cabinet (ACC) decided Mitra would till then function as an Officer on Special Duty in the Defence Ministry.

- Mitra, 58, a 1982 batch Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officer of the West Bengal cadre, will have a fixed two-year tenure. This will be his first posting in the Defence Ministry. He was appointed Road Transport and Highways secretary in December 2015.
- Mitra's batchmate Rashmi Verma, at present Textiles secretary, is the new Tourism secretary.
- Jagdish Prasad Meena will be secretary, department of Consumer Affairs.

Twitter elevates Taranjeet Singh as Country Director for India

- Microblogging platform Twitter has elevated Taranjeet Singh as its Country Director for India.
- Mr. Singh was earlier leading the charge for sales and marketing support for Twitter's advertisers in India.
- In his new role, Mr.Singh will lead the team by driving an integrated business strategy and spearheading cross-functional collaboration,
- India is among the world's fastest growing social media markets. It is already among the largest markets for companies like Facebook, WhatsApp and Google.

IMPORTANT DAYS

International Nurses Day: 12 May 2017

- International Nurses Day (IND) is celebrated every year all around the world on 12th of May to commemorate the birth anniversary of

the Florence Nightingale and to mark the nurses contributions towards people's health.

- Nurses Day was first proposed by the Dorothy Sutherland (an officer from the U.S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare) in the year 1953 and first proclaimed by the President Dwight D. Eisenhower. And it was first celebrated by the International Council of Nurses (ICN) in the year 1965.
- The theme of 2017 is "Nursing: **A voice to lead – Achieving the Sustainable Development Goals**".

NATIONAL EVENTS

Army brings back CASO as part of counter-terror operations in Kashmir

- Signalling an aggressive stance, the Army has decided to reintroduce cordon and search operations (CASO) as a "permanent feature" of its campaign against militants, nearly 15 years after the practice was abandoned.
- Army sources said CASO will be carried out in a major way in militancy-hit areas of Kulgam, Pulwama, Tral, Budgam and Shopian in south Kashmir.

Bishu Parv or Sendra was observed in Dalma Wildlife Sanctuary

- The annual hunting festival of Jharkhand's tribal community was observed in a bloodless and symbolic manner in and around Dalma Wildlife Sanctuary for the third consecutive year
- The forest department has set up check posts at all entry points to prevent hunters from entering the sanctuary with arms to kill the animals.

- However, majority of the tribals were now convinced and agreed to observe the festival without harming animals

Bengaluru ranked world's most affordable tech city

- India's silicon city tops a list of 22 tech cities across the world in affordable living. However, it ranks low in many other respects.
- The average house rent in Bengaluru, the only Indian city to make it to the list, is Rs 15,250, while in San Francisco, it is Rs 50,000. Bengaluru is cheaper than Cape Town, Santiago, Buenos Aires and Berlin, according to the Savills Tech Cities Index.
- Overall, Bengaluru ranks a low 20th among successful tech cities in the world, with Austin topping the list, followed by San Francisco and New York.

India to replace Maitri station in Antarctica

- India has decided to replace the Maitri research station in Antarctica with a new one in the next three to four years.
- India is poised to expand its research activity in the coldest continent and a new ship, with special ice-cutting facility, will be procured for the purpose.
- 403001 is the pin code used to write a letter to India's permanent research station Maitri in Antarctica
- Work on the station was first started by the Indian Expedition which landed there in end Dec 1984, the team was led by DR B B Bhattacharya
- Maitri is situated on the rocky mountainous region called Schirmacher

Oasis. It is only 5 km away from Russian Novolazarevskaya Station.

e-facility to link Aadhaar with PAN launched

- The Income Tax Department has launched an e-facility to link Aadhaar with Permanent Account Number (PAN), a mandatory procedure for filing IT returns now.
- The department's e-filing website (<https://incometaxindiaefiling.gov.in/>) has created the link on its homepage.
- The link requires the PAN, the Aadhaar number and the "exact name as given in the Aadhaar card".
- After verification from the UIDAI [Unique Identification Authority of India], the linking will be confirmed. In case of any minor mismatch in the Aadhaar name provided, Aadhaar OTP [one time password] will be required,
- The government, under the Finance Act 2017, has made it mandatory for taxpayers to quote Aadhaar or enrolment ID of the Aadhaar application form for filing income tax returns (ITR).
- Also, Aadhaar has been made mandatory for applying for PAN with effect from July 1, 2017.
- The department, till now, has linked over 1.18 Aadhaar with its PAN database.

Telangana: Logo for hearing impaired picked

- The TS transport department finalised the logo that hearing impaired drivers will have to fix on their vehicles.
- The logo was designed by city-based graphic designer Manikanta Annapragada who was the first person to obtain a driving licence

under the 'hearing impaired' category in the country.

- The logo consists of a hearing impaired mark along with text saying, "Driver is deaf — Please watch out."
- The Road Transport Authority has also issued specifications for two-wheelers and four-wheelers.
- The logo should be four inches tall and three inches width on the rear side, and three inches tall and two inches wide on the front of two-wheelers.

SPORTS

Asian Wrestling Championship: Anil Kumar, Jyoti grab bronze medals for India

- Anil Kumar and Jyoti provided India two bronze medals with contrasting performances in their respective weight categories on the second day of the Asian Wrestling Championship
- While Anil registered a thrilling come-from-behind 7-6 victory over Uzbekistan's Muhammadali Shamsiddinov to clinch the bronze medal in the Greco-Roman 85kg category.
- Jyoti (women's 75kg) won the bronze after she lost in the semifinal to Japan's Masako Furuichi, as the Japanese girl made it to the gold medal round.
- This was the first time Anil was competing in the Asian Championship and he managed to win a medal in his maiden attempt.

BANKING & BUSINESS

LIC Housing Finance launched Griha Siddhi

- LIC Housing Finance has come up with a new home loan product 'Griha Siddhi' to match State Bank of India's recent move to cut interest rate on homes loans in the affordable housing segment by up to 25 basis points.
- Under Griha Siddhi, LICHFL has created a special segment for women borrowers for loans up to Rs. 25 lakh at an interest rate of 8.35 per cent per annum. For other borrowers, the interest rate will be 8.40 per cent.
- For home loans up to ₹1 crore, the interest rate will be 8.50 per cent.
- LICHFL, in a statement, said under Griha Siddhi, customised home loan will be offered for construction/purchase of house or flat and repairs/renovation to existing properties.
- Loans will be offered for a maximum tenure of 30 years or retirement age in case of salaried employees, while for other borrowers the maximum term is up to 25 years.

AWARDS & APPOINTMENTS

GST: Mahender Singh, RK Mahajan appointed as new members of CBEC

- Senior bureaucrats R K Mahajan and Mahender Singh have been appointed as members in the Central Board of Excise and Customs (CBEC).
- Mahajan is the director general of Central Excise Intelligence and Singh is the director general (audit).
- The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet has approved their appointment as members in CBEC,
- Both of them are Indian Revenue Service (Customs and Central Excise) officers.

- Senior Indian Revenue Service (IRS) officer Vanaja N Sarna is the CBEC's chairperson.
- The board and its officials are key stakeholders in the implementation of the Goods and Services Tax, which is slated to be rolled out from July 1.

Harinder Rao appointed GM of Eastern Railway

- Senior bureaucrats Harinder Rao and Anil K Gupta have been appointed as General Manager (GM) of the Eastern and the Western Railway zone respectively.
- Both Rao and Gupta are officers of the Indian Railway Service of Electrical Engineers (IRSEE).
- According to an order issued by the Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT), the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) has approved their appointments to the post.
- The Eastern Railways has four divisions -- Howrah, Sealdah, Asansol and Malda. The Western Railways has Mumbai Central, Vadodara, Ahmedabad, Rajkot, Bhavnagar and Ratlam divisions under it.
- The ACC has also approved appointment of Vishwesh Chaube as the GM of Metro Railway, Kolkata. Chaube is an officer of the Indian Railway Service of Engineers (IRSE).
- Margoob Hussain, an IRSEE officer, has been appointed as the Director General of Research Designs and Standards Organisation (RDSO), Lucknow,

Kwatra appointed new Indian Ambassador to France

- Vinay Mohan Kwatra was on Thursday appointed as the new Ambassador of India to France,
- Kwatra succeeds Mohan Kumar.
- Kwatra's appointment comes after Presidential elections in France, in which Emmanuel Macron was elected the President.
- A 1988-batch foreign service officer, Kwatra will succeed Mohan Kumar, who is retiring. Apart from having experience of dealing with the UN organisations such as International Labour Organization (ILO) and World Health Organization (WHO), he has served in Indian diplomatic missions in China and the US.

In a first, transgenders get jobs at Kochi Metro

- Twenty-three of the 530 Kudumbasree workers to be posted at 11 stations in the Kochi Metro's Aluva-Palarivattom corridor will be from the transgender community.
- While better educated among the community will be posted at ticket counters, the rest will be deputed for housekeeping works at stations
- The metro agency is the first government-owned company in India to formally appoint them.
- 530-member workforce is ready to take up tasks from housekeeping, ticket vending, customer relations, parking, gardening and to man the coach-depot canteen at Muttom. They are likely to be deployed in two or three shifts, depending on need.
- All of them have been trained in soft and technical skills and also imparted lessons in safety. They were appointed after written test and interview conducted jointly by the two

agencies. Around 41,000 candidates appeared for the test.

Sony Pictures Networks awarded 'Aon Best Employers India 2017' title

- India's leading media conglomerate has been selected to join the elite list of Aon Best Employers India in the 2017 edition.
- SPN is the only media and broadcast network to be featured amongst this year's top 19 companies across various industries.
- The Best Employers Study by Aon is one of the most prominent annual workplace studies covering over 800,000 employees across 6,400 global organizations.
- This study aims to get insights into companies that are creating real competitive advantage via their people practices, explores what makes a workplace of choice and identifies the best employers across regions.
- Based on the principles of measuring the people environment through the lens of 'Intent-Design-Experience', The Best Employer Study measures and recognizes employer excellence to learn and share best practices across companies and industries.

Chanda Kochhar receives Woodrow Wilson Award

- ICICI Bank chief Chanda Kochhar has become the first Indian woman to be conferred with the prestigious Woodrow Wilson Award for Global Corporate Citizenship.
- Kochhar, 55, received the annual award which was instituted in 1998 by the prestigious Wilson Center to felicitate individuals whose

actions and accomplishments, either in their careers or through service.

- She has joined the league of former Indian recipients-- former President and space scientist APJ Abdul Kalam and IT honcho Narayana Murthy.
- Previous recipients of the award include former US vice president Richard Cheney, US Secretary of State Rex W Tillerson as well as four former US Secretaries of State- Henry Kissinger, General (rtd) Colin Powell, Hillary Clinton and Condoleezza Rice.

Laxman awarded MCC honorary life membership

- Stylish former India batsman V.V.S. Laxman became the latest ex-India player to be awarded an honorary life membership to the Marylebone Cricket Club (MCC).
- After fellow greats Sachin Tendulkar, Rahul Dravid, Sourav Ganguly and Zaheer Khan, Laxman is the fifth Indian to receive the honour.
- Laxman donned the India jersey for 16 long years, featuring in as many as 134 Tests and 86 One Day Internationals (ODIs).
- Laxman scored 8,781 Test runs at an average of 45.97 and 2338 ODI runs at 30.76.

NATIONAL EVENTS

India's first electric radio cabs fleet is coming to Nagpur

- The first electric taxi trial in the country is going to be launched in Nagpur from May 24, Union transport minister Nitin Gadkari said.

- The project will be undertaken by Nagpur Municipal Corporation and is the first project of its kind in the country, he added.
- The electric taxi is one of the ambitious projects of the NDA government, part of the UNDP millennium goals and also a method to tackle increasing pollution in the country.
- The road ministry for the last one year has been trying to work on pollution-reduction technologies for vehicles. An electric bus for MPs is also being run by the ministry.
- The Rs 5,763-crore Eastern Peripheral Expressway project to decongest Delhi is on fast-track and will become India's first 135 km green road to be lit entirely by solar panels and have advanced traffic system.
- The expressway passes through Sonapat, Baghpat, Ghaziabad, Gautam Budh Nagar, Faridabad and Palwal in Haryana and Uttar Pradesh, and the proposed alignment crosses the Yamuna at Khurrampur/Khata in UP and Faizpur Khadar in Haryana and crosses the river Hindon.

Rajnath Singh launches app for paramilitary forces to air grievances

- Home Minister Rajnath Singh launched a mobile-based grievance redressal application for central paramilitary personnel, development that comes against the backdrop of burgeoning incidents of troopers taking to social media to voice their complaints.
- The centralised app for five Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs) of CRPF, BSF, CISF, ITBP, SSB besides the Delhi Police has been launched about four months after BSF jawan Tej Bahadur Yadav took to social media to

complain about alleged bad quality food being served to troops.

- He also launched an exclusive 'BSFMyApp' for the personnel of the Border Security Force. The BSF app will also help jawans register their complaints and know the details about their pay, provident funds and deputation among others.
- The apps, owing to security reasons, will not be available over the Android or Apple-based play stores but can be downloaded from the website of the respective forces and the MHA app from the home ministry's official portal.
- A number of unique personal and service identification details of a personnel will be used to activate the App

UNION AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE MINISTER LAUNCH E-KRISHI SAMVAD

- Shri Radha Mohan Singh, Union Minister for Agriculture and Farmers Welfare launched at Krishi Bhawan. Shri Singh informed that the e-Krishi Samvad is an internet-based interface and is a unique platform that will provide direct and effective solutions to the problems faced by farmers and stakeholders in the agriculture sector.
- Union Agriculture Minister said that people can directly connect to the ICAR website <http://icar.org.in> and get the appropriate solutions from the subject matter specialists and institutes through web or SMS.
- Stakeholders can upload photographs related to diseases of the crops, animals or fishes for diagnostics and remedial measures instantly from the specialists.

- Those who have internet facility on the mobile phone can also avail this facility. e-Krishi Samvad is useful to get information pertaining to welfare and development of agricultural stakeholders.

Election Commission of India Launches National Contact Centre

- Every vote counts. And so does every voter. Serving every elector flawlessly is the commitment of Election Commission of India that it has lived up to time and again.
- The Commission has added another feather to its cap with the launch of National Contact Centre with a toll-free No. 1800111950.
- Now any citizen from any part of the country can call on the toll-free in English or Hindi with any query or complaint at any time of the day.
- Callers can enquire on subjects such as elections, voting dates, EPIC, electoral roll, online registration etc. and lodge a complaint by simply dialing in to the toll free no.
- Not only this, executives also make outbound calls for educating the electors and spreading voter awareness.
- The Contact Centre is Commission's step forward towards bringing about electoral reforms where citizens and officials are empowered to monitor and report any anomaly or violation of ECI instructions in the field before, during or post elections.

SPORTS

Chelsea Clinch 2016-17 Premier League Title with Win vs. West Brom

- Chelsea have been crowned 2016-17 Premier League champions after beating West Bromwich Albion 1-0 at the Hawthorns on Friday to move 10 points clear thanks to unlikely hero Michy Batshuayi.
- Chelsea bolted out of the gates and immediately took to the front foot, with Marcos Alonso and Victor Moses heavily involved down the left and the right, respectively, while Eden Hazard was busy from the first minute.

Ache (Uruguay) and Felipe Cuantuarias (Peru).

WHO Appoints Amitabh Bachchan As Goodwill Ambassador For Hepatitis

- The World Health Organisation or WHO appointed Amitabh Bachchan as its goodwill ambassador for hepatitis in South-East Asia region to boost awareness and intensify action to arrest the epidemic.
- Nearly 90 million people suffer from chronic liver diseases, which are driving rates of liver cancer and cirrhosis in the region, according to the WHO estimates released this year.
- As WHO goodwill ambassador for hepatitis in the region, Mr Bachchan will lend his voice and support to public awareness programmes that aim to scale up preventive measures and advocate for early diagnosis and treatment of viral hepatitis.
- The megastar will also be advocating for the full implementation of WHO South-East Asia Region's action plan for hepatitis which seeks to provide a road map for sustainable prevention, diagnosis, treatment and care for all forms of hepatitis within the universal health care framework.

APPOINTMENTS

Justice Mudgal Elected Head of FIFA Governance Committee

- Justice (Retd.) Mukul Mudgal was elected as head of FIFA's governance committee at the world football governing body's 67th Congress in Bahrain's capital city of Manama.
- Justice Mudgal's name was proposed by the FIFA Council for the vacant position of the governance chief after Miguel Maduro was reportedly 'fired' for his role in blocking Russian World Cup official Vitaly Mutko from retaining his seat on ruling council.
- The FIFA Council proposed to the 67th FIFA Congress a list of members of both chambers of the independent Ethics Committee, the Disciplinary Committee, the Appeal Committee, the Audit and Compliance Committee, and the Governance Committee.
- The other members are: Muhannad Fahmi Hamad (Bahrain), Fouzi Lekjaa (Morocco), Navi Pillay (South Africa), Rainer Koch (Germany), Ron Popper (Switzerland), Adela Torrebiarte (Guatemala), Molly Rhone (Jamaica), Eduardo

BUSINESS

Forbes Middle East declares top 100 Indian business leaders

- Retail Mogul Yusuff Ali and Pepsico executive Sanjeev Chadha are among the top 100 Indian business leaders in the Arab World 2017,
- Ali, Managing Director of Lulu Group International topped the Indian business owners category and Chadha, CEO, Asia, Middle East and Africa at PepsiCo

International led the Indian executives category.

- For the first time, the ranking also recognised the next generation of business leaders who are carrying on the legacy of their family businesses.
- Forbes Middle East is an annual ranking of the top 100 Indian business owners and the top 50 Indians in executive management.
- The next generation of business leaders will lead 25 family owned businesses with an estimated total revenue of more than USD 27.5 billion.
- The 2017 list of top Indian business leaders comprised 100 business owners and 50 executive management.
- This year, for the first time, Forbes Middle East also highlighted 28 young and talented next generation business leaders who will take the family legacy forward.

- The analysis is one of the most detailed studies to date of a "warm Neptune," or a planet that is Neptune-sized and close to its star.
- Compared to Neptune and Uranus, the planets in our solar system with about the same mass, HAT-P-26b likely formed either closer to its host star or later in the development of its planetary system,

International Mothers' Day: 14 May 2017

- Mother's Day is celebrated on the second Sunday of May every year. This year Mother's Day date is May 14.
- Anna Marie Jarvis, seen as founder of Mother's Day, was the daughter of Ann Maria Reeves Jarvis, a social activist who organized events called Mothers' Day Work Clubs to reduce infant mortality.
- At the events doctors were invited to hold discussions with mothers on how to keep their children healthy and educate them with latest practices of hygiene and sanitation.
- It was the elder Jarvis who had inspired her daughter to lead the movement of observing Mother's Day
- Thomas Woodrow Wilson, the 28th President of the United States, on May 9, 1914, signed a proclamation following untiring efforts by Anna Marie Jarvis. The United States, then declared the second Sunday of May a national holiday "as a public expression of our love and reverence for the mothers of our country".

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

NASA Telescopes Detect Signs of Water on Distant 'Warm Neptune'

- Scientists using NASA telescopes have detected "a strong water signature" in the atmosphere of a distant Neptune-sized planet, that could help understand more about the birth and development of planetary systems.
- The study, combining observations from NASA's Hubble and Spitzer space telescopes, shows that the distant planet HAT-P-26b has a primitive atmosphere composed almost entirely of hydrogen and helium.
- Located about 437 light-years away, HAT-P-26b orbits a star roughly twice as old as our Sun.

Sakshi Malik, Vinesh Phogat bag silver in Asian Wrestling Championship

- Three Indian women wrestlers, including Rio Olympics bronze medallist Sakshi Malik and Vinesh Phogat, settled for a silver medal each in their respective weight categories at the Asian Wrestling Championship in New Delhi
- Ritu Phogat, meanwhile, bagged a bronze medal in women's 48kg category
- Sakshi Malik won the silver medals
- Earlier, Ritu had defeated Narangerel Erdenesukh of Mongolia in the qualification round 11-4 before defeating Yeo-Jin Kim of Korea in her quarterfinal bout. However, she went down in the semifinal to Yui Susaki of Japan 0-9 to lose out on a place in the final.
- Pinki, meanwhile, was the lone Indian to have lost in the quarterfinal round of women's 53kg to bow out of the tournament early.

New IIP, WPI series introduced, show overall benign macronumbers

- The new-look index of industrial production (IIP) and the wholesale price index (WPI), which were declared and have been built on the new series of data, paint a healthier picture of the Indian economy in 2016-17 than the old series did.
- However, the impact of demonetisation still persisted on industrial production, particularly manufacturing, which declined in March over February. Besides, investments are yet to pick up. The base year for the indices in the The malware, Wanna Cry, uses an exploit named
- The new series of the IIP shows higher growth rates in most months in the period April 2012 to March 2017 than was the case when the computation was done in accordance with the old series. This is attributable to the base shift, increase in the number of factories in the

panel for the reporting data and excluding closed ones, and including new items and keeping out old ones.

Ransomware attack creates global havoc

- A massive ransomware attack, which security researchers say used a Windows exploit first developed by the United States National Security Agency, shut down computer systems across several countries, including India, last night.
- According to anti-virus provider Kaspersky, there were at least 45,000 attacks in 74 countries, Reuters reported. The numbers were an initial estimate and were expected to go up.
- India was among the three countries worst affected by the attack, data shared by Kaspersky showed. However, there was no immediate information on what companies in India were affected in the cyberattack.
- News of the cyberattack initially made headlines after systems at hospitals across the United Kingdom were affected. Reuters reported that British hospitals and clinics were forced to turn away patients because their computers were infected by Wanna Cry.
- EternalBlue to infect computers running versions of Windows operating systems.
- EternalBlue was first made public last month after Shadow Brokers released a bunch of exploits and hacking tools developed by the US NSA. According to tech website Ars Technica, the NSA used EternalBlue to hack and remotely take over computers running Windows.new series has shifted to 2011-12, against the earlier 2004-05.

- Interestingly, Microsoft released a patch for the EternalBlue exploit just a few weeks before Shadow Brokers made the NSA-developed vulnerability's existence public.

'Invisible' laser walls to bolster security along border with Pakistan in J-K

- The Border Security Force (BSF) is all set to get more teeth to man the 198 km India-Pakistan international border using a newly developed technology that can detect intrusions and relay information immediately to the nearest post for action.
- Developed by Delhi-based defence IoT firm, CRON Systems, the made-in-India technology is called Kavach (KVx) series laser walls and is a notch higher than the existing laser walls.
- CRON Systems have come up with this intrusion detection system based on infrared array, which is invisible. It is more advanced than laser walls,
- Kavach walls can also work in transparent water and glass

NATIONAL EVENTS

Base year of WPI, IIP revised to 2011-12

- The government has revised the base year of wholesale price index (WPI) and index of industrial production (IIP) to 2011-12 from 2004-05
- WPI has been changed six times so far since 1942 and this happens to be the 7th revision.
- The new series of WPI will provide a more accurate picture.
- A significant change in WPI new series is that prices used for compilation do not include

indirect taxes in order to remove the impact of fiscal policy

- The IIP base year has also been changed to ensure that it remains more relevant in the years that it is operational, Chief Statistician of India TCA Ananth said at the joint briefing.
- The objective is to converge more in line with the current consumption and production pattern of the country

Kerala tops, Bihar last in public affairs index

- Two South Indian States - Kerala and Tamil Nadu - secured first and second rankings for the second year in a row while poll-bound Gujarat gained two positions rising from five in 2016 to three in 2017 in public affairs index (PAI) in governance in States.
- Karnataka slipped from third position in 2016 to fourth in 2017 while Maharashtra stood fifth (4th in 2016) in governance indicators.
- Punjab was the best performer in essential infrastructure
- In human development, Kerala, Maharashtra, and Punjab are top of the table
- Kerala, Assam and Madhya Pradesh secured top three ranks in implementation of social protection policies,
- Tamil Nadu secured first rank in maintaining law and order
- Telangana is the best performer in fiscal management
- In the category of economic freedom, BJP-ruled Gujarat secured top rank

Telangana hosted first Videsh Sampark

- Telangana hosted the first outreach programme of the Ministry of External Affairs

'Videsh Sampark', to engage the State governments to create awareness about various programmes of the Ministry.

- The conference was inaugurated by the Minister of State for External Affairs, Gen. V.K. Singh
- Mr. Reddy said the conference will create awareness on the schemes and initiatives launched by the Ministry with regard to consular and passport services; engagement with overseas Indians; and welfare and protection of overseas Indians.
- The conference featured interactive sessions on specific thematic priorities.

PM Modi to inaugurate India's longest bridge near China border on May 26

- India's longest river bridge, capable of withstanding the weight of a 60-tonne battle tank, will be inaugurated in Assam close to the border with China on May 26 by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.
- With the inauguration of the 9.15-km-long Dholasadiya bridge over the Brahmaputra river, the prime minister will kick off the celebrations of the NDA government's three years in office from this eastern-most part of Assam.
- The construction of the bridge is seen as an attempt by India to shore up its defence infrastructure along the Sino- Indian border.
- It is also part of the Centre's endeavour to improve connectivity in the region.
- It is 3.55 km longer than the Bandra-Worli sea link in Mumbai, making it the longest bridge in India.

Mother's Day gift: 'Maa' committee to check mid-day meal quality in UP schools

- It's a Mother's Day gift for lakhs of children and their moms in Uttar Pradesh. 'Maa' will now keep an eye on mid-day meals served to students in state-run primary schools to ensure that they get nutritious food prepared in hygienic conditions.
- In view of a number of complaints related to quality of mid-day meal being served in primary schools, there will be 'Maa' in every school. It will be a committee of six mothers, from all sections of society, whose students are studying in that school,
- From cleanliness in kitchen to quality of food being served to children, they will keep an eye on minute details.

IIT Kharagpur collaborates with British Geological Survey to turn Varanasi into smart city

- Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Kharagpur has collaborated with the British Geological Survey to turn Varanasi into a smart city.
- Three-dimensional geological modelling of the geology under Varanasi will be prepared to help improve the building of new transport and service infrastructure.
- The project includes the application of geoscientific methods (e.g. drilling, geological, geophysical, tectonics, hydrogeological and remote sensing).
- It aims to delineate the evolution of Varanasi and other future of cities of India, from the hazard zonation/mitigation of the city.
- The retrieved information on rock and sediment lithologies, physical and chemical characteristics, geotechnical properties,

hazard potential and groundwater distribution and flow will lead to construction of a multi-scale 3D conceptual model to allow visualisation of the ground beneath the city.

SPORTS

MS Dhoni sets record for most catches by a keeper in T20s

- Rising Pune Supergiant player MS Dhoni set the record for most catches by a wicketkeeper in T20s, taking his 124th catch against Delhi Daredevils.
- Dhoni, who effected three dismissals in the match, set the record by taking a one-handed leaping catch to dismiss Marlon Samuels.
- Dhoni went past former Sri Lankan keeper Kumar Sangakkara's record of 123 catches.

Wrestler Bajrang Punia wins gold at Asian Championships

- Bajrang Punia gave India its first gold medal as he registered a come-from-behind victory over Seungchul Lee of Korea in men's 65kg freestyle on the penultimate day of the Asian Wrestling Championship
- Sarita, meanwhile, bagged a silver medal in women's 58kg category.
- The Indian women's team finished second in the championship after Japan, who clinched the top position.

Mumbai Indians become first team to register 100 wins in T20 cricket

- Mumbai Indians, showing their bench strength, defeated Kolkata Knight Riders by nine runs in their last group stage match at the Eden

Gardens to finish on top of the Indian Premier League table.

- In the process, Mumbai Indians created history, becoming the first T20 team in the world to win 100 games in their entire history.
- Mumbai Indians, in their ten-year history, have won the Champions League T20 twice (in 2011 and 2013) and the Indian Premier League also twice (2013 and 2015).

Arjun Maini becomes first Indian driver to win a GP3 race

- Jenzer Motorsports' Indian driver Arjun Maini, who is supported by JK Racing and TVS, created history as he became the first Indian to win a race in the GP3 Series with a dominant victory.
- This is Arjun's first victory in the GP3 Series and this win moves him into third place in the driver's championship standings.
- The GP3 series will resume in July at the Red Bull Ring in Austria.

Force India claim 4th and 5th place in Spanish Grand Prix

- Force India Formula One team drivers Sergio Perez and Esteban Ocon finished in the fourth and fifth spot respectively in the Spanish Grand Prix in Barcelona on Sunday.
- Mercedes' Lewis Hamilton won the race by beating Ferrari's Sebastian Vettel and Red Bull's Daniel Ricciardo, who finished second and third respectively.

India claim two medals at World Para Athletics Grand Prix

- India claimed a gold and a bronze at the China World Para Athletics Grand Prix being held in Beijing.
- Ramudri Someshwara Rao won a gold medal in the 200m race and Hokato Sema bagged a bronze in shot put.
- Both have qualified to represent the country in the IPC Para Athletics World Championships in London later this year.
- Someswara Rao had become the fastest Indian blade runner in the recently-concluded 17th National Para Athletics Championships at Jaipur.
- Sema had also won a gold in his event.

BANKING & FINANCE

Uco Bank faces business restrictions from RBI

- Public sector lender Uco Bank is facing business restrictions from Reserve Bank of India (RBI) following mounting losses, continuous erosion of net worth and huge NPAs.
- Uco Bank, in a filing to the stock exchanges, said the action "will not have any material impact" on its performance, but did not give details of the corrective action.
- Basically, the restrictions will be on lending and branch expansion plans as the statel run lender reported losses for two successive fiscals amid severe stress on asset quality
- It has become the second lender to face business restrictions after IDBI Bank following RBI's revision of its PCA framework last month. RBI has been on a mission to clean up the banking system which saw a surge in stressed assets.

AWARDS & ACHIEVEMENTS

ISKCONs Govardhan Eco Village wins Smart Village Award

- Govardhan Eco Village, set up by the International Society for Krishna Consciousness (ISKCON) in adjoining Thane district, has won an award for being a sustainable project in rural Maharashtra.
- The village at Wada taluka is located 108km north of Mumbai at the foothills of the Sahyadri mountains.
- The award, "Smart Village," has been instituted by the India Trade Promotion Organisation (ITPO), which also gives awards in various other categories.
- Govardhan Eco Village won the honour jointly with Ecosoft

Airtel Wins Aon Best Employer India Award For 2017

- Telecom major Bharti Airtel has won the Aon Best Employer India 2017 Award for its innovative people practices.
- The operator was awarded for achieving high levels of employee engagement, establishing people practices and leadership intent.
- Airtel also scored high on employer brand and innovative HR practices.
- The Aon Best Employer's India chapter jury for 2017 comprised of eminent business leaders and academicians including Leo Puri, Managing Director at UTI Asset Management Company; Omkar Goswami, founder and Chairman at CERG Advisory; Chanda Kochhar,

MD and CEO at ICICI Bank; Prof Vasanthi Srinivasan, IIM-Bangalore; and Sanjiv Mehta, CEO and MD at Hindustan Unilever Ltd," the statement added.

- The study was first conducted in Asia in 2001 to gain insights into companies that are creating real competitive advantage through their people.
- A total of 119 organizations representing 14 key industries, cumulatively employing approximately 520,000 employees, participated in the 2017 Aon Best Employers India study.

Matrix awarded the prestigious India SME100 Award

- Matrix is declared as one of India's top 100 SMEs. Matrix underwent the stringent evaluation criteria laid down by the India SME Forum Jury Board and the winners were chosen from 41,832 companies nominated based on their financial and non-financial parameters.
- With 250+ R&D engineers on our roll, Matrix invests heavily in R&D. This award is validation of the Matrix's innovation capabilities.

Odisha nurse gets Florence Nightingale award

- Krishna Kumari, a health worker in Ganjam district, has bagged the prestigious Florence Nightingale award 2017.
- The fifty-year-old woman received the award from President Pranab Mukherjee at a function at the Rastrapati Bhawan in New Delhi on the occasion of International Nurses Day.

- The award carries a citation, a medal and a cheque of Rs 50,000.
- Working in the community health centre (CHC) at Kukudakhandi in the district, she was awarded for her 18-year-long service in the field of immunisation, women welfare programmes, management of labour room and operation theatre.

IMPORTANT DAYS

National Dengue Day: 16 May

- National Dengue Day has been observed on 16th of May, 2016 by Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW), Government of India.
- The aim of this day is to control the Dengue through create awareness, initiate preventive actions and continue till transmission season is over.
- Dengue is a common viral disease spread by mosquito bite.
- It is transmitted by a mosquito called Aedes Aegypti. It occurs in two forms.
- The first form is, Classical Dengue fever also known as break bone fever because of the severe pain it develops in patients' joints.
- The second form is Dengue Haemorrhagic Fever which is not only painful but also deadly. It usually results in abnormal bleeding from nose, gums or as blood in urine.
- According to National Vector Borne Disease Control Programme (NVBDCP) maximum number of cases were reported from Delhi followed by Punjab, Haryana, West Bengal, Gujarat, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Rajasthan, Andhra Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Orissa, Madhya Pradesh, Arunachal

Pradesh, Bihar, Uttarakhand, Telangana and other states.

National Events

PM Modi launches river conservation project in Madhya Pradesh to ensure pollution-free Narmada

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the Narmada Seva Mission for the conservation of the crucial river, which is a lifeline of Madhya Pradesh.
- Narmada Seva mission plan document was prepared by the Madhya Pradesh government.
- On December 11, 2016 from Amarkantak, the origin place of the River Narmada Narmada Sewa Yatra was launched as the world's biggest river conservation campaign with public participation.
- Narmada river captured the attention of the nation when it became the centre of a decades-long struggle to stop the raising of the Sardar Sarovar Dam.
- Medha Patkar led the campaign that demonstrators said would displace thousands, who were not being compensated.

With 1 flight in 65 seconds, Mumbai becomes busiest single-runway airport

- GVK group-run Mumbai airport has been crowned the world's busiest among the single-runway facilities as it overtakes London's Gatwick airport, which handles 757 flights a day.
- The airport operator and Mumbai air traffic controller (ATC) handle one of the difficult jobs in the world, as every 65 seconds an aircraft either takes off or touches down at the airport, that is, around 837 flights a day.

- All leading cities like New York, London, Dubai, and Singapore have more than one airport, with multiple runways.
- The New Delhi airport has three parallel runways in use at any given time.

Adiyogi Shiva Statue Enters The Guinness Book Of World Records As World's Largest Bust

- The 112 feet tall bust of 'Adiyogi' Lord Shiva unveiled by PM Narendra Modi on February 24 has been declared the world's largest bust by the Guinness Book of World Records.
- Isha Foundation led by Guru Jaggi Vasudev had set up the Adiyogi bust which now attracts thousands of people every day.
- The bust refers to source of Yoga and symbolises the 112 methods of self-transformation that the first Yogi or Adiyogi (originator of yoga) offered
- This is the second time the foundation had found itself in Guinness record books as on October 17, 2006, the foundation had entered the Guinness Book for planting millions of saplings.

Indian Railways to install 19,000 CCTV cameras at 900 stations to ensure security

- Indian Railways will install CCTV surveillance system at more than 900 stations under the Nirbhaya Fund at an approved cost of Rs500 crore to strengthen security at rail premises.
- Tenders will be floated shortly to install about 19,000 high definition CCTV cameras at 983 stations across the country to ensure round-the-clock security to passengers including women.

- The Centre had created Nirbhaya Fund with a Rs1,000 crore corpus in its 2013 Union budget to support initiatives by the government and NGOs working towards protecting the dignity and ensuring safety of women in the country.
- The project envisages installation of cameras at platforms and waiting areas while there will be control rooms at stations to monitor CCTV footages by trained RPF personnel constantly.
- The station master will also be given access to monitor CCTV camera footage

INTERNATIONAL EVENTS

Amul to sponsor New Zealand cricket team for Champions trophy

- Gujarat-based dairy giant Amul will be the prime sponsor of the New Zealand cricket team in the upcoming ICC Champions Trophy that starts on June 1 in England.
- The Blackcaps, who are in the same group with Australia, England and Bangladesh in the Champion's trophy, would sport a new jersey with the Amul logo on its chest during the tournament.

Edouard Philippe named new French PM

- French President Emmanuel Macron has appointed Edouard Philippe, a relatively unknown 46-year-old lawmaker, as prime minister, making good on campaign promises to repopulate French politics with new faces.
- Philippe is the mayor of the Normandy port of Le Havre, a trained lawyer and an author of political thrillers.
- He's also a member of the mainstream-right Republicans party that was badly battered by Macron's victory in the presidential campaign.

- It is the first time in modern French political history that a president has appointed a prime minister from outside his camp without being forced to by a defeat in parliamentary elections.

Ovais Sarmad, an Indian appointed to high-level UN climate change post

- A senior Indian official has been appointed as the deputy executive secretary of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), under which the landmark Paris agreement was negotiated and adopted.
- Ovais Sarmad, 57, was appointed to the post at the assistant secretary-general level by UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres,
- Sarmad will succeed Richard Kinley of Canada.
- Sarmad holds a Bachelor of Commerce from Hyderabad's Osmania University, and professional certification in management accountancy from the Chartered Institute of Management Accountants in London.
- Sarmad currently serves as chief of staff to the director general of the International Organisation for Migration.

BANKING

ICICI Bank, HDFC too cut home loan rate

- Following SBI, two leading private lenders ICICI Bank and HDFC Ltd on Monday slashed interest rate by up to 0.3 percent for loans of up to Rs 30 lakh to promote affordable housing.
- The move is in keeping with the government's vision of providing homes for all by 2022.

- New home loans rates for up to 30 lakh for women will be 8.35 percent and for other others, 8.40 percent,
- For home loans between Rs 30 lakh and Rs 75 lakh the interest remains unchanged at 8.50 percent for all borrowers. For home loans above Rs 75 lakh it is now 8.55 percent, from 8.75 percent for all,
- ICICI Bank too reduced interest rates by up to 0.3 percent for home loans up to Rs 30 lakh in its bid to boost affordable housing.
- Salaried women borrowers will get home loans at 8.35 percent and others at 8.40 percent

SPORTS

Deepti Sharma And Poonam Raut Become 1st Pair To Put On 300-Run Stand In Women's ODIs

- Deepti Sharma and Poonam Raut scripted history against Ireland.
- They are the first pair to put on a 300-run stand in Women's ODIs.
- Deepti and Raut had an opening partnership of 320 before the former fell for 188.
- Deepti is the first Indian to score over 150 and now has the second highest individual score in ODIs after Belinda Clarke's 229. Raut made 109.

Asian Wrestling: Silver for Sumit as India finish with 10 medals

- Sumit picked up a silver in the 125kg category to help India finish their Asian Wrestling Championship campaign here with an impressive haul of 10 medals
- India thus finished with 10 medals — a gold, five silver and four bronze

Madrid Open: Rafael Nadal beats Dominic Thiem to win fifth title

- Rafael Nadal beat Dominic Thiem 7-6 (10-8) 6-4 to win his fifth Madrid Open title and move into the world's top four.
- The Spaniard has now won three straight titles, after his Barcelona Open and Monte Carlo Masters victories, while his record on clay this year is 15-0.
- He broke world number seven Thiem early in the second set to set up the win.
- Nadal will be confirmed as the new world number four, replacing 18-time Grand Slam champion Roger Federer, when the new rankings
- Nadal, who beat defending champion Novak Djokovic in the semi-final, has now won his 30th ATP World Tour Masters 1000 title, tying the all-time record with Serbia's Djokovic.

Lewis Hamilton wins spectacular Spanish Grand Prix

- Lewis Hamilton won the Spanish Grand Prix from pole position to cut Sebastian Vettel's overall lead in the Formula One championship to six points with a quarter of the season completed.
- The Mercedes driver's 55th career win was hard-fought and tense.
- Ferrari's Sebastian Vettel finished second.

AWARDS & ACHIEVEMENTS

Pawan Kumar Chamling conferred with first BS Shekhawat award by President

- Sikkim Chief Minister Pawan Kumar Chamling was conferred with the first Bhairon Singh

Shekhawat Lifetime Achievement Honour in Public Service by President Pranab Mukherjee

- The award was conferred during the first Bhairon Singh Shekhawat memorial lecture delivered by the President.
- Chamling, who was first elected to power in 1994 and has continued to be chief minister for 22 years, lauded former vice-president Shekhawat as a visionary leader who cared for his people.

concerned forums and resolving different public grievance issues for the welfare of Noida residents.

- The award was conferred on RWA federation for its exemplary work in the city of Noida. "FONRWA has been proactively raising important issues of the citizens of the city at concerned forums and has done commendable work in resolving many public grievances,

IIT team gets award for startup

- A team of Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Delhi researchers was awarded the startups national award 2017 by the technology development board for creating a technology that protects against air pollutants and minimises the risk of respiratory diseases.
- The team includes faculty members professor Manjeet Jassal and professor Ashwini K Agrawal, alumni Sanjeev Jain, Prateek Sharma, Tushar Vyas and a student Jatin Kewlani.
- The device -'Nasofilters' -is a Nano-respiratory filter, which is ready for commercialisation and can protect against the finest particulate pollutants.

INSA Young Scientist Award for Hyd-based Professor

- Aravind Kumar Rengan, Assistant Professor, Department of Biomedical Engineering, Indian Institute of Technology – Hyderabad has been awarded the prestigious Indian National Science Academy (INSA) medal in the Young Scientist category for 2017.
- He is being recognised for having devised a novel way of nano delivery using liposomes and gold nano particles.
- This is useful for both imaging and therapeutics.
- His research work was published in the journal of NANOSCALE (Impact factor 7.76) and ACS NANO LETTERS (Impact Factor: 13.78) both being prestigious journals in nanotechnology.
- Dr Aravind's entire bio-engineering research work was carried out in India, bringing credits to our country in the International arena.
- Since 1974, INSA annually presents the Young Scientist Award to distinguish young scientists who have made notable research contributions in science and technology.
- The INSA Young Scientist Medal award carries a bronze medal and a cash prize of Rs 25,000.

Noida RWA federation awarded best welfare body

- The Federation of Noida Residents Welfare Association (FONRWA) was awarded with Navratan Legend award for the year 2017
- The award, which was given by Rajya Sabha MP R K Sinha and conferred by Navratan Foundation, a local NGO working in the field of culture, environment and women empowerment, was conferred on FONRWA for actively raising various citizen issues at

There are some other incentives attached with this award as well.

- The INSA Young Scientists Award is considered to be the highest recognition of promise, creativity and excellence in a young scientist

- Mukherjee has also written a chapter in the book, which was released by vice-president M Hamid Ansari.
- Senior leader Anand Sharma has edited the book.

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Indian Teen From Tamil Nadu Develops The World's Smallest Satellite For NASA

- An 18-year-old boy from Tamil Nadu has created the world's smallest satellite, naming it 'KalamSat'.
- Developed by Riftah Sharook, who hails from Tamil Nadu's Pallapatti town, KalamSat weighs only 64 grams and is named after former President APJ Abdul Kalam
- Sharook's satellite will be launched by NASA on June 21 from Wallops Island.
- KalamSat was selected through a competition, 'Cubes in Space,' which was jointly organised by NASA and an organisation, 'I Doodle Learning.'
- The main role of the satellite will be to demonstrate the performance of 3-D printed carbon fibre.
- Sharook is known to have build the satellite from scratch and his project was funded by an organisation called 'Space Kidz India'.

BOOKS & AUTHORS

Vice President launched India's Indira: A Centennial Tribute'

- President Pranab Mukherjee has received the first copy of book "India's Indira: A Centennial Tribute" in New Delhi.

IMPORTANT DAYS

World Telecommunication and Information Society Day: 17 May 2017

- The theme for WTISD-17, "Big Data for Big Impact," focuses on the power of Big Data for development and aims to explore how to turn imperfect, complex, often unstructured data into actionable information in a development context.
- The insight brought on by advanced analysis can strongly complement the evidence-based nature of decision-making that can be leveraged at national, regional and international levels to drive success towards attaining all 17 of the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) for 2030.
- The theme for WTISD-17 is in line with ITU's work highlighting the technological developments that have facilitated the emergence of Big Data, developing standards related to Big Data and identifying sources and uses of Big Data, including the ing use of Big Data technologies for developing and monitoring improvements in information societies.

NATIONAL EVENTS

Rajnath Singh inaugurates second meeting of National Platform on Disaster Risk Reduction

- Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh inaugurated the two-day second meeting of National Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction
- The theme of the Second meeting of NPDRR is "Disaster Risk Reduction for Sustainable Development: Making India resilient by 2030".
- n. The NPDRR is a multi-stakeholders National Platform headed by the Union Home Minister and it promotes participatory decision making in disaster management, and strengthens federal policy of our country.
- version 3.0 of National Database on Emergency Management (NDEM) was launched by Shri Rajnath Singh. This version of 3.0 is device independent and browser independent and equipped with latest resource mapping tools and audio and video conference facilities.

West Bengal makes Bengali mandatory in schools

- In a major decision that may have far reaching political and social implications, the West Bengal government has made Bengali compulsory in all schools, including private English medium schools of the State.
- The announcement was made by Education Minister Partha Chatterjee late on Monday evening at a hurriedly called press conference.
- It will be compulsory for students to learn Bengali in schools. English medium schools will have to make Bengali an optional subject from Class I so that the students can study it either as a second or third language,
- Even though there are provisions for teaching language in schools, it was not mandatory that Bengali would be one of three languages for students.

- Other than Bengali, English and Hindi there are provisions for opting for Urdu, Gurumukhi, Nepali and Ol-chiki among other languages as the medium of instruction in schools of the State.

India ranks second in EY renewables list

- India has been placed in the second spot in the renewable energy country attractiveness index by EY.
- The UK accountancy firm noted the fast pace of growth in Indian renewable energy in the past three years. Over 10 gigawatt (Gw) of solar power was added between 2015 and 2017 and wind energy capacity grew to 5.4 Gw in 2017-18.
- In an auction for a 500 megawatt solar power park in Rajasthan, bids spiralled down to Rs 2.62 per unit. Also, in the first-ever auction of a wind power project, the tariff fell to Rs 3.46 per unit.

Govt launches 'Clean Money' portal to prevent tax evasion

- Finance Minister Arun Jaitley has launched the 'Operation Clean Money' portal that aims "to create a tax-compliant society".
- The portal will identify those who have made deposits or purchases not in line with the declared income.
- It will also enable transparent Tax Administration by sharing status reports, including an explanation of verification issues, and thematic analysis reports.
- In the first batch, around 18 lakh persons have been identified in whose case, cash

transactions do not appear to be in line with the tax payer's profile.

- After the launch of the website, both taxpayers and tax authorities could easily communicate with each other through customers' permanent account number or PAN details.
- The information in respect of these cases is being made available in the e-filing window of the PAN holder (after log in) at the portal <http://incometaxindiaefiling.gov.in>.
- The PAN holder can view the information using the link "Cash Transactions 2016" under "Compliance" section of the portal.
- The taxpayer will be able to submit online explanation without any need to visit Income Tax office,

India ageing gradually; every 5th person to be 60+ by 2050: Report

- India will transform gradually from young to a 'greying' country and by 2050 every 5th Indian will be in 60s as against every 12th at present.
- Flagging the demographic transition, a PFRDA-CRISIL report said it is important that the development of the under-penetrated pension market in India be initiated now, when the situation is ripe.
- Demographically, India will transition slowly from a young to a greying country, where persons above the age of 60 would increase from 8.9 per cent of the population now to 19.4 per cent by 2050
- As per the report, the population of people above 80 is likely to increase from 0.9 per cent to 2.8 per cent by 2050.

MPEDA launches scheme for ornamental fish breeding units

- The Marine Products Export Development Authority (MPEDA) has launched a subsidy scheme for setting up of breeding units of colourful aquarium fishes and marketing societies in various states to facilitate their export.
- Through its new Ornamental Fish Assistance Scheme, MPEDA, an agency of the Union Commerce and Industry Ministry, provides subsidy for the ornamental fishery to registered Self Help Groups (SHGs) and Marketing Societies.
- Financial assistance is provided at the rate of 25 per cent of the total investment, subject to a maximum of Rs 10 lakh, to explore the huge potential of ornamental fishery as a livelihood option and foreign exchange earner.
- Under Grade I, maximum financial assistance was Rs 75,000 for a breeding unit, Rs 2 lakh under Grade II, and Rs 7.5 lakh under Grade III.
- MPEDA has also launched a Green Certification scheme, the first of its kind for the freshwater ornamental fishery, to curb the harmful impact of wild capture of aquarium fishes and help maintain the environmental and economic sustainability.

INTERNATIONAL EVENTS

Headquarters of IPHRC of OIC inaugurated in Saudi Arabia

- The headquarters of Independent Permanent Human Rights Commission of Organization of Islamic Cooperation was inaugurated at Jeddah, Saudi Arabia

- headquarters will help promote human rights and fundamental freedoms in the Muslim world through provision of objective and neutral views on many human rights issues, in accordance with international rules and in consonance with Islamic principles.

India's 'Ujala' to light up UK homes

- Nearly a century after importing equipment from Britain for setting up its first thermal power station at Husain Sagar in Andhra Pradesh, India launched the process to export 'Ujala' -- Hindi for light -- to the United Kingdom with affordable 'Made in India' LED bulbs.
- Ujala is globally one of the largest efficiency programmes and being run by Energy Efficiency Services Ltd, an energy services company promoted by Indian state-run power majors.
- Through this initiative, the government plans to replace all 770 million inefficient incandescent and CFL (compact fluorescent lamps) in the country with LED (light emitting diode) bulbs.
- The programme has already turned India into the world's LED capital, accounting for 10-12% of the global market 4 billion bulbs.
- The Ujala scheme uses economy of scale and a sustainable market mechanism.

SPORTS

Ramit Tandon wins maiden PSA title

- US-based Indian squash player Ramit Tandon has won his maiden professional title with a convincing win over compatriot Kush Kumar in the SYS Open

- This was Tandon's third appearance in a Professional Squash Association final.
- The Kolkata player, who shifted to New York nearly six years ago for studies, has just begun to shape his career on the professional circuit.
- This has been his second tournament in the year, the earlier being a brief appearance in the qualifying phase in the Tournament of Champions.

Mohd Anas Breaks 400m National Record; Qualifies For World C'ships

- Kerala quartermiler Mohammad Anas smashed the national record in men's 400m race on route to winning a gold medal at the third leg of the Indian Grand Prix Athletics Meet in New Delhi
- The 22-year-old Anas clocked 45.32 seconds under hot and humid conditions at the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium. He also qualified for the World Championships to be held in London in August. The entry standard for the World Championships stands at 45.50 seconds.
- Rajiv Arokia and Sachin Baby were second and third in 46.32 seconds and 47.18 seconds respectively.

Mount Lhotse records first summit in 3 years

- According to reports Indian climber Debasish Biswas and a woman climber from New Zealand successfully climbed 8516 meter high Mt Lhotse on Tuesday after a team of Sherpas fixed the route to summit.
- John Snorri Sigursson (Iceland) and Cian O Brolchain (Ireland) also climbed at Mt. Lhotse. John and Cian became the first mountaineer

from their respective countries to summit Mt Lhotse.

- In the first summit of this year 14 climbers scaled highest peak of the world on Monday. 35 climbers made it to Mt. Everest on Tuesday morning.
- According to Tourism Department 373 fee-paying climbers have received permits to make an attempt on the world's highest peak this spring. This is the highest number of climbing permits issued for Everest during a single season.

BANKING & FINANCE

HDFC Life inks distribution tie-up with Catholic Syrian Bank

- HDFC Life has entered into a bancassurance tie-up with Catholic Syrian Bank to distribute its individual life insurance products to the private lender's customers.
- With this partnership, HDFC Life will offer its leading range of individual life insurance, health and pension products to the Catholic Syrian Bank's 1.5 million customer base across all its branches over a period of time

IIM-K launches business incubator LIVE

- The Indian Institute of Management Kozhikode (IIM-K) has launched its Laboratory for Innovation, Venturing and Entrepreneurship (LIVE), a business incubator and entrepreneurship development center.
- A proposal for LIVE was submitted by the institute in 2016, following which the Department of Science and Technology (DST) sanctioned a grant of Rs three crores.

- IIM-K has made available required space and facilities on campus and is developing a series of programmes and products that would ensure long term sustainability of LIVE, which has offered admission to twelve startups in its first ever job creation programme
- The selected ventures in this group are across a range of sectors, but many are based on digital technology.
- LIVE, which registered under the Indian Societies Act in June 2016, hopes to support startups not just founded by IIMK's own students or alumni but also any idea owner with innovation that is believed to have commercial potential" the release said quoting Dr Keyoor Purani, Executive Director, IIMK LIVE and professor of marketing at IIMK.

Paytm Payments Bank to launch next week, names Renu Satti as the new CEO

- India's leading digital wallet player Paytm has received the final licence from the Reserve Bank of India for its payments bank entity.
- With this, the road is now clear for the Noida-based payments player to kickstart its much-awaited payments bank operations next week.
- At the same time, Paytm has also announced that its long time executive and vice president Renu Satti will be the CEO of the payments bank. Satti has been Paytm's owner One 97 Communications for over a decade, most recently heading its movie ticketing business.
- Paytm Payments Bank Limited will begin its banking operations from May 23rd, 2017. As per the Central bank's guidelines, the company will transfer its wallet business to the newly incorporated payments bank entity

under a payments bank licence awarded to Founder and CEO Vijay Shekhar Sharma.

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

NASA, ISRO Team Up To Inspect 'Oldest Civilisation' Site In Haryana

- Teams of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) of the United States and the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) would inspect the excavation being carried out at an archaeological site in Haryana's Fatehabad district to verify claims of it being the oldest civilisation in the world.
- Archaeologists have recovered artefacts pre-dating the Harappan Civilisation from the site, located in village Kunal in Fatehabad district.
- NASA and ISRO inspection is likely to be done in October this year, 2017
- The recovery of artefacts, estimated to be 6,000 years old, strongly indicated that the civilisation that had flourished in Kunal was in fact the oldest civilisation in the world.
- The Harappan Civilisation, considered so far to be the oldest civilisation, flourished about 3,500 years ago

IMPORTANT DAYS

World AIDS Vaccine Day 2017: May 18

- World AIDS Vaccine Day takes place on May 18, 2017.
- The day, also known as HIV Vaccine Awareness Day, is observed annually. HIV vaccine advocates mark the day by promoting the continued urgent need for a vaccine to prevent HIV infection and AIDS.

- The first World AIDS Vaccine Day was observed on May 18, 1998, to commemorate the anniversary of Clinton's speech, and the tradition continues today.
- Each year communities around the globe hold a variety of activities on World AIDS Vaccine Day to raise awareness for AIDS vaccines, educate communities about HIV prevention and research for an AIDS vaccine and bring attention to the ways in which ordinary people can be a part of the international effort to stem the pandemic.

NATIONAL EVENTS

Shri Bandaru Dattatreya launches EPFOs Citizens Charter 2017 & e-court management system Citizens Charter 2017 to bring transparency and accountability on the part of EPFO

- The Minister of State for Labour & Employment(IC), Shri Bandaru Dattatreya launched EPFOs Citizens Charter 2017 and e-court management system in Bangalore
- Citizens Charter 2017 is an attempt to bring transparency and accountability on the part of EPFO and make service delivery system and grievance redressal mechanism more efficient so that it delivers goods and services to its all stakeholders in a time bound manner with a reduced timeline from earlier timeline of 30 days.
- The timeline in case of claim settlements is 10 days and 15 days in case of grievance redressal management.
- The citizens charter has been launched with the vision of social security coverage to all employees as well as the implementation of

policies for benefit of all stakeholders with an adequate support level of social security.

- The objective of the project is a transparent and electronic case management system which will cater to aspirations of all stakeholders the employers, the employees, litigants and CBT. It is a step towards paperless court system wherein court procedure of EPF & MP Act, 1952 and EPFAT will take place in a digital environment
- Now the parties can file all their paper / evidence / documents online and all the details alongwith status can be accessed online.

CCEA gives nod to new coal linkage policy

- A new coal linkage policy to ensure adequate supply of the fuel to power plants through reverse auction received approval of the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs
- The new coal linkage policy for power plants will help producers ensure fuel supplies in an organised manner.
- The government's initiatives as well as international market conditions have helped bring down price of the dry fuel and boosted domestic production.
- But a mechanism is required for providing coal linkages to power plants at competitive rates.
- According to sources, the new policy will address this concern and put in place a proper mechanism for sourcing of the dry fuel by the power plants as per their schedules.

AP amends Act to appoint PV Sindhu as Group-1 officer

- The Andhra Pradesh Legislature passed a Bill to appoint Olympics silver medal winning shuttler PV Sindhu as a Group-1 officer in the government, by amending the state public services Act.
- Certain provisions in the Andhra Pradesh (Regulation of Appointments to Public Services and Rationalisation of Staff Pattern and Pay Structure) Act, 1994, prevented the appointment of the badminton player as any recruitment in public service should only be through the AP Public Service Commission, selection committee or employment exchange.
- To give effect to the Cabinet resolution, the government decided to amend section 4 of the aforementioned law to enable appointment of Sindhu directly in the cadre of a revenue divisional officer.

Country's 1st ornamental fish park in Chennai by August

- India's first Aquatic Rainbow Technology Park (ARTP) will be set up in Chennai within three months.
- The park, an ultra-modern exclusive facility for ornamental fish equipped with multi-species hatchery and live feed culture units, will fulfil a major requirement of the industry for mass production of high value aquarium fish. Fisheries College and Research Institute, Ponneri, will develop the facility.
- Tamil Nadu is the second largest exporter of ornamental fish after West Bengal. After completion, it will be handed over to ornamental fish breeders and farmers on lease for three years.

Railway station survey: Andhra's Visakhapatnam cleanest, Bihar's Darbhanga dirtiest

- In a report released by Union Railway Minister Suresh Prabhu, Visakhapatnam railway station in Andhra Pradesh was rated the cleanest station among the 75 busiest stations in the country, followed by Secunderabad, Jammu, Vijayawada and Anand Vihar railway stations.
- The survey, conducted by the Quality Council of India, was based on criteria such as toilets on platforms, management of tracks and dustbins
- The Darbhanga station in Bihar was rated as the dirtiest. Varanasi railway station, situated in Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Lok Sabha constituency, was placed 14th.
- New Delhi station was ranked 39, while Nizamuddin and Old Delhi stations were placed at the 23th and 24th position respectively.
- Railway stations are categorised — A1, A, B, C, D, E and F — based on their annual passenger revenue by the ministry.
- The stations that contribute over Rs 50 crore annually are in the 'A1' category, while those that contribute between Rs 6 crore and Rs 50 crore come under the 'A' category.
- All suburban stations are in C category, while all halts are in F category

Indian Army to receive first batch of modern artillery guns

- Two of the 145 M-777 ultra-light howitzers will arrive in India from the US on Friday. It will be the first induction of the howitzers after the Bofors scandal broke out nearly 30 years ago.

- The scandal had badly hit the artillery modernisation of the Indian Army.
- The first two guns will land in India ahead of the schedule over the weekend.
- Two howitzers, which will come in a chartered aircraft from the UK, will be taken to the Pokhran ranges for testing and compilation of the firing tables for subsequent use.
- The howitzers are being procured for the army and will be deployed along the India-China border.
- India has struck a government-to-government deal for 145 howitzers with the US at a cost of around \$700 million.
- As per the deal, the first 25 guns will be bought directly from the US and the rest will be assembled in India.

INTERNATIONAL EVENTS

Dattatreya to attend G20 Labour Ministers meet on May 18-19

- Labour Minister Bandaru Dattatreya will lead the Indian delegation to the G20 Labour & Employment Ministers Meet scheduled to be held on May 18-19 in Germany.
- Germany is the chair for the G20 Labour & Employment Ministers for the year 2017.
- The G20 Labour & Employment Track has been discussing topics like Shaping the Future of Work, Reducing Gender Gaps in Labour Force Participation, Labour Market Integration of Regular Migrants and Recognised Refugees, Decent Work in Global Supply Chains, and Boosting Youth Employment.

- A G20 Labour and Employment Ministerial Declaration is likely to be adopted at the end of this meeting, which will be presented to the Leaders/ Head of the State summit scheduled on July 7-8, 2017 Hamburg, Germany.
- Dattatreya is expected to advocate policy interventions aimed at promoting labour mobility for skilled youth, incentivizing MSMEs as well as responsibility of developed states in the Global Supply Chains for capacity building, skill development and technology transfer to promote more inclusive and fair globalization, at the forum of G20.

BANKING & FINANCE

Kotak Mahindra Bank enables blockchain based trade financing operation

- Private sector lender Kotak Mahindra Bank has enabled end to end trade financing for one of its clients by utilising the blockchain technology thereby reducing the time taken for a letter of credit (LC) to few hours from 20 to 30 days.
- LC – a negotiable instrument, is a critical document in both domestic and international trade finance, and is also one of the most tedious documents to process in banking.
- The time involved in completing the process deprives exporters from utilising their sale proceeds efficiently.
- In a first of its kind transaction in India, Kotak partnered with Deloitte and used the blockchain technology to complete LC transactions with JP Morgan Singapore as Partner bank - from issuing the LC for outbound transactions to transferring trade documentation for inbound LCs to facilitating

the transaction funds using Swift.

Mukesh Ambani leads Forbes list of Global Game Changers

- Reliance Industries Chairman Mukesh Ambani leads a Forbes list of 'Global Game Changers' who are transforming their industries and changing the lives of billions of people around the globe.
- Forbes' second annual Global Game Changers list includes 25 "intrepid business leaders" who are "unsatisfied with the status quo" and "transforming their industries and changing the lives of billions of people around the globe."
- Ambani, 60 comes at the top of the list for his game-changing efforts to bring the internet to India's masses.
- The 25 trailblazers on the list are re-imagining countless facets of everyday life, from health to sending money to relatives abroad.
- Others in the Forbes list of global game changers included founder of home appliances company Dyson, James Dyson, American global investment management corporation BlackRock cofounder Larry Fink, Deputy Crown Prince of Saudi Arabia Mohammed bin Salman, social media company Snap cofounder Evan Spiegel, Chinese ride sharing giant Didi Chuxing founder Cheng Wei and African retail tycoon Christo Wiese.

APPOINTMENTS & ACHIEVEMENTS

Anshu Jamsenpa becomes first Indian woman to climb Mt. Everest four times

- Anshu Jamsenpa has become the first Indian woman to scale Mount Everest four times,

- The Arunachal Pradesh mountaineer on Tuesday scripted history by becoming the first Indian woman to conquer the 8,848 feet Mount Everest for a fourth time.
- Jamsenpa, a mother of two, began scaling at 1.45 a.m. on Saturday and unfurled the national flag atop the Everest at 9 a.m. on Tuesday.

Former FBI chief Robert Mueller appointed to probe Donald Trump-Russia ties

- The US Justice Department, in the face of rising pressure from Capitol Hill, named former FBI chief Robert Mueller as special counsel to investigate alleged Russian interference in the 2016 US election and possible collusion between President Donald Trump's campaign and Moscow.
- The move followed a week in which the White House was thrown into an uproar following Trump's firing of FBI Director James Comey.
- Democrats and some of the president's fellow Republicans had demanded an independent probe of whether Russia tried to sway the outcome of November's election in favor of Trump and against Democrat Hillary Clinton.

Indian Scientist Shrinivas Kulkarni Wins Dan David Prize

- Indian scientist Shrinivas Kulkarni has won the prestigious Dan David prize for his contribution in the field of astronomy.
- Mr Kulkarni is a professor of astrophysics and planetary science at California Institute of Technology in Pasadena, California.
- He is a pioneer and leading figure in time-domain astrophysics across the

electromagnetic spectrum who built and conducted the Palomar Transient Factory, a large-area survey of the night sky in search of variable and transient phenomena.

- The survey has turned up thousands of stellar explosions, transforming our knowledge of the transient sky.
- The USD 1 million prize is a joint international enterprise endowed by the Dan David Foundation headquartered at Tel Aviv University.
- Mr Kulkarni, with this honour, joins other prominent Indian laureates of the Dan David prize including author Amitav Ghosh, music conductor Zubin Mehta and renowned chemist CNR Rao.
- Three Dan David prizes of USD 1 million each are given every year in the categories of "Past", "Present" and "Future" to people around the world who have made outstanding contributions to humanity in the sciences, humanities, or through their work in civil society.
- The recipients in the "Past" category are generally drawn from the field of history, archaeology, palaeontology, biography, etc; the "Present" from arts, media, policy, economics, etc; and the "Future" from one of the exact or natural sciences.
- The "Future" category this year is dedicated to astronomy and will be shared by Shrinivas Kulkarni, Andrej Udalski of the University of Warsaw and Neil Gehrels of NASA for their discoveries on time-domain astrophysics.

Yes Bank to appoint Debjani Ghosh as additional director

- Mid-sized private sector lender Yes Bank today announced the appointment of computer hardware company Intel's executive Debjani Ghosh as an additional director on its board.
- Ghosh's appointment as a non-executive director will be considered by the shareholders at the bank's forthcoming annual general meeting on June
- She has been associated with Intel since 1996 and has held positions including country head and managing director for South Asia

similar size to Earth, creating the possibility that it could have an 'Earth-like' atmosphere.

- Scientists from the University of Exeter in the UK have embarked on their first, tentative steps to explore the potential climate of the exoplanet.
- Early studies have suggested that the planet is in the habitable zone of its star Proxima Centauri -- the region where, given an Earth-like atmosphere and suitable structure, it would receive the right amount of light to sustain liquid water on its surface.

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

IEST creates India's first smart grid project

- The Indian Institute of Engineering Science and Technology (IEST) has successfully created the country's first smart grid project, which will generate power from renewable sources of energy.
- The project will soon be inaugurated by President Pranab Mukherjee
- The smart grid will be synchronised to generate power from solar, wind and vegetable waste resources, depending on the weather conditions and availability of waste products. It is the first of its kind in the country,

'Earth-like' planet may have water, potential to support alien life

- An 'Earth-like' planet orbiting our closest neighbouring star, Proxima Centauri, about 4.2 light years away may have liquid water and the potential to support alien life, a new study has found.
- The planet Proxima B was discovered in August last year, and is thought to be of

NATIONAL EVENTS

NITI Aayog holds the first Samavesh meeting

- In pursuance of the Prime Ministers call for a New India 2022, the first meeting of the National Steering Group and other knowledge partners was held in NITI Aayog under the co-chairmanship of Shri Amitabh Kant, CEO and Shri Ratan P Watal, Principal Adviser, NITI Aayog.
- The meeting was aimed at bringing together 32 premier educational and policy research institutions to catalyse the development process, enhance institutional capacity development and a field level interface with the community for New India 2022.
- The meeting witnessed signing of Memoranda of Understands (MoUs) between NITI Aayog and major think tanks across the country to create an ecosphere of evidence based policy research.
- This network will enable efficient knowledge sharing and information exchange among all partners to fulfil their role in transformative policy reform so as to achieve a sustainable

and more inclusive development in line with the National Development Agenda, Sustainable Development Goals as well as the 15 year Vision, 7 year strategy and 3 year action plan.

- The meeting was also attended by representatives of four State Governments viz. Kerala, Assam, Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan.

Cabinet approves Faculty Exchange Agreement b/w NDC, New Delhi & NDC, Dhaka

- The Union Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, today gave its ex-post facto approval to the Faculty Exchange Agreement signed between the National Defence College, New Delhi and National Defence College, Dhaka, Bangladesh,
- The objective of the Agreement is to institutionalise regular exchange programmes and establish sustainable mechanisms between the two National Defence Colleges with an aim to enhancing mutual cooperation in the field of national security, development and strategic studies, Mr Goyal said while addressing reporters here.
- Given the geographical and cultural closeness between the two countries, there are many common challenges like countering terrorism that needs joint action.
- Hence, there is a need for better coordination and cooperation among the armed forces.
- The exchange of faculty members of the premier institutes will help to bring symmetry in the capacities of the armed forces and contribute to countering and managing common threats and challenges much better.
- The Agreement establishes the framework for enhanced cooperation in the field of military

education concerning strategic and operational studies.

Cabinet approves setting up of Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI) in Assam

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs has approved the setting up of Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI) in Assam.

- The proposal of Department of Agriculture Research and Education (DARE) / Indian Council for Agricultural Research (ICAR) under the scheme, the establishment of the "Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI)-Assam" seeks to set up the Institute on 587 acre of land provided by the Govt. of Assam.
- IARI-Assam would be a Post-Graduate Institution of higher learning in Agricultural Education.
- It will have the hallmark identity of an IARI including all sectors of agriculture like field crops, horticultural crops, agro-forestry, animal husbandry, fisheries, poultry, piggery, silk rearing, honey production, etc.
- It will be off-campus of IARI, New Delhi and integrated multi-disciplinary research would be undertaken in school mode i.e. Schools of Crop Sciences, Natural Resource Management, and Animal Sciences & Fisheries.
- IARI-Assam would work on the agrarian challenges and complexities of North Eastern India in tandem with all existing Central and State Government R&D Institutions and Private sector enterprises.
- It would undertake research, education, extension programs in its mission towards developing quality human resource, generation of farmer-friendly technologies to enhance productivity, quality and profitability,

promote agro-based industries and generate employment opportunities for holistic and sustainable development of the agriculture sector in the North Eastern region.

India to set up 6000 mw indigenous nuclear plants

- India will set up 6000 mw of indigenous nuclear power plants, power, coal, renewable and mines minister
- The Union Cabinet approved the scheme that will promote energy self-sufficiency, clean, carbon-free sources of power and place India high among nuclear power countries, he said.
- The decision will lead to Rs 70,000 crore domestic orders for pressurised heat water reactors and create 33,400 direct and indirect jobs.
- BSF begins operation 'Garam Hawa' along international border in Rajasthan
- The BSF has started operation 'Garam Hawa' in the western sector in Rajasthan, under which vigil along the international border with Pakistan has been stepped up.
- The operation, which started on Monday, will continue till May 23.
- The operation is being conducted as chances of infiltration across the border increase during intense heatwave conditions

GST Council finalises tax rates on 80-90 per cent goods, services

- The GST Council on Thursday finalised tax rates on 80-90 per cent of goods and services under the four-slab structure with essential items of daily use being kept in the lowest bracket of 5 per cent. The Council, headed by Union Finance Minister Arun Jaitley and

comprising representatives of all states, in the opening session of the two-day meeting also approved rules for the Goods and Services Tax (GST) regime that is scheduled to kick in from July 1.

- Official sources said that 80-90 per cent of the items has been fitted in 5, 12, 18 or 28 per cent brackets.
- Yogi Adityanath-led Uttar Pradesh sought zero levy on 'puja samagri' instead of the proposed 18 per cent. A few others are keen on only two rates for service tax — 12 per cent and 18 per cent. The GST will be a national sales tax that will be levied on consumption of goods or use of services.
- It will replace 16 current levies — seven central taxes like excise duty and service tax and nine state taxes like VAT and entertainment tax — thereby creating India as one market with one tax rate.
- With the GST, India will join select league of nations with a goods and service tax.
- France was the first country to implement the GST in 1954.

INTERNATIONAL EVENTS

Australia one of 'world leaders' for life expectancy: WHO

- Australia is one of the "world leaders" for life expectancy, ranked only behind Japan, Singapore and Switzerland, according to the World Health Organisation's (WHO) latest world health check.
- Clean, pollution-free cities and a low smoking rate are contributing factors in Australia's exceptional life expectancy.

- Although there are some very big health issues in Australia and lots of preventable causes of ill health, Australia is one of the world leaders (in life expectancy),

- The thrust of exercises at sea this year would be on Anti-Submarine Warfare (ASW), integrated operations with Surface, Air and Sub-surface forces, Air Defence and Surface Encounter Exercises.

Bilateral Exercise Between Indian & Republic Of Singapore Navy Simbex-17 Commences

- As part of "SIMBEX-17, the ongoing Bilateral Naval Exercise between Navies of the Republic of Singapore and India, Indian Naval Ships Shivalik, Sahyadri, Jyoti and Kamorta and one P8-I Maritime Patrol and Anti-Submarine Warfare Aircraft are participating.
- While INS Sahyadri and INS Kamorta are at Singapore since 12 May 2017, INS Shivalik and INS Jyoti would be joining directly for the sea phase of the exercise. The ships are under the command of Rear Admiral Biswajit Dasgupta, YSM, VSM, Flag Officer Commanding Eastern Fleet.
- SIMBEX is an acronym for Singapore-India Maritime Bilateral Exercises". Bilateral cooperation between Singapore and India was first formalised when RSN ships began training with the Indian Navy in 1994.
- This years edition of SIMBEX-17 being held in the South China Sea would be the 24th in the series and is aimed to increase interoperability between the RSN and IN as well as develop common understanding and procedures for maritime security operations.
- The scope of the current exercise includes wide-ranging professional interactions during the Harbour Phase scheduled from 18 May to 20 May and a diverse range of operational activities at sea during the Sea Phase to be held from 21 May to 24 May.

Anti-dumping duty imposed on Chinese chemical, aluminium foil

- India has imposed anti-dumping duty on a Chinese chemical used in the pharma industry and aluminium foil to protect domestic industry from cheap imports.
- While an anti-dumping duty of up to \$1.63 per kg was imposed on aluminium foil, up to \$8.71 per kg duty was slapped on imports of amoxicillin, used in pharmaceuticals. The duty on both the products would be effective for a period of five years,
- The commerce ministry's investigation arm — Directorate General of Anti-Dumping and Allied Duties (DGAD) — in the separate probe had concluded that these products were dumped into India and that has caused material injury to the domestic industry.
- Countries initiate anti-dumping probe to determine if the domestic industry has been hurt by flooding of below-cost import. As a counter-measure, they come up with duties under the multilateral WTO regime.
- Anti-dumping steps are taken to ensure fair trade and provide a level-playing field to the domestic industry. They are not a measure to restrict import or cause an unjustified increase in cost of products.

UN launches "Year of Polar Prediction" for Arctic, Antarctic weather-watching

- The United Nations weather agency has kicked off of a two-year international effort "to close gaps in polar forecasting capacity and to improve future environmental safety at the farthest reaches of the planet."
- The World Meteorological Organization has launched the Year of Polar Prediction, which will aim to improve predictions of weather, climate and ice conditions in the Arctic and Antarctic.
- Warming Arctic air masses and declining sea ice are believed to affect ocean circulation and the jet stream, and are potentially linked to extreme phenomena such as cold spell, heat waves and droughts in the northern hemisphere
- During the Year of Polar Prediction—spread out from mid-2017 to mid-2019—scientists plan to observe, model and improve forecasts of weather and climate systems.
- The goal: to learn more about and improve the understanding of the weather changes at the poles.
- The Year of Polar Prediction will also see special observing periods added to improve the number of routine observations by weather balloon launches and buoy deployments from research vessels to measure conditions in the air and water.
- The WMO says changes in weather, climate and ice conditions at the poles are also linked to more transportation, tourism, fisheries and mining.
- India continued be perched at the top of the International Cricket Council rankings, but second-placed South Africa have narrowed down the deficit to just six points. Virat Kohli's men have 123 points while the Proteas, who have made a nine-point surge, are now at 117
- Australia are at third with 100 points, suffering an eight-point slump from the last time the ICC rankings were released. Only nine points separate them from Sri Lanka (91), who are seventh in the table.
- England continued to stay at third, New Zealand were placed fifth and Pakistan, who registered their maiden Test series win in West Indies recently, conceded four points to lie at sixth place. Bangladesh are ranked ninth with 69 points, trailing eighth-ranked West Indies (75) by six points.

Harikrishna posts first win in Moscow FIDE Grand Prix

- Indian Grandmaster Pentala Harikrishna registered his first win at the Moscow FIDE Grand Prix after getting the better of English GM Michael Adams
- With this win, the World No. 16 Indian has now maintained his unbeaten run against Adams this year and recorded his second successive victory against him.
- With a win, three draws and a loss in five games so far, Harikrishna has accumulated a total of 2.5 points and is placed 13th on the leaderboard.
- After a day's break, Harikrishna will resume his campaign against the Greek GM Boris Gelfand in the next round of this elite tournament.

SPORTS

India hold on to top spot in ICC Test rankings, South Africa six points behind in second place

AWARDS & ACHIEVEMENTS

Indian-American student wins National Geographic Bee contest

- Pranay Varada, a 14-year-old Indian-American student, has won the prestigious \$50,000 National Geographic Bee competition, maintaining the dominance of the community in the contest.
- A runner-up last year, Varada this time did not want to give any chance.
- He was declared the winner as he won the first tiebreaker question when he correctly identified the Kunlun Mountains as the 1,200-mile range that separates the Taklimakan Desert from the Tibetan Plateau.
- As a result, he gets \$50,000 in scholarship and other prizes.
- Veda Bhattaram another Indian-American from New Jersey finished third at the finals held here last night, while Thomas Wright from Wisconsin was declared the runner-up.

BANKING & FINANCE

Raj Kumar joins LIC Mutual Fund as whole time director

- LIC Mutual Fund has appointed Raj Kumar as a whole time director.
- The position was created after Sarojini Dikhale was transferred to LIC as executive director, marketing and product development some time back.
- With an average assets under management at Rs 21,475 crore as on March 31, LIC Mutual Fund is currently ranked 17th in the industry.
- In his professional career, spanning more than 32 years, Kumar has worked as zonal manager

central zone, LIC of India, at Bhopal for one year.

India Ratings downgrades IDBI Bank

- India Ratings and Research downgraded State-run IDBI Bank to AA from AA+ and gave a negative outlook due to challenges arising out of stressed assets and weak capital position.
- The rating agency also downgraded various debt instruments of the bank.
- The Reserve Bank had recently initiated 'prompt corrective action' for the bank on account of higher NPAs and negative return on assets.
- The downgrade in the long-term issuer rating reflects the consistent drop in IDBI's share of systemic assets as the bank struggles with its asset quality challenges," the rating agency said in a note.
- It said the bank continues to grapple with a weak capital profile and the RBI's invocation of the prompt corrective action framework would continue to weigh on its share of systemic assets and liabilities.
- The bank's credit costs are likely to remain significantly high over the medium term on account of higher fresh slippages and provisioning requirements on the current stock of stressed assets

BSNL Signs MoU With Facebook, MobiKwik, And Disney Land India

- Delhi-based Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd (BSNL), an Indian state-owned telecommunications company has reportedly signed agreements with Facebook, Mobikwik, and Disneyland

India to commemorate World Telecommunication and Information Society Day, which is celebrated worldwide on May 17.

- The tie-up aims to increase BSNL's foothold amongst Indian consumers with its Internet and value-added services.
- Also, it's a step towards gaining an edge over private players such as Airtel, Vodafone, Reliance Jio and more, currently dominating the market share in the country.
- With MobiKwik, BSNL will work alongside to create a mobile wallet to facilitate digital payment services to its consumers. Initially, the wallet will be available only to BSNL customers.
- Also, Mobikwik will initiate the digital sale of BSNL SIM cards through its app and website. MobiKwik recently made news when it revealed its plans to get merged with Snapdeal's digital payment subsidiary FreeCharge.

AWARDS & ACHIEVEMENTS

Green Oscar for Assam conservationist

- Purnima Barman, the force behind the Hargila Army in Assam, has won the Whitley Award, a prestigious international nature conservation prize, in honour of her work to protect the greater adjutant stork and its wetland habitat.
- Whitley Award is also known as Green Oscar. The announcement was made by Whitley Fund for Nature today in London.
- Princess Anne will tomorrow present the award, worth £35,000 in project funding, to Purnima during a ceremony at the Royal Geographical Society, London.

- Purnima has mobilised followers into the 'Hargila Army', an all-female team of conservationists dedicated to protecting the greater adjutant stork which, through this programme, are offered sustainable livelihood, training and education opportunities. The project is giving marginalised women a voice.

David Letterman to receive Mark Twain Prize for American Humor

- David Letterman, who reinvented late-night television with his irreverent and distinctly original comic sensibility, will receive the Kennedy Center's 2017 Mark Twain Prize for American Humor.
- The Twain, considered the most prestigious honor in the world of comedy, will be awarded to Letterman five years after he was made a Kennedy Center Honoree.
- Steve Martin, Bill Cosby, Lily Tomlin, Carol Burnett and Neil Simon also have received both honors.

IMPORTANT DAYS

World Metrology Day - 20 May

- World Metrology Day is an annual celebration of the signature of the Metre Convention on 20 May 1875 by representatives of seventeen nations.
- The Convention set the framework for global collaboration in the science of measurement and in its industrial, commercial and societal applications.
- The original aim of the Metre Convention - the world-wide uniformity of measurement - remains as important today as it was in 1875.

- The theme for World Metrology Day 2017 is Measurements for transport.
- This theme was chosen because transport plays such a key role in the modern world.

National Events

GST rates announced; milk, cereals to be exempted

- The Goods and Services (GST) Council agreed on the fitment of almost all commodities in the various tax slabs under the new indirect regime to be rolled out on July 1.
- Rates of GST
- Milk, cereals (unpackaged and unbranded), and jaggery- Exempted
- sugar, tea, coffee (except instant), and edible oil - 5%
- Common use items such as soap, toothpaste, and hair oil- 18%
- Coal- 5%
- Consumer durables- 28%
- Capital goods and industrial intermediaries- 18%
- Capital goods and industrial intermediaries- 28% with small petrol cars attracting a cess of 1% and small diesel cars 3%. Luxury cars will attract a 15% cess in addition to 28% GST.

Srinagar Gets First Semi-Mechanised Car Parking Facility

- Coming as a relief to the commuters and vehicle owners moving through the busy Lal Chowk area of Srinagar city, Chief Minister, Mehbooba Mufti inaugurated a semi-mechanized car parking facility at the old KMD stand on the M. A. Road

- The car parking facility would be first of its kind in the State, given the technology used in the project.
- This car parking facility would be first of its kind in the State as most of the operations done during car parking would be automatic, including collection of fee and receipts.
- The drivers will have to just place their vehicles over the automated pellet and it would be automatically placed in the available vacant slot.
- The vehicle would similarly be retrieved back in the same manner on the automated pellet.
- The whole process would take around two minutes and would be undertaken with the help of an imported Logic Control Unit.

Hyderabad's Turbo Megha Airways first private airline to get UDAN licence

- Turbo Megha Airways has become the first private airline to get a licence to fly under UDAN, the government scheme for subsidized regional flights.
- The Hyderabad-based airline, which flies as TruJet, last month said it will launch flights on Hyderabad-Cuddapah, Hyderabad-Nanded and Nanded-Mumbai routes.
- TruJet is one of the five operators who have been awarded a total of 128 routes under the UDAN scheme.
- The airline will use three ATR-72 aircraft, and will add more planes later.

Green Court NGT Bans Open Defecation, Waste Dumping On Yamuna Floodplains

- The National Green Tribunal or NGT has banned open defecation and dumping of

waste on the floodplains of the Yamuna river and announced an environment compensation or penalty of Rs. 5,000 for those who violated the rule.

- A bench headed by NGT Chairperson Justice Swatanter Kumar also constituted a committee headed by Delhi Jal Board CEO to oversee the execution of work pertaining to the cleaning of the river and asked it to submit reports at regular intervals.
- The green panel noted that almost 67 per cent of the pollution reaching the Yamuna would be treated by the two sewage treatment plants (STP) located at Delhi Gate and Najafgarh under Phase 1 of the 'Maili se Nirmal (Dirty to Pure) Yamuna Revitalisation Project 2017'.

INTERNATIONAL EVENTS

India ranks at 154, below Sri Lanka and Bangladesh, on healthcare index

- According to the Global Burden of Disease Study published in the Lancet, India continues to be a poor performer in terms of access to healthcare. Ranking below countries like China, Sri Lanka, and even Bangladesh, the study points at India's failure in achieving healthcare goals.
- However, the country's score has increased by 14.1 points in the healthcare index, from 30.7 in 1990 to 44.8 in 2015. Diseases like tuberculosis, diabetes, rheumatic heart diseases, and chronic kidney diseases, and the lack of access to proper means to treat them were causes of concern.

- India ranks above Pakistan, which has scored 43. This reports also targets the growing inequality between countries,
- The average growth in expenditure on total healthcare is not only lower than the average annual GDP growth rate, but the expenditure is also still lower (as a percentage of GDP) than the expenditure of many developing and low-income countries.

China, ASEAN agree on framework for South China Sea code of conduct

- China and South-east Asian countries agreed to a framework for a long-mooted code of conduct for the disputed the South China Sea
- China and the members of the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) had been hoping to agree on the framework this year, 15 years after committing to draft it.
- After a meeting between Chinese and ASEAN officials in the Chinese city of Guiyang, China's foreign ministry said the framework had been agreed upon, but gave no details of its contents.
- Some ASEAN diplomats have expressed concern about whether China is being sincere, or whether ASEAN has enough leverage to get China to commit to a set of rules.
- Some South-east Asian countries, including Vietnam and the Philippines, as well as the United States, have expressed concern at what they see as China's militarization of the South China Sea, including building air strips on man-made islands.

BUSINESS & FINANCE

Tata most valuable brand, Airtel at number 2

- The House of Tatas has retained its position as India's leading brand in valuation firm Brand Finance's annual study of the country's top 100 names.
- **Among the other brands in the top 10 list for 2017 are**
- Airtel : (brand value: \$7.7 billion),
- LIC : brand value: \$6.8 billion),
- Infosys: Brand Value \$6.2 billion,
- SBI: Brand Value \$5.5 billion,
- Reliance: Brand Value \$4.8 billion
- L&T Brand Value \$4.6 billion),
- Indian Oil Brand Value \$4.5 billion,
- HCL Brand Value \$4.4 billion
- Mahindra: Brand Value \$3.5 billion

Flipkart, Paytm, Ola among India's top employers: LinkedIn study

- For all the negative news flow around the sector, home-grown consumer internet ventures like Flipkart, Paytm, Ola and OYO Rooms remain the most sought-after Indian employers, according to a study by professional networking site LinkedIn.
- Called Top Attractors 2016, the list features India's best employers based on exclusive LinkedIn data, including job-seeker reach, engagement and retention.

Top 5

1. Flipkart
 2. Amazon
 3. One97 Communications Ltd
 4. Paytm
 5. Ola
- Of the 25 companies in the list, as many as 13 are Indian, including tech multinationals and

startups, which hints at a paradigm shift in job-seekers' preferences.

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

First human antibodies to work against all ebolaviruses

- After analysing the blood of a survivor of the 2013-16 Ebola outbreak, a team of scientists from academia, industry and the government has discovered the first natural human antibodies that can neutralize and protect animals against all three major disease-causing ebolaviruses.
- The findings could lead to the first broadly effective ebolavirus therapies and vaccines.
- Ebolaviruses infections are usually severe, and often fatal.
- There are no vaccines or treatments approved by the Food and Drug Administration for treating these viruses
- Monoclonal antibodies, which bind to and neutralize specific pathogens and toxins, have emerged as one of the most promising treatments for Ebola patients.
- A critical problem, however, is that most antibody therapies target just one specific ebolavirus.
- For example, the most advanced therapy -- ZMapp™, a cocktail of three monoclonal antibodies -- is specific for Ebola virus (formerly known as "Ebola Zaire"), but doesn't work against two related ebolaviruses (Sudan virus and Bundibugyo virus) that have also caused major outbreaks.

AWARDS & HONOURS

Prestigious Whitley Award for Sanjay Gubbi

- Sanjay Gubbi of Karnataka and Purnima Barman of Assam have won the prestigious Whitley Award, popularly known as Green Oscars, for their efforts in wildlife conservation.
- The awards are instituted by the U.K.-registered charity Whitley Fund for Nature, which supports nature conservationists in their endeavour to conserve wildlife and nature.
- While Mr. Gubbi has been awarded for his work to protect tiger corridors in Karnataka, Ms. Barman has won the award for her work in conservation of Assam's Greater Adjutant Stork and its habitat.

ISRO conferred 2014 Indira Gandhi Peace Prize for historic Mars mission

- The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) was presented with the Indira Gandhi Prize for Peace, Disarmament and Development for 2014 at a function in New Delhi.
- In recognition of its path-breaking achievements, culminating in the Mars Orbiter Mission (MOM), also lovingly called 'Mangalyaan', ISRO was awarded the Prize, which was announced in the year 2014, for its significant contributions in strengthening international cooperation in the peaceful use of outer space etc.
- The award consists of a trophy made of banded Haematite Jasper, with a portrait of the late Prime Minister in the tradition of Jaipur miniature paintings, a cash award of Rs 1 Crore and a Citation.

- Mangalyaan, India's first interplanetary mission, has been orbiting Mars since its arrival at the Red Planet's orbit on September 24, 2014.
- ISRO created history in space after Mangalyaan successfully entered the Martian orbit in its first attempt, becoming the first space agency in the world to do so.

Sanjeev Gupta bags prestigious 'CEO of the Year' award in UK

- Britain's Indian-origin steel tycoon Sanjeev Gupta has bagged a top global award for his successful acquisitions and his drive to transform the steel industry in the UK, India and beyond.
- Gupta, the executive chairman of the Liberty House Group who has been behind a series of acquisitions in the British steel industry of former Tata Steel and Caparo assets, received the title "CEO of the Year" at the prestigious Platts Global Metals Awards in London

BOOKS & AUTHORS

President of India Receives First Copy of Book 'Metaphysics, Morals and Politics'

- The President of India, Shri Pranab Mukherjee received the first copy of book 'Metaphysics, Morals and Politics' from Prof. Amal Kumar Mukhopadhyaya In 1965, on the basis of his thesis, Prof. Mukhopadhyaya was awarded Ph.D. degree by London University.
- His thesis was published in a book titled 'The Ethics of Obedience'. Later, he decided to bring out his original thesis contradicting and elaborating some of his earlier arguments.

- Now, the book has come with a new title 'Metaphysics, Morals and Politics'.

PM Modi releases book written by Dr. MS Swaminathan

- The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi, today released a two-part book series on the eminent agricultural scientist Dr. M.S. Swaminathan.
- The series is titled - **M.S. Swaminathan: The Quest for a world without hunger**. Several Union Ministers and other dignitaries were present on the occasion.
- Mankombu Sambasivan Swaminathan (born on 7 August 1925) is an Indian geneticist and international administrator, renowned for his leading role in India's Green Revolution a program under which high-yield varieties of wheat and rice seedlings were planted in the fields of poor farmers.
- Swaminathan is known as "Indian Father of Green Revolution" for his leadership and success in introducing and further developing high-yielding varieties of wheat in India. He is the founder and chairman of the MS Swaminathan Research Foundation.
- His stated vision is to rid the world of hunger and poverty.

Air Marshal Pradhan takes over as Deputy Chief of Integrated

- Air Marshal PN Pradhan today took over as Deputy Chief of Integrated Defence Staff (Operations), a key platform to ensure a high degree of synergy between the armed forces.
- Pradhan has held several key positions including Assistant Chief of Air Staff (Transport

and Helicopters) at Air Headquarters and Senior Air Staff Officer at the Southern Air Command.

- He was closely associated with the induction and operationalisation of Embraer-135 and C-130 fleets in the IAF.
- For his distinguished service, Pradhan was awarded Ati Vishisht Seva Medal in 2014.
- Integrated Defence Staff was created in 2001 based on the recommendations of a Group of Ministers which were set up after the Kargil war to review India's defence management.

Indian men's team wins Compound gold in World Cup archery

- The Indian men's compound team struck gold on the penultimate day of the archery World Cup stage 1 championship in Shanghai, China on Saturday. The women's team, however, did not finish on the podium.
- India were represented by Abhishek Verma, Chinna Raju Srithar and Amanjeet Singh.
- India beat Colombia 226-221 for the gold. In the semifinal, India got the better of the United States 232-230 while India edge out Iran by an identical margin the quarterfinals. India beat Vietnam in the first round.
- The Colombian team comprised Camilo Andres Cardona, Jose Carlos Ospina and Daniel Munoz.
- The Indians grabbed a slender lead in the opening set by clinching it 58-57 and built on it in the next three to emerge triumphant. The Colombians did manage to tie the 3rd set 52-52.
- In the women's competition, Korea, Denmark and Russia finished in that order.

Iran election: Hassan Rouhani wins second term as president

- Iran's President Hassan Rouhani has been re-elected with an emphatic victory, official results show.
- Out of more than 40 million votes cast, he received 57%, defeating his main rival, a conservative cleric.
- Mr Rouhani, a moderate who agreed a deal with world powers to limit Iran's nuclear programme, pledged to "remain true" to his promises.
- The decisive victory gives him a strong mandate to seek reforms and revive Iran's ailing economy, analysts say.
- The president received close to 23 million votes, Interior Minister Abdul Reza Rahmani Fazli said on state television, in an election that had an unexpectedly high turnout of about 70%.

Indian boy wins top Intel science award in US

- An Indian boy has won the world's largest pre-college science competition in the US in the environmental engineering category for his project on biodegradation of pesticides.
- Prashant Ranganathan, a 12th grader from Jamshedpur, alongwith over 20 high school students from various parts of India, participated in the Intel International Science and Engineering Fair.
- Four Indian-Americans received top awards in various categories.
- In all, more than 1700 students from across the world participated in the week-long event which concluded here yesterday.

- Student of Carmel Junior College in Jamshedpur, Prashant's project 'Biodegradation of Chlorpyrifos using native bacteria' said that farmers should not use pesticides.
- Prashant who bagged the coveted award for his innovation for fighting against pesticide and getting rid of its side effects through biodegradable use.

IMPORTANT DAYS

Anti-Terrorism Day in India: 21 May

- India annually observes Anti-Terrorism Day on May 21.
- This is a very important memorial day for the country.
- May 21 was chosen as Anti-Terrorism Day since it's the day when Rajiv Gandhi, the seventh Prime Minister of India, was killed. He served as Prime Minister from 1984 to 1989 and was the youngest Indian prime minister.
- Anti-Terrorism Day has an objective to urge Indians to struggle for peace, unity and harmony and remind about the precaution measures that can help prevent terrorist attacks.

International Day for Biological Diversity - 22 May

- The United Nations has proclaimed May 22 The International Day for Biological Diversity (IDB) to increase understanding and awareness of biodiversity issues.
- When first created by the Second Committee of the UN General Assembly in late 1993, 29 December (the date of entry into force of the Convention of Biological Diversity), was

designated The International Day for Biological Diversity.

- In December 2000, the UN General Assembly adopted 22 May as IDB, to commemorate the adoption of the text of the Convention on 22 May 1992 by the Nairobi Final Act of the Conference for the Adoption of the Agreed Text of the Convention on Biological Diversity. 2017- Biodiversity and Sustainable Tourism

time, the aircraft's second prototype completed its maiden flight

- The aircraft, which was piloted by a Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) test pilot, had completed the high-speed taxi trials a few days ago.

Joint HADR Exercise Commences At Naval Station Karwar

- The Annual Joint Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) Exercise involving multiple agencies and being conducted by Indian Navy's Western Nava Command commenced at Naval Station Karwar
- "KARAVALI KARUNYA", the exercise, which involves both professional exchange and actual disaster response mechanisms is set on a Tsunami disaster scenario
- Two first-hand accounts of actual Tsunami relief operations, in 2004, were presented by Rear Admiral Suraj Berry and Colonel Vikram Sharma, both from Integrated Headquarter Ministry of Defence (Navy), bringing out the real scenario of 2004 Tsunami Hit areas in Sri Lanka; and Andaman and Nicobar Islands respectively.

Chitale Committee suggests measures for de-silting Ganga

- The Chitale Committee of the Ministry of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation has recommended creation of sand registry for de-silting of the Ganga
- The committee has recommended "a slew of measures" which includes study to guide de-silting activities, sand registry for de-silting

NATIONAL EVENTS

Haryana launches e-textbook portal for school students

- Students can now download school books instantly from the e-textbook portal of the Haryana School Education Board which was launched
- Inaugurating the website, Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar said as of now, 26 textbooks of classes IX to XII have been uploaded on the portal and these can be easily converted into audio files.
- These included 11 books of class IX, nine books of class X and three books each of classes XI and XII
- The portal also provides a facility to highlight certain portions of the e—textbooks making it easier for students to study

Hindustan Turbo Trainer-40: Maiden flight of 2nd prototype completed

- Just a year after the first flight of Hindustan Turbo Trainer-40 (HTT-40), a basic trainer aircraft had taken to the skies for the first

and a technical institute to conduct the sediment budget, flood routing studies and confirm the necessity of the de-silting of section of the river.

- The committee was asked to establish the difference between desilting and sand mining and also establish the need for desilting for ecology and environmental flow of the Ganga river.
- The committee, headed by expert member of National Ganga River Basin Authority Madhav Chitale, was constituted in July 2016 by the Ministry of Water Resources to prepare guidelines for desilting the Ganga from Bhimgauda in Uttarakhand to Farakka in West Bengal.

India to host annual meeting of African Development Bank

- India will be hosting the next annual meetings of the African Development Bank (AfDB) Group at Mahatma Gandhi Convention Centre, Ahmedabad from 22 to 26 May 2017.
- This will be a mega international event to be attended by over 5,000 delegates from 80 member countries of the African Development Bank, including the governors, alternate governors, executive directors, policy makers and businesses.
- The African Development Bank (AfDB) was established in 1963 with a view to promote the economic development and social progress of its regional members.
- India became member of the African Development Bank in 1983.
- The union finance minister and secretary, department of economic affairs, hold the

posts of governor and alternate governor, respectively, of the bank.

INTERNATIONAL EVENTS

Jaipur Literature Festival kicked off in London

- The Jaipur Literature Festival was today inaugurated in London to present a sumptuous showcase of South Asia's literary heritage, oral and performing arts, books and ideas, dialogue and debate.
- The British Library, the second largest library in the world by number of items catalogued, played host to the annual festival as part of the wider UK-India Year of Culture celebrations and included a wide array of authors and artists from India, the UK and beyond.
- The year 2017 marks the fourth London edition of the festival, which has its roots in the Pink City of Jaipur where it marked its 10th anniversary in January this year.
- The JLF is a flagship event of Teamwork Arts which produces over 25 major performing arts, visual arts and literary festivals across more than 40 cities globally.

Three Indian brands among world's top 50 luxury goods companies

Three Indian companies — Gitanjali Gems, Titan and PC Jeweller — have been named in the list of top 50 luxury goods firms globally that was topped by Louis Vuitton.

Gitanjali Gems Ltd was placed in the 30th rank, followed by Titan Company (31st) and PC Jeweller (44th) in the fourth annual Global Powers of Luxury Goods report.

Among the top 10 companies globally, three are

luxury conglomerates participating in multiple sectors of the luxury good market.

The fourth annual Global Powers of Luxury Goods report, titled 'The new luxury consumer', examines and lists the 100 largest luxury goods companies globally, based on publicly available data for consolidated sales of luxury goods in 2014 -2015.

Jordan's Azraq refugee camp becomes first to run entirely on solar energy

- A refugee camp in Jordan has become the first in the world to be powered by renewable energy.
- About 20,000 Syrian refugees living in the desert camp of Azraq will be able to use electricity generated by a solar plant.
- The new \$9.6m (£7.49m) two-megawatt solar plant was built by the Ikea Foundation's Brighter Lives for Refugees campaign and is expected to save \$1.5m (£1.15m) a year, which the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees will be able to use to improve sanitation, shelters and organise activities around the camp.
- Azraq's solar plant is connected to Jordan's national grid and the surplus electricity will be sent back for local communities to use for free.

SPORTS

Real Madrid wins its first Spanish title since 2012

- Real Madrid won the Spanish league for the first time in five years and kept rival Barcelona from its third straight championship.
- Zinedine Zidane's team secured its 33rd league title with a 2-0 win at Malaga with

goals by Cristiano Ronaldo and Karim Benzema.

- Madrid entered the final weekend needing a draw to guarantee its first title since 2012 and avoid its worst title drought since the 1980s.

Mumbai Indians beat Rising Pune Supergiant, become 3-time champions of IPL 2017

- Magnificent death bowling saw Mumbai Indians snatch an incredible one-run victory from the jaws of defeat against Rising Pune Supergiant in a thrilling grand finale of the Indian Premier League (IPL)
- This was Mumbai Indians' third IPL trophy in 10 editions and more special for their skipper Rohit Sharma, who is the only captain to win a hat-trick of titles. Rohit has in fact won four IPL titles (one for Deccan Chargers in 2009).
- For Mahendra Singh Dhoni, it was yet another final that ended in a defeat -- fifth in seven summit clashes.

13-year-old Indian girl wins Asia yoga championship

- Thirteen-year-old Vaishnavi of India beat hundreds of competitors to win the first Asia Level Yoga Competition.
- The competition, featuring teams from five nations, was held in Thailand
- Winning gold is nothing new for Vaishnavi— She has reportedly won more than 200 contests of the more than 1,000 she has entered.
- June 21 is International Day of Yoga. The U.N. designated the day on the urging of Indian

Prime Minister Narendra Modi who said yoga lets people "discover the sense of oneness with yourself, the world, and the nature."

Laxman wins All India Open Rapid FIDE Rating chess meet

- Grand Master R.R. Laxman of Integral Coach Factory finished on top with 9.5 points to win the All India Open Rapid FIDE Rating Chess Tournament at the Kshudiram Anushilan Kendra
- Fide Master Mitrabha Guha racked up 8.5 points to finish second in the 10-round tournament while untitled Srijit Paul (8) finished third ahead of Grand Master Saptarshi Roy Chowdhury with a better tie-break score.
- International Master Somak Palit scored 7.5 points to secure the fifth place while another International Master Prantik Roy (7) was placed eighth.

AWARDS & ACHIEVEMENTS

India jumps 16 places in world tourism ranking

- With the inclusion of non- resident Indians among international tourists, India has jumped 16 places in the revised World Tourism Organisation (UNWTO) rankings to settle at 24th for 2014 and 2015. Earlier, it was ranked 41st and 40th in 2014 and 2015, respectively, as per the global ranking.
- India has taken huge strides in the tourism sector in the last year with its rank in the Travel and Tourism Competitiveness Index (TTCI), 2017 had also shown a 12 places jump from 2015. Rank of India in TTCI Report of

2017 was 40 as compared to 52 in 2015, 65 in 2013 and 68 in 2011.

- While UNWTO gives ranking in terms of numbers of ITAs, TTCI is composed of 14 pillars organised into four sub-indices of 'Enabling Environment', 'Travel and Trade Policy and Enabling Conditions', 'Infrastructure' and 'Natural and Cultural Resources'.

Reliance Jio gets TM Forum's 'Digital Service Innovator of the Year Award'

- Reliance Jio has received TM Forum's 'Digital Service Innovator of the Year Award' 2017. TM Forum is the industry association driving digital business transformation of the communications industry.
- Reliance Jio got this award by acquiring 90 million customers in four months.
- Digital Service Innovator of the Year Award is given to the company or organisation which has made the most significant and innovative contribution to advancing the digital revolution in society.

Two Indian peacekeepers to be posthumously awarded United Nations medal

- Two Indian peacekeepers will be among 117 military, police and civilian personnel to be honoured with a prestigious United Nations medal awarded posthumously for their courage and sacrifice in the line of duty.
- Rifleman Brijesh Thapa who served with the United Nations Organisation Stabilisation Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Private Ravi Kumar who was deployed with the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon will be honoured with the

Dag Hammarskjöld Medal on the International Day of United Nations Peacekeepers to be observed on 24 May.

- The International Day of United Nations Peacekeepers was established by the General Assembly in 2002 as a tribute to all men and women serving in peacekeeping operations for their high level of professionalism, dedication and courage and to honour the memory of those who have lost their lives in the cause of peace.

Deveshwar, Soumitra Chatterjee conferred Bengal's highest civilian award

- Thespian Soumitra Chatterjee and India's longest serving boss Y.C. Deveshwar were conferred the Banga Samman, West Bengal's highest civilian award, by Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee
- The Banga Samman awards were instituted in 2011, after Banerjee came to power. Celebrated artistes, singers, sportspersons, filmmakers, intellectuals have been honoured with these awards in the past.
- Two categories of awards are presented as part of Banga Samman - Banga Bhushan and Banga Bibhushan.
- Industrialist Deveshwar, pulmonologist Dhiman Ganguly, former Mizoram Governor Arun Prasad Mukherjee, veteran actor Chatterjee, and acclaimed poet Nirendranath Chakraborty were conferred the highest category of awards, the Banga Bibhushan.

In tribute to Kalam, NASA names new species after him

- Scientists at NASA have named a new organism discovered by them after the much-loved APJ Abdul Kalam.
- Till date, the new organism—a form of a bacteria—has been found only on the International Space Station (ISS) and has not been found on earth
- Researchers at the Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL), the foremost lab of NASA for work on inter-planetary travel, discovered the new bacteria on the filters of the International Space Station (ISS) and named it Solibacillus kalamii to honour the late president, who was a renowned aerospace scientist.
- Kalam had his early training at NASA in 1963 before he set up India's first rocket-launching facility in the fishing village of Thumba in Kerala.

APPOINTMENTS

DRDO chief Dr S Christopher gets one-year extension

- The government on Friday approved a one-year extension in service to DRDO chief Dr S Christopher, an aeronautical scientist who was to retire later this month after a two-year term.
- The appointments committee of the cabinet said Dr Christopher would continue as secretary of the department of defence research and development and DRDO chairman for a period of one year with effect from May 29.

First ever transgender appointed as lecturer in Quaid-i-Azam University

- Breaking stereo types a lecturer from transgender community Aisha Mughal is appointed lecturer in Quaid-i-Azam University in Islamabad.
- It has happened for the very first time in the history of Pakistan that government has officially appointed a transgender as a teacher. Aisha has been appointed as the lecturer of the Department of Gender in Quaid-i-Azam University.
- Appointment of Aisha Mughal based on merit will signify that any sort of constraints don't matter if someone is competent enough to make name for good.

NATIONAL EVENTS

Suresh Prabhu to flag off Tejas Express

- The much-awaited 'Tejas Express' with ultra-modern amenities on board like LED TV, wi-fi, CCTV will be flagged off from Mumbai to Goa by Railway Minister Suresh Prabhu
- Tejas Express boasts of ultra-modern amenities like on-board infotainment, wi-fi, CCTV, fire and smoke detection facilities, tea/coffee vending machine etc.
- It is a super fast train, which will run at a speed of 130 kph.
- Tejas Express's executive class fare is Rs 2,680 (with food) and Rs 2,525 (without food), and for AC chair car the fare has been fixed at Rs 1,280 (with food) and Rs 1,155 (without food).
- Ticket booking for the inaugural run started on Sunday and in the first four hours, 207 passengers booked tickets for the AC chair car and 10 for executive AC chair car.

Bengaluru airport gets green certificate for reducing carbon emissions

- The Airports Council International has accredited Kempegowda International Airport with the 'Level 3 Plus Neutrality' certification under Airport Carbon Accreditation.
- The Bangalore International Airport Limited (BIAL) has upgraded the airport to this level, which is the highest level of environmental achievement available to airports, and becomes the fourth such green airport in Asia Pacific region, reducing carbon emissions by 57% since 2008.
- The Level 3 + certification was received in recognition of a series of green initiatives adopted by BIAL
- BIAL continues to work in collaboration with its partners within the eco-system to improve and reduce energy, constantly working towards carbon neutrality."

Madhya Pradesh government announces indefinite ban on sand mining in Narmada river

- Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan announced a blanket ban on sand mining in river Narmada – considered the lifeline of the central Indian state.
- The committee which will recommend the state government measures for scientific mining will be headed by MP's minister for mineral resources, commerce and industry Rajendra Shukla.
- It will work along with experts from Indian Institute of Technology (IIT-Kharagpur) in developing a blueprint for scientific mining in river Narmada.

- Till the time the committee submits its report, sand mining will be banned in the river,
- Chouhan also announced that the government has decided a crackdown against illegal mining in all other rivers in the state and also ban on use of machines for mining in rivers in the state

INTERNATIONAL EVENTS

52nd Annual Meeting of African Development Bank-2017

- The 52nd Annual Meetings of the African Development bank are being held in Gandhinagar, Gujarat from 22 to 26 May 2017.
- This is the first time that the Annual Meetings of AfDB are being held in India.
- These Meetings are the Bank's largest annual event and serve to raise the profile of the institution on the global stage.
- In addition to the Annual Meeting of the Board of Governors, these Meetings will bring together about 3000 delegates and participants, and will feature a number of official, knowledge, and side events.
- The Governors of the Bank are from the 54 African regional member countries and 27 non-regional member countries (including India).
- The Annual Meetings provide a unique forum for representatives of government, business, civil society, think-tanks, academia and the media – from Africa and beyond – to debate key issues on Africa's development, and to discuss the Bank's performance in delivering on its mandate.

- India joined the African Development Fund in 1982, and became a member of the Bank in 1983. India is a non-regional member of the Bank.
- India and Africa share a great relationship, and have great degree of commonalities in terms of a shared history, and current challenges. In the recent past, we have taken a number of initiatives to further deepen our association.

Saudi King presents Trump with top civilian honour

- Saudi Arabia's King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud presented Donald Trump with the kingdom's top civilian honour on Saturday, as the US President began a trip to Riyadh aimed at strengthening security and economic ties.
- King Salman decorated Trump with the gold King Abdulaziz medal during a meeting at the royal court in the Saudi capital. He declared Trump was being honoured for "his quest to enhance security and stability in the region and around the world".
- The medal has also been bestowed to Russian President Vladimir Putin, British Prime Minister Theresa May and Trump's predecessor, Barack Obama.

Drake bagged 13 Awards at 2017 Billboard Music Awards

- Drake was the big winner at the 2017 Billboard Music Awards.
- In fact, the rapper took home 13 awards, making him the artist with the most in a single year -- beating Adele's record of 12.

Top Artist	Drake
Top New Artist	Zayn
Billboard Chart Achievement Award Presented by Xfinity	Twenty One Pilots
Top Male Artist	Drake
Top Female Artist	Beyonce
Top Duo/Group	Twenty One Pilots
Top Billboard 200 Artist	Drake
Top Hot 100 Artist	Drake
Top Song Sales Artist	Drake

SPORTS

India win all 10 gold in South Asian Junior TT

- India added six more gold on the concluding day to win all 10 gold medals on offer in the South Asian Junior Table Tennis Championships at Mount Lavinia
- In addition, they also claimed four silver medals for a total of 14 medals from the regional championships.
- After winning four gold medals in team events on the first two days of the three-day championships, the Indian paddlers continued their domination in two doubles events and followed them up with gold in all singles
- In junior boys final, top-seed Manav Thakkar defeated Parth Virmani 11-6, 6-11, 11-7, 11-9 for the gold.
- Umesh Tennakon and KDV Madhushan, who lost their semi-final matches to Manav and Parth, respectively.
- In junior girls final, top seed Archana Girish Kamath accounted for second seed Priyanka

Pareek 11-9, 11-5, 11-7 to share the gold and silver medals.

Zverev Beats Djokovic to Clinch Italian Open Title

- German youngster Alexander Zverev pulled off the biggest win of his career when he beat world number two Novak Djokovic 6-4 6-3 to win the Italian Open
- Zverev broke again in the third game of the second set and clinched the match with another break in the ninth game.
- Djokovic, who has wrestled with injuries and lack of confidence since winning the French Open last June, had looked his old dominant self when he beat Dominic Thiem in Saturday's semi-final but was unable to recapture that form

Bengaluru FC wins Federation Cup

- AFC Cup finalist Bengaluru FC redeemed some pride by edging out Mohun Bagan 2-0 in the

summit clash and claiming its second Federation Cup crown at the Barabati Stadium

- FC overcame a bit of hard luck to ride on C.K. Vineeth's extra-time brace and bag the prestigious title despite the unavailability of two of key players, Sunil Chhetri and Cameron Watson.
- BFC showed a big heart and fought bravely even as Bagan had the ball in control for most part of the goalless first half.
- Most importantly, the Blues stuck to their well-planned defensive structure, led by John Johnson, Juanan Fernandez and Sandesh Jhingan, to close the gaps and force Bagan have a go at the goal through corners, free-kicks and long balls.

India clinch women's quadrangular series

- India capped their brilliant run to clinch the women's quadrangular cricket series by defeating hosts South Africa by eight wickets in the final played at Potchefstroom.
- India warmed up in great fashion ahead of next month's World Cup, to be played in England, finishing the tournament with a 7-1 win-loss record, the only reverse having come against the hosts at the fag end of the league phase.
- In the final, India dismissed South Africa for 156 and then chased down the target in 33 overs, reaching 160 for two. Poonam Raut was unbeaten on 70 and skipper Mithali Raj was 62 not out.
- Pacer Jhulan Goswami, who holds the record for most ODI wickets, claimed three for 22 and leg-spinner Poonam Yadav took 3/32 to wrap up South Africa's innings in 40.2 overs.

Bhuvneshwar 1st to win Purple Cap in 2 straight IPL seasons

- Sunrisers Hyderabad pacer Bhuvneshwar Kumar became the first bowler to win the Purple Cap in two successive IPL seasons, ending the 2017 edition as the highest wicket-taker.
- Bhuvneshwar finished IPL 2017 with 26 wickets from 14 matches, while he had picked up 23 wickets in 17 matches last season.
- He claimed his first T20 five-wicket haul in this IPL season.

Sweden beat Canada to win ice hockey world title

- Sweden has won the ice hockey world championship, beating favourites Canada in a dramatic penalty shootout.
- The teams were tied at 1-1 after three periods in Cologne, Germany, with Victor Hedman scoring for the Swedes and Canada's Ryan O'Reilly equalising.
- The overtime brought no goals, but the Scandinavians then were twice on target in the shootout, while the North Americans again failed to score.
- By winning their 10th world title, Sweden dethroned last year's champions

Jinder Mahal beats Randy Orton to win WWE Championship at Backlash

- Indian-origin wrestler Jinder Mahal clinched the WWE Championship after beating Randy Orton at pay-per-view event Backlash.
- In the process, Mahal, who is a Canadian national, has become the second wrestler of Indian descent to win a world heavyweight championship in the promotion.

- The Great Khali had won the now-defunct World Heavyweight Championship in 2007.

AWARDS & APPOINTMENTS

Jacqueline Fernandez wins humanitarian award for her philanthropic work in India

- Bollywood actress Jacqueline Fernandez has been awarded the International Humanitarian Award for her work in India and worldwide at the second annual Asian Voice Charity Awards.
- The 31-year-old actress-model dedicated her award to Habitat for Humanity, an international charity fighting poverty
- The event, which recognises charities making a difference across the world, presented awards across different categories, including charity of the year to mental health charity Anxiety UK and most enterprising charity to South Asian dance charity Akademi

Cochin Port Trust bags two awards

- Cochin Port Trust has received two Best Performance Awards from Ministry of Shipping for the highest growth in operating surplus and also for achieving third highest growth in cargo traffic among the major ports in the year 2016-17.
- The awards were received from Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways and Shipping Nitin Gadkari by P Raveendran, Chairman and A V Ramana, Dy Chairman, Cochin Port Trust at a function held at Goa yesterday, Port Trust officials said.
- Cochin Port Trust has registered an operating profit of Rs 127.72 crore during 2016-17 as

against Rs 70.89 crore during 2015-16 recording a growth of 80 per cent.

- Operating profit during 2014-15 was Rs 19.55 crore.
- The Port handled 25.01 MMT cargo during 2016-17 with a growth of 13.2 per cent over 22.10 MMT handled in 2015-16.
- The containers handled during 2016-17 is 4.91 lakh TEUs with a growth of 17.0 per cent over 4.20 lakh TEUs in 2015-16.

Indian-born woman elected to City of London Corporation

- A 43-year-old UK entrepreneur has become the first India-born woman to be elected as a councillor to a ward in the UK.
- Rehana Ameer, who was born and raised in Chennai, contested from Vintry ward in the City of London county as an independent candidate
- She was elected as a councillor to the Court of Common Council, becoming the first India-born woman to be elected to the City of London Corporation.
- She aims to promote the city's businesses in international markets and develop the city's presence overseas.
- The City corporation is the richest local authority in the country which controls the 1.3 billion pounds city cash fund. The City of London is divided into 25 wards and elected councillors represent each ward.

Tata Sons hires Saurabh Agrawal as group CFO

- Tata Group Chairman N Chandrasekaran announced a key recruitment at holding company Tata Sons on Monday — of veteran

investment banker Saurabh Agrawal as group chief financial officer.

- Agrawal, who will join from July, is currently the head of the strategy with the Aditya Birla Group.
- As group CFO at Tata Sons, he will have to focus on bringing back some of the loss-making businesses on track. Agrawal was instrumental in handling the Idea-Vodafone merger deal, as well as the Grasim-Aditya Birla Nuvo merger for the Birla entity.
- It will be the second big appointment by Chandrasekaran, after that of Ankur Verma, former managing director of investment banking at Bank of America Merrill Lynch, who joined Tata Group in March.

- The deployment of SPOK will improve customer experience, while providing the support staff with the bandwidth to focus on customer satisfaction and delight.
- HDFC Life has embarked on this initiative in collaboration with Senseforth, a startup that offers a wide range of enterprise bots built on its AI platform.
- Artificial intelligence special purpose bots learn and evolve based on guided learning principles and are proficient with customer emotion. This will help HDFC Life constantly enhance customer experience going forward.

RBI to reconstitute oversight committee to deal with bad loans

- The Reserve Bank will reconstitute the oversight committee (OC) under its aegis to operationalise the banking ordinance for resolving the issue of bad loans that have soared to over Rs 8 lakh crore.
- The central bank said it has been decided to reconstitute the OC under the aegis of the central bank and also proposed to enlarge the committee to include more members so that it can constitute requisite benches to deal with the volume of cases referred.
- The existing OC, which has two members, was constituted by the Indian Banks' Association (IBA).
- Outlining the action plan to implement the Banking Regulation (Amendment) Ordinance, 2017, the RBI said it is also working on a framework to facilitate an "objective and consistent" decision-making process for cases that may be referenced for resolution under the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016 (IBC).

BANKING & FINANCE

HDFC Life brings India's first AI-based insurance email bot SPOK

- HDFC Life, one of India's top private life insurance companies today announced the launch its first life insurance email bot.
- The AI based email bot, named SPOK is claimed to be first in India that automatically read, understand, categorise, prioritise and respond to customer emails that are sent to HDFC Life, within milliseconds.
- This automation initiative will enable HDFC Life to respond to user queries faster and more efficiently and consistently.
- It will also help generate deeper insight on customer needs by identifying patterns in customer interactions and facilitating HDFC Life to progressively anticipate and address all customer issues and needs.

Rijju unveils world's first philosophical novel on God in Delhi

- In a rare feat, a young Indian IAS officer, Haulianlal Guite, who hails from country's most remote areas of Manipur state has recently published a book titled "Confessions of a dying mind: the blind faith of atheism" in New Delhi.
- The book was unveiled by Union Minister Kiren Rijju in presence of David Syiemlieth, Chairman, UPSC in august gathering at Civil Services Officers' Institute
- The book billed as "the world's first philosophical novel for God", whose author is arguably the first Indian civil servant to write on philosophy since John Stuart Mill published On Liberty way back in 1858.
- The book explores the nature of science, religion, evidence and even love in light of leading developments. It makes use of the latest findings of modern science and the most solid theories in philosophy.
- "Confessions of a Dying Mind" also presents some interesting arguments against atheism by using the theories and findings of atheists themselves.
- "Confessions of the dying mind" is the first of the three volumes and arguments and storylines of the novel are yet to be completed, the author disclosed.
- The book is published by Bloomsbury Publishing, a British independent, worldwide publishing house of fiction and non-fiction.

- The world's smallest republic, the tiny island nation of Nauru — has become the sixth country to ratify the International Solar Alliance (ISA) Framework pact initiated by the Indian and French governments at the climate change summit held at Paris in 2015.
- Five more African nations — Comoros, Cote d'Ivoire, Somalia, Ghana and Djibouti — have committed to sign the Solar Alliance pact during the ongoing meeting of the African Development bank in India.
- Nauru, which has a population of just 10,200-odd and the highest point on its terrain is only 65 metres above sea level, is particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change, said the country's commerce, industry and environment minister Aaron Cook before handing over the ratification document to Union Finance, Defence and Corporate Affairs Minister Arun Jaitley

IIT-Kharagpur signs MoU with Madhya Pradesh for measuring happiness index

- IIT Kharagpur's Rekhi Centre of Excellence for the Science of Happiness has signed an MoU with Madhya Pradesh government to collaborate on the development of a Happiness Index for measuring the well-being of the people of the state.
- The MoU was signed with MP government's 'Rajya Anandam Sansthan' (Department of Happiness) in the presence of MP Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan and IIT-KGP Director Prof P P Chakrabarti at Bhopal recently, an IIT-KGP
- IIT-KGP will develop the index and analyse data collected by the state government to

World's smallest nation ratifies Solar Alliance Pact

assess the level of happiness and chalk out recommendations that can be used to enhance happiness

- It will also develop an online screening and assessment system in order to screen and identify suitable volunteers from the database of more than 30,000 people who have offered to be part of the collaborative exercise.

Paytm launches payments bank; offers 4% interest

- Targeting 500 million customers by 2020, digital payments firm Paytm on Tuesday launched its payments bank with 4 percent interest rate and cashbacks on deposits, zero fees on online transactions and no minimum balance requirement.
- Backed by Chinese firm Alibaba and Japanese conglomerate SoftBank, the company has earmarked initial investment of Rs 400 crore to build its banking network over two years.
- Paytm is the third entity in the country to launch a payments bank after Airtel and India Post.
- This will be a mobile-first product with first-of-its-kind feature of cashback on deposits. Every customer, to open a Payments Bank account, will get a cashback of Rs 250 as soon they bring deposits of a total of Rs 25,000 in their bank account.
- The account will have zero balance requirement and every online transaction (such as IMPS, NEFT, RTGS) will be free of charge

Paytm to bank on two new board members

- Paytm Payments Bank has roped in two new independent directors - former executive

director of the Reserve Bank of India PV Bhaskar and former Shriram Group director GS Sundarajan -who have joined the five member board.

- Apart from Paytm CEO Vijay Shekhar Sharma and Renu Satti, CEO of Paytm Payments Bank, the board also includes Paytm cofounder Ash Lilani.
- Paytm held a board meeting to formally approve the launch of the Paytm Payments Bank, which kicked off its banking operations.
- Sharma will be the non-executive chairman of the board, while Satti will be director on the board. Bhaskar, Lilani and Sundarajan have joined the board as independent directors.
- Bhaskar, who has over three decades of work experience at the banking regulator, was heading the central security cell, Department of Banking Supervision and Department of Non-Banking Supervision till recently.

The first one-bit chemical memory unit—the 'chit'

- In classical computer science, information is stored in bits; in quantum computer science, information is stored in quantum bits, or qubits. Experiments at the Institute of Physical Chemistry of the Polish Academy of Sciences in Warsaw prove that chemistry is also a suitable basis for storing information. The chemical bit, or 'chit,' is a simple arrangement of three droplets in contact with each other, in which oscillatory reactions occur.
- The chemical foundation of this form of memory is the Belousov-Zhabotinsky (BZ) reaction. The course of the reaction is oscillatory.

- When one cycle ends, the reagents necessary to start the next cycle are reconstituted in the solution.
- Before the reaction stops, there are usually several tens to hundreds of oscillations.
- They are accompanied by a regular change in the colour of the solution, caused by ferriin—the reaction catalyst.
- The second catalyst used by the Warsaw researchers was ruthenium.
- The introduction of ruthenium causes the BZ reaction to become photosensitive—when the solution is illuminated by blue light, it ceases to oscillate. This feature makes it possible to control the course of the reaction.

Google's AlphaGo A.I. beats world's number one in ancient game of Go

- Google computer beat the world's number one player of the ancient Chinese board game Go, signifying a major breakthrough in artificial intelligence.
- Global champ Chinese player Ke Jie, lost his first game against Google DeepMind computer program AlphaGo in Wuzhen.
- With two remaining matches, Ke, 19, could still obliterate AlphaGo and take home \$1.5 million in prize money, maintaining his status as the absolute best.
- But if he loses, that would solidify machine domination in one of the world's most complex games.
- The game, Go, originated thousands of years ago in China, and has two players taking turns placing black and white stones on a square board of 19 lines by 19 lines.
- The object is to take territorial control of the board by surrounding the opponent. Games

can go on for hours, and playing requires immense mental stamina, intuition, and strategy.

- AlphaGo was trained by studying how human experts have played in the past

Dubai has recruited the world's first robot police officer

- Dubai will now have a robot patrolling the city streets as a police officer.
- The world's first operational robot police officer was officially inducted into the Dubai police force at the 4th Gulf Information Security Expo and Conference (GISEC)
- This robot -- or as it is known, the robocop -- is around 5-foot tall and weighs a 100kg. It can not only identify hand gestures from a distance of up to 1.5 metres, but can also detect people's emotions and facial expressions.
- In other words, the robocop can tell when you are happy, sad or even smiling, and will itself respond accordingly "to put people at ease".
- The robocop will not just be a great help for the police force, but also for law-abiding citizens. People in Dubai can use its built-in tablet device to complete various police services.

Anurag Tripathy Appointed as Secretary of CBSE

- Senior bureaucrat Anurag Tripathy was today appointed as the secretary of the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE).
- Tripathy, a 1998 batch officer of Indian Railway personnel Service (IRPS), has been appointed to the post for a period of five years.

DIPP amends definition of Startup

- The Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion (DIPP) amended the definition of a Startup.
- New Definition of Startup:**
- An entity will be considered as a Start-Up if its turnover is less than Rs 25 crore and has not completed seven years from the date of its incorporation/registration.

Rajan Anandan has been appointed as the new chairman of Internet and Mobile Association of India (IAMAI)

- Google's vice-president for South East Asia and India, Rajan Anandan has been appointed as the new chairman of Internet and Mobile Association of India (IAMAI).
- Rajan will succeed FreeCharge's co-founder and chief executive officer, Kunal Shah.

PM to Inaugurate Country's Longest Bridge in Assam

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate India's longest river bridge – the Dhola-Sadia Bridge in Assam. The construction of the bridge began in 2011.

Nepal Prime Minister Prachanda resigns

- Nepal Prime Minister Pushpa Kamal Dahal 'Prachanda' has resigned from his post. He was elected as the 39th Prime Minister of Nepal.
- Prachanda has stepped down honouring a power-sharing agreement entered by him with

the ruling partner Nepali Congress on August 3, 2016.

- As per the agreement, Dahal, who is the Chairman of CPN (Maoist Centre) was to have a brief stint of 9 months and will be succeeded by Nepali Congress president Sher Bahadur Deuba. It was agreed that the government will be run on a rotational basis until elections to Parliament are held in February 2018.

Swachh Bharat App Launched

- Culture Minister Mahesh Sharma has launched Swachh Bharat app at the National Museum in New Delhi. The app will enable visitors to report garbage on the premises of the ASI (the Archaeological Survey of India) monuments across the country.
- The visitors with the help of the app would be permitted to report the culture ministry any litter or garbage on the premises of the monuments.

NATIONAL EVENTS

Centre bans sale of cows for slaughter at animal markets, restricts cattle trade

- The government has banned the sale of cows and buffaloes for slaughter through animal markets, rules that will hurt millions of poor farmers and squeeze supplies to the country's meat industry.
- The new rules do not amount to a blanket ban on cattle trade or their slaughter, and license breeding remains legal.
- But the move will crimp supplies to the country's Rs 1-lakh crore meat and allied industries which sources about 90% of their requirements from animal markets.

- The worst hit, however, will be the mostly Muslim meat and leather traders who face mounting violence by increasingly assertive cow vigilante groups.
- Farmers will also be hit because they will be deprived of a traditional source of income from selling non-milch and ageing cattle.
- The rule also prescribes about 30 norms for animal welfare in markets, including water, fans, bedding, ramps, non-slippery flooring, veterinary facility and separate enclosure for sick animals. The rule says "young" and "unfit animals" cannot be sold.
- No animal market will now be able to run without approval of district animal market committee to be headed by a magistrate and having two representatives of government-approved animal welfare groups.

Narayanasamy presents tax-free Puducherry budget

- Puducherry Chief Minister V. Narayanasamy presented a tax-free budget of ₹ 6,945 crore for 2017-18.
- The contribution from own resources was estimated to be Rs. 4,022 crore.
- With key focus on agriculture, animal husbandry and infrastructure development, the Chief Minister announced the government decision to provide free electricity to motor pump sets used by farmers.
- The government had also decided to bear the expenditure towards farmer's share of the insurance premium under the 'Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojan.'
- The government also proposed to provide insurance cover for both Samba and Navarai

crops covering 12,500 hectares.

PM lays foundation of AIIMS to be set up at Changsari, Assam

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi today laid the foundation stone of All India Institute of Medical
- Sciences (AIIMS), Guwahati to be set up at Changsari in Assam's Kamrup district.
- Guwahati AIIMS will be constructed under the Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojana at an estimated cost of Rs 1,123 crore.
- Earlier, the prime minister arrived at the Lokopriyo Gopinath Bordoloi International Airport from Dibrugarh after inaugurating the nation's longest river bridge - the Dhola-Sadiya bridge over Lohit river and laying the foundation of the Indian Agricultural Research Institute at Gogamukh in Dhemaji district.

BANKING & FINANCE

RBI allows co-operative banks to issue mobile wallets

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has allowed co-operative banks, who are permitted to install ATMs and issue debit cards, to also issue prepaid payment instruments PPIs like mobile wallets.
- In a notification, RBI laid down strict norms and conditions to be followed by co-operative banks before permitting them to issue wallets for utility bill payments and other activities up to a limit of Rs 10,000.
- The apex bank also laid down various criteria like banks should be core banking or CBS compliant, with net non-performing assets

being less than 3 per cent and also being profitable in the previous financial year.

- Further, the RBI has also mandated that the bank should have internal and audit inspection processes both for its branches as well as the head office.
- RBI has also mandated that there should be no monetary penalty being imposed on the entity during the last two financial years and the bank should also have a comprehensive customer grievance redressal mechanism.

INTERNATIONAL EVENTS

Amul Thapar becomes second Indian-American judge of US Court of Appeals

- Amul Thapar became the second Indian-American judge of an appeals court with the United States senate confirming his appointment to the Cincinnati-based Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals.
- Thapar was confirmed by a 52-44 vote.
- Shri Srinivasan, who was appointed to the DC circuit court of appeals by President Barak Obama and confirmed in 2013, is the first Indian American ever to be named as judge to the American counterpart of India's high courts.
- Thapar was also on Trump's list of candidates for a vacancy on the Supreme Court, for which he eventually picked Neil Gorsuch, who has since been confirmed. Thapar is President Trump's second judicial nominee to be confirmed.
- Thapar, 47, was born in Detroit to immigrants from India, Raj Thapar and Veena Bhalla. He went to college in Boston, and studied law at University of California, Berkeley.

- Thapar was appointed to the US District Court for the Eastern District of Kentucky in 2008 by former President George W. Bush. He had earlier served as US attorney for the Eastern District of Kentucky, and assistant US Attorney in the Southern District of Ohio and Washington DC.

INDEX & RANKING

RIL leads 58 Indian firms in Forbes Global 2000 latest list

- Mukesh Ambani-led Reliance Industries (RIL) is the highest ranked Indian firm in Forbes magazine's 'Global 2000' list this year which sees the number of Indian companies in 2017 rising to 58 from last year's 56.
- Reliance Industries is followed by State Bank of India, the country's largest lender, ranked 244 this year (149 last year), and state-run oil explorer ONGC ranked 246 (220 last year).
- Four other Indian banks, which are all privately owned -- HDFC Bank (258), ICICI Bank (310), Axis Bank (463) and Kotak Mahindra Bank (744) -- are among the top 20 Indian companies in the overall list.
- Tata Motors has retained its sixth position among Indian companies, but fell in terms of overall ranking to 290 (278 last year).

Travellers' choice: Taj Mahal only Indian monument to figure in top 10 global landmarks

- Taj Mahal, the magnificent monument of love, has made it to the top 10 landmarks in the world by securing fifth position in the list.
- One of the most iconic wonders in the world, the Agra-based imposing white marble structure, a tourist delight, is the only Indian

monument to figure in the world's top 10 Travellers' Choice awards for Landmarks.

- Angkor Wat in Siem Reap (Cambodia) topped the list followed by Sheikh Zayed Grand Mosque Center in Abu Dhabi (UAE), Mezquita Cathedral de Cordoba in Cordoba (Spain) and St Peter's Basilica in Vatican City (Italy).
- Church of the Savior on Spilled Blood in St Petersburg (Russia) was at No. 6 position and Great Wall at Mutianyu in Beijing (China) was at No. 7.
- Machu Picchu (Peru) at No. 8, Plaza de Espana (Spain) at No. 9 and Duomo di Milano (Italy) at No. 10 completed the list.
- However, according to the Asia list, Taj Mahal was at No. 2 spot after Angkor Wat.
- Among other Asian monuments Great Wall at Mutianyu (China) was at No. 3 position followed by Temple of the Reclining Buddha (Wat Pho) (Thailand), Fushimi Inari in Kyoto (Japan), Petronas Twin Towers (Malaysia), Shwedagon Pagoda in Yangon (Myanmar), Cu Chi Tunnels in Ho Chi Minh City (Vietnam), The Grand Palace (Thailand) and Kinkakuji Temple in Kyoto (Japan).

- FDI by capital investment saw an increase of 2 per cent to USD 62.3 billion in 809 projects during 2016 in India.
- In 2016, greenfield FDI continued to rise worldwide, with capital investment increasing by more than 6 per cent to USD 776.2 billion, its highest since 2011, alongside an increase in job creation by 5 per cent to 2.02 million. However, the number of FDI projects declined 3 per cent to 12,644.
- China has overtaken the US to become the second biggest country for FDI by capital investment, recording USD 59 billion of announced FDI, compared with USD 48 billion-worth in the US.

HDFC among top 10 consumer financial services companies globally

- Mortgage lender HDFC Ltd is the only Indian company to be named among the top 10 consumer financial services companies in the world, with American Express claiming the first position.
- With profits of \$1.6 billion and sales of \$8.1 billion HDFC was ranked seventh on the Forbes Global List 2017 in the consumer financial services sector -- same as last year.
- The company has been featured in the coveted list for the third consecutive year.
- American Express topped the list, followed by Capital One Financial and Visa in the second and third place, respectively.
- The other consumer finance services companies that made it into the list include Orix at the fourth place, Synchrony Financial (5th), Discover Financial Services (6th), Mastercard (8th), PayPal (9th) and CIT group (10th).

India retains world's highest FDI recipient crown: Report

- India retained its numero uno position as the world's top most greenfield FDI investment destination for the second consecutive year, attracting USD 62.3 billion in 2016,
- India has remained ahead of China and the US as far as FDI inflows were concerned in the last year, said the fDi Report 2017 compiled by fDi Intelligence, a division of The Financial Times Ltd.

BOOKS & AUTHORS

'Mann Ki Baat – A Social Revolution on Radio'

- After radio address, Prime Minister Narendra Modi's 'Mann Ki Baat' will now be available in a book titled 'Mann Ki Baat – A Social Revolution on Radio'. On the occasion of the third anniversary of the Narendra Modi government, the book was launched by Lok Sabha Speaker Sumitra Mahajan.
- The first copy of the book was received by President Pranab Mukherjee.
- The book 'Mann Ki Baat: A Social Revolution on Radio' by Shri Rajesh Jain is a compilation of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's addresses to the nation on radio every month under the programme 'Mann Ki Baat'.
- It contains a comprehensive, qualitative and academic analysis of 'Mann Ki Baat' – the themes, the choice of topics, the salient features.
- It illustrates how 'Mann Ki Baat' has connected with the 'New India' – the youth in particular.
- It also presents a coherent narrative about the manner in which 'Mann Ki Baat' has created mass movements, be it in cleanliness, in promoting India's tourism potential, safer roads, drugs free India etc.

Marching with a Billion- Analysing Narendra Modi's Government at Midterm'

- The President of India, Shri Pranab Mukherjee received the first copy of 'Marching with a Billion- Analysing Narendra Modi's Government at Midterm' from Smt. Sumitra Mahajan, Speaker Lok Sabha who formally

released it at a function to be held at Rashtrapati Bhavan

- The book 'Marching with a Billion- Analysing Narendra Modi's Government at Midterm' written by eminent journalist Shri Uday Mahurkar analyses the monumental changes that Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has brought on multiple fronts as Prime Minister on India's governance landscape by ushering in an unprecedented culture of transparency to create a level playing field so necessary in a developing country.

Virat Kohli's Winning Formula Revealed in New Book

- A new book "Winning like Virat: Think & Succeed like Kohli" by Abhirup Bhattacharya, unravels the secrets of the cricketer's consistent form, while attempting to decode his philosophy towards life.
- In the book, the writer etches Virat's success curve by using statistics that chart his performances and anecdotes from his predecessors and contemporaries in the game.
- According to Bhattacharya, it is only Virat Kohli who has managed to enjoy a fandom that comes even close to the popularity of Sachin Tendulkar.
- The book also throws light of Virat's exceptional efficiency as a family man, who manages to take time out for his mother, brother and sister, despite a taxing schedule.
- A detailed study of his fitness regime that turned the chubby Delhi boy into a sprinter between the wickets, and his unmatched charm as a brand ambassador for products, also find mention in the book.

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

NASA's Juno Probe Finds Earth-Sized Storms Over Jupiter Poles

- Jupiter's poles are covered in Earth-sized swirling storms that are densely clustered and rubbing together, reveals first science results from NASA's Juno mission to the largest planet in our solar system.
- The results also showed that Jupiter's magnetic field is even stronger than models expected, and more irregular in shape.
- Measurements of the massive planet's magnetosphere, from Juno's magnetometer investigation (MAG) indicates the magnetic field greatly exceeded expectations at 7.766 Gauss, about 10 times stronger than the strongest magnetic field found on Earth.

After 84 years, cobra lily rediscovered in Nilgiris

- The incredibly rare *Arisaematranslucens*, more commonly known as the cobra lily, was recently rediscovered in the western Nilgiris after 84 years by nature enthusiasts K.M. Prabhu Kumar and Tarun Chhabra.
- Featuring a distinctive translucent spathe, it was last collected by E. Barnes in 1932 and described by C.E.C Fischer in 1933.
- Barely a few hundred cobra lily plants are left in the wild and they can be found only in a small area measuring less than 10 square kilometres in the Nilgiris.
- The Toda tribals of the Nilgiris, who know the plant well, have an embroidery motif known as the 'podwarshk', which resembles it

Supercop KPS Gill, who crushed Punjab militancy, passes away

- K P S Gill, the supercop credited with rooting out terrorism in Punjab with an iron hand, passed away succumbing to a kidney ailment at the age of 82.
- The IPS officer, who served as the Director General of Punjab Police twice during the peak of militancy, was considered an authority on dealing with security issues and even after his retirement, his services were utilised by the governments of Chhattisgarh and Gujarat.
- The daring and outspoken officer who led from the front headed Punjab Police from 1988 to 1990 and then again from 1991 until his retirement from service in 1995.
- He is credited with breaking the backbone of Khalistani terrorism in Punjab and finally eliminating it by adopting tough measures.
- A major feather in his crown was added when he commanded 'Operation Black Thunder' in May 1988 to flush out militants hiding in the Golden Temple in Amritsar.
- was a huge success as little damage was caused to the holiest shrine of Sikhs, compared to 'Operation Blue Star' in 1984 carried out by the Army.
- In the Operation Black Thunder, around 67 Sikh militants had surrendered and 43 were killed.

India's First Electric Mass Mobility System Launched in Nagpur

- Nagpur today earned the distinction of becoming the country's first city with electric fleet of 200 electric vehicles, including taxis, buses, e-rickshaw and autos.

OBITUARY

- All these electric-powered public transport vehicles will be fully owned by cab aggregator Ola.

India inks 4 pacts with Mauritius during Jugnauth's visit

India has extended a 500 million dollar line of credit to Mauritius. The Line of Credit has been signed between SBM Mauritius Infrastructure Development Co. Ltd and Export-Import Bank of India.

Four Agreements

- Oceanography Institute in marine sciences and technology.
- Agreement on Maritime Security
- Memorandum of understanding (MoU) for setting up of a civil services college in Mauritius.
- MoU was signed between the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) and Mauritius
- Submission of instrument of ratification of International Solar Alliance (ISA) by Mauritius.

Apple opens first Southeast Asia store in Singapore

- Apple opened its first Southeast Asia store in Singapore yesterday. Office is located on the affluent Orchard Road

PM lays Foundation Stone for AIIMS at Changsari

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi has laid the foundation stone for All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) at Changsari in the Kamrup District of Assam.
- The institute will have a hospital comprising of 750 beds, 22 super speciality departments including 16 operation theatres.

DIPP gets back power to grant industrial licences for defence manufacturing

- The power to grant licence for defence manufacturing is back with the Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion a few months after the Home Ministry was given the responsibility.
- The decision was taken considering the workload of Home Ministry which has to look after security concerns of the entire country.

IMPORTANT DAYS

International Day of United Nations Peacekeepers: 29 May

- 29 May is the International Day of United Nations Peacekeepers.
- The day was established to honour the memory of the UN peacekeepers who have lost their lives in the cause of peace;
- Pay tribute to all the men and women who have served and continue to serve in UN peacekeeping operations for their high level of professionalism, dedication and courage.
- The theme for the 2017 International Day of UN Peacekeepers is "Investing in Peace Around the World."
- The Day offers a chance to pay tribute to the uniformed and civilians personnel's invaluable contribution to the work of the Organization and to honour more than 3,500 peacekeepers who have lost their lives serving under the UN flag since 1948.

International Day of Action for Women's Health: May 28

- May 28 is the International Day of Action for Women's Health, which for over 30 years, women's rights advocates and allies in the sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) movement worldwide have commemorated in diverse ways.
- Year after year, women, girls, advocates and allies have continued to take action and stand up for sexual and reproductive rights for what they are: an indivisible and inalienable part of our human rights.
- Now, at a time when women's human rights, and particularly sexual and reproductive rights continue to be systematically violated worldwide, mobilization both within and beyond our communities remains essential, in order to resist any rollback on our rights and advance sexual and reproductive justice for all.
- As the global geopolitical context threatens to become increasingly regressive, it is more important than ever to denounce any attempts at curtailing women's rights, including our human rights to decide freely upon all aspects of our bodies, our sexualities, and our lives, free from coercion, discrimination and violence.

NATIONAL EVENTS

Defence Minister inaugurates Rs 1,300 crore Aeronautical Test Range in Karnataka

- Union Defence Minister Arun Jaitley inaugurated a first-of-its-kind Aeronautical Test Range (ATR), which will be used to test the country's first unmanned aircraft, in the Chitradurga district of Karnataka
- The facility, which will spread across an area of 4,200 acres, will be the leading test centre for the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) that has been using the Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd airport in Bengaluru to test fly the Tejas combat aircraft so far.
- The Challakere facility, located 200 kilometres (km) away from Bengaluru, is also close to other scientific institution such as the Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Indian Space Research Organisation (Isro) and the Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC).
- The strategic location would, thereby, help the Challakere complex in building and grooming scientific manpower.
- The ATR is already home to two of India's unmanned aerial vehicles- Rustom-1 and Rustom-2- that have undertaken test flights in Challakere before.

Dailong village in Manipur declared Biodiversity Heritage Site

- The Manipur government has declared Dailong village of Tamenglong district as a Biodiversity Heritage Site of the state,
- A notification in this connection was issued by joint secretary of forest and environment, Kengoo Zuringla.
- Dailong village, covering an area of 11.35 sq km, has been declared as Biodiversity Heritage Site under Section 37(1) of Biological Diversity Act, 2002.

- The declaration was made after the recommendation of Manipur Biodiversity Board

Haryana announces pension scheme for journalists

- Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar announced a slew of incentives for journalists, including a Rs 10,000 monthly pension scheme, for those who are above 60 years and have completed 20 years in the profession.
- He also announced a life insurance cover of Rs 10 lakh and a cashless mediclaim policy of Rs 500,000.
- The announcements were made by the Chief Minister at the "Swarna Jayanti Journalists' Meet"
- He said now media persons, who have completed five years in the profession, would be given recognition by the state government.
- He also announced that a new policy would be framed for giving recognition to representatives of online news portals.

India reports its first 3 cases of the Zika virus

- India has reported its first three cases of the Zika virus, including two pregnant women who delivered healthy babies.
- Health Ministry officials that the three patients in western Gujarat state had recovered. "
- Zika is transmitted by the daytime-active *Aedes aegypti* and *Aedes albopictus* mosquitoes.
- The medical journal Lancet has said 2.6 billion people living in parts of Asia and Africa could be at risk of Zika infection, based on analysis of travel, climate and mosquito patterns in those regions.

- The vast majority of people infected by the Zika virus never get sick, and symptoms are mild for those who do, so surveillance systems may have missed cases.
- Although Zika was first identified in 1947, the virus wasn't considered a major health threat until a major outbreak in Brazil in 2015 revealed that it can lead to severe birth defects when pregnant women are infected.

Govt permits DIPP to grant industrial licences to defence manufacturers

- The government on Friday said the department of industrial policy and promotion (DIPP) will now process the applications for grant of licence for manufacture of defence items. Earlier, the home ministry was carrying out this exercise.
- "Power to grant manufacturing licence in respect of the category of arms and ammunition and defence items...has been delegated to secretary, DIPP,
- The department, under the commerce and industry ministry, is mainly responsible for formulation of policies with regard to promotion of foreign investment and manufacturing industries.
- It asked all the interested entrepreneurs/industries/companies to apply with details to the senior development officer

INTERNATIONAL EVENTS

Mission XI Million picks Chandigarh girl

- An eighth standard student from Chandigarh has been selected to represent India as a young journalist at

the global Football For Friendship (F4F) social programme in Russia.

- Ananya Kamboj, from Vivek High School, Mohali, has been selected to represent India.
- The F4F programme, supported by Gazprom and FIFA, focuses on the development of children's football, fostering tolerance and respect for different cultures and nationalities among children from different countries. India joins the programme for the first time and will participate alongside 60 other countries.
- Ananya was shortlisted as the F4F young journalist from India after participating in a contest conducted by F4F supported by Mission XI Million, programme of the FIFA U-17 World Cup India 2017 that has a vision of making football the sport of choice among the youth by bringing football to 11 million kids.
- Ananya will join young journalists from around the world in St. Petersburg, Russia in July 2017.

Construction begins on world's largest telescope in Chile

- Construction began in Chile on Friday on the European Extremely Large Telescope, which when completed will be the world's largest optical telescope, some five times larger than the top observing instruments in use today.
- The size of the ELT has the potential to transform our understanding of the universe, say its backers, with its main mirror that will measure some 39 meters (43 yards) across.
- Located on a 3,000 meter-high mountain in the middle of the Atacama desert, it is due to begin operating in 2024.
- Among other capabilities, it will add to and refine astronomers' burgeoning discoveries of

planets orbiting other stars, with the ability to find more smaller planets, image larger ones, and possibly characterize their atmospheres, a key step in understanding if life is present.

- "What is being raised here is more than a telescope. Here we see one of the greatest examples of the possibilities of science," said Chilean President Michelle Bachelet in a speech to mark the beginning of construction at the site.
- The dry atmosphere of the Atacama provides as near perfect observing conditions as it is possible to find on Earth, with some 70 percent of the world's astronomical infrastructure slated to be located in the region by the 2020s.
- The ELT is being funded by the European Southern Observatory, an organization consisting of European and southern hemisphere nations. Construction costs were not available but the ESO has said previously that the ELT would cost around 1 billion euros (\$1.12 billion) at 2012 prices. (\$1 = 0.8949 euros)

Apple opens first official store in SE Asia

- Apple opened its first Southeast Asia store in Singapore, drawing hundreds of excited fans to the swanky two-storey site in the city's upmarket shopping district.
- Located on the affluent Orchard Road, the new shop -- easily distinguished by its iconic glass facade -- is expected to be one of the most popular Apple stores in the world according to the US tech giant.
- Merchandise such as the iPhone and MacBook were strategically placed on display across the spacious first floor, while the upper level acted

as a classroom for customers to participate in hands-on sessions.

G7 Summit begins in Italy amid differences on trade, climate

- Leaders of the Group of Seven (G7) nations were assembled in Italy to start a two-day summit in which U.S. President Donald Trump was likely to face peer pressure on his contrarian stances on trade and the environment.
- The G7 is an informal forum on global governance comprising the United States, Canada, France, Britain, Germany, Italy and Japan.
- Trump's election last year on a protectionist and climate-sceptic agenda has put him at odds with partners.
- The summit is bringing together leaders with largely untested personal relationships. Naylor noted that for the first time since 1981, four of out of seven participants - the leaders of the US, France, Britain and Italy - are at their first G7 summit.

Indo-Thailand Siam Bharat 17: HADR

- Indo-Thailand Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) Table Top Exercise 2017 was held at Chiang Mai, Thailand from 22 May to 26 May 17 between the Indian Air Force and Royal Thailand Air Force (RTAF).
- The eleven member IAF contingent was led by Group Captain Sucharu Rai VM. This was second such exercise to be conducted between the two Air Forces.
- The aim of the bilateral exercise is to evolve SOPs for planning and executing relief

missions during unforeseen natural calamities like Tsunami, earthquakes, cyclones, floods etc.

- The objective is to enhance interoperability between both the Air Forces, while conducting combined air operations triggered by a crisis. The exercise would assist in laying down procedures and establish decision support system in various stages of relief operations.

SPORTS

India's Bhavani Devi strikes gold in fencing championship

- Indian fencer C A Bhavani Devi struck gold in the Turnoi Satellite Fencing Championship at Reykjavik (Iceland). Bhavani Devi, who hails from Chennai, defeated Great Britain's Sarah Jane Hampson 15-13.
- With this win, Bhavani Devi has also become the first Indian to win a gold medal in an international fencing event. She had previously won a silver medal.
- She now trains at the Sports Authority of India centre at Thalassery.

Arsenal beat Chelsea 2-1 to win FA Cup for 13th time

- Arsenal held out to beat Chelsea 2-1 in the FA Cup final at Wembley with an Aaron Ramsey winner in the second half.
- The winner arrived seconds after Chelsea equalised through Diego Costa's equaliser to cancel out Alexis Sanchez's first half goal that was marred in controversy.
- With the win, Arsenal have won a record 13th FA Cup and seventh under Arsene Wenger.

Wenger has now become the most successful manager in FA Cup history.

- The FA Cup is an annual knockout football competition in men's domestic English football. First played during the 1871–72 season, it is the oldest association football competition in the world.

South Korea Defeat China to Win 2017 Sudirman Cup

- South Korea shocked badminton giants China on Sunday in the final of the 2017 Sudirman Cup, ending the team's run of six straight titles with a 3-2 win.
- China hadn't lost a single finals match since 2005 and ran out to a quick lead, but impressive showings in the last two doubles matches handed South Korea the title. It's the nation's fourth title, with the last one coming in 2003.
- The Sudirman Cup is the world mixed team badminton championship which takes place every two years. It is held in the same venue for the IBF World Championships in the same year until International Badminton Federation decided to split the two tournaments starting from 2003.
- There are five matches in every round: men and women's singles, men and women's doubles and mixed doubles.
- The Cup is named after Dick Sudirman, a former Indonesian badminton player and the founder of the Badminton Association of Indonesia (PBSI). The first Sudirman Cup tournament took place in Bung Karno Stadium, Central Jakarta, Indonesia on May 24 – May 29, 1989.

AWARDS & ACHIEVEMENTS

The Square' wins top award at Cannes Film Festival 2017

- The Swedish film 'The Square', directed by Ruben Östlund won the Palme d'Or, the top prize at Cannes Film Festival.
- The film '120 Beats Per Minute!' won the Grand Prix, the runner-up prize.
- Further, the Best Actor prize was awarded to Joaquin Phoenix for 'You Were Never Really Here' while Diane Kruger won Best Actress for 'In the Fade'.

Pune city police receive FICCI Smart Policing Award 2017

- The Pune city police have received the Federation of Indian Chamber of Commerce and Industries (FICCI) Smart Police Award for the year 2017.
- Pune Police Commissioner Rashmi Shukla received the award from BJP MP Meenakshi Lekhi during a programme organised by FICCI and Vivekanand International Foundation on Homeland Security in Delhi
- The programme focused on the use of modern technology for countering internal security issues. As many as 133 police and security establishments in the country had taken part in the competition for the FICCI Smart Policing Award 2017.
- Pune city police got the award for their initiatives on women and cyber security.
- Rashmi Shukla said initiatives like "BuddyCop" for helping women working in IT companies, the "Damini squad" involving women police

officials have played a good role in tackling women security issues in the city.

- The city police have also launched initiatives like "Lost & Found" portal, Beat Marshal Monitoring Sapience App, and Tenant Information System. These initiatives were considered by the jury while awarding the Pune city police.

BUSINESS & BANKING

IOC overtakes ONGC to become India's most profitable PSU

- Indian Oil Corp (IOC) has overtaken Oil and Natural Gas Corp (ONGC) to become India's most profitable state-owned company.
- IOC, which has for decades been India's biggest company by turnover, posted a 70 per cent jump in net profit to Rs 19,106.40 crore in the financial year ended March 31, 2017.
- This was more than the Rs 17,900 crore net profit ONGC posted in the 2016-17 fiscal, making IOC the most profitable PSU,
- ONGC was long India's most profitable company but lost the crown to private sector Reliance and TCS a couple of years back.
- It has now been unseated as the most profitable PSU by IOC.

IOC share sale: Govt said to choose investment bankers

- The Indian government has chosen arrangers for the sale of a nearly \$1 billion stake in the country's largest refiner, Indian Oil Corp., according to people with knowledge of the matter.
- The country picked Citigroup Inc, Deutsche Bank AG and Goldman Sachs Group Inc. to

advise on the offering, said the people, who asked not to be identified because the information is private. ICICI Securities Ltd. and SBI Capital Markets Ltd. are also among banks selected to work on the sale

- The country, which currently owns 58.3% of the energy giant, is pursuing a sale as it seeks to meet a Rs72,500 crore divestment target for the fiscal year beginning 1 April.
- India has met or exceeded its privatization target only six times since 1998.

APPOINTMENT

Tapan Ray to be the next Economic Affairs Secretary

- The central government said that Corporate Affairs Secretary Tapan Ray will be the next Secretary, Department of Economic Affairs, under the Ministry of Finance from June 1, 2017.
- According to the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC), Ray will take up the additional charge of the post of Secretary of Department of Economic Affairs from June 1, 2017.
- The competent authority has approved assignment of additional charge of the post of Secretary, Department of Economic Affairs, to Tapan Ray, IAS (GJ:1982), Secretary, Ministry of Corporate Affairs, on superannuation of Shaktikanta Das, IAS (TN:1980), with effect from 01.06.2017 and until further orders

Syed Ghayorul Hasan Rizvi assumes charge of Chairman of National Commission for Minorities

- Syed Ghayorul Hasan Rizvi assumed charge of the Chairman of the National Commission for Minorities in New Delhi. After assuming the charge, Shri Rizvi said that the Commission will work for the welfare and development of minorities.
- Syed Ghayorul Hasan Rizvi is a graduate in Arts and also holds Diploma in Mechanics. He served as Chairman, U.P Minority Finance Development Corporation Ltd.
- Shri Rizvi has been actively participating in social service.
- He worked for the improvement of the basic facilities and working conditions of Beedi workers and Weaver community in Uttar Pradesh.
- He also worked for Communal Harmony and National Integrity.

- After liberation, a major controversy arose as to whether Goa should remain a separate territory or should merge into a neighbouring State, Maharashtra or Mysore.
- In 1967, an opinion poll was held, the only such referendum in independent India. It decided that Goa, Daman and Diu should remain a separate entity with the status of a Union Territory.
- Thereafter all the three major political parties, the United Goans, Congress, and Maharashtrawadi Gomantak Party sought Statehood for Goa.

NATIONAL EVENTS

Prakash Javadekar launches UGC App to fight ragging

- HRD minister Prakash Javadekar on Monday launched an Anti-Ragging Mobile App introduced by the University Grants Commission (UGC).
- this app will work on android system and students can log in and register their complaints instantaneously.
- Accordingly, all concerned will be informed and action will be initiated immediately.
- Javadekar said it is a good step for protection and will give a feeling of security to students.

Jaideep Mazumdar appointed next Ambassador of India to Philippines

- Jaideep Mazumdar has been appointed as the next Ambassador of India to the Philippines.
- The 1989 batch IFS officer is presently Joint Secretary in the Ministry of External Affairs.
- He is expected to take up the assignment shortly

IMPORTANT DAY

Goa Statehood Day: 30 May

- On May 30 we celebrate the Goa Statehood Day. On this day, in 1987, Goa ceased to be a Union Territory and became the 25th State of the Union of India.
- Goa was liberated from the colonial rule in December 1961.

EPFO gives nod to hike in stock investment to 15 per cent

- The Employees Provident Fund Organisation has approved hike in investment limit in exchange traded funds (ETFs) to 15 percent, from the existing 10 per cent

- The government in 2015 had taken a decision to invest in ETFs and 5 per cent was invested then.
- In 2016, the investment was raised to 10 per cent.
- The money which is being invested is in the Sensex, the Nifty and central public sector ETFs. These are the three ETF where we are allowed to invest

'Pradhan Mantri' replaces 'Indira Gandhi' in govt maternity benefit scheme

- The government has renamed the Matritva Sahyog Yojana-- a scheme to give Rs 6,000 to pregnant and lactating mothers for the first live birth-- as Pradhan Mantri Matritva Vandana Yojana (PMMVY), yet another instance of the PM's name prefixed to a government programme.
- This is the second time that the scheme's name has been changed. When it was launched way back in 2010 it was called the Indira Gandhi Matritva Sahyog Yojana.
- After coming to power in 2014, the NDA government dropped "Indira Gandhi" from the scheme.

INTERNATIONAL EVENTS

India Second Most Complex Tax Jurisdiction

- Indian tax laws are perceived to be second most complex in the Asia-Pacific region, becoming even less predictable over the last three years, a Deloitte survey has said.
- India ranks only after China in having most complex jurisdiction for taxation and most complicated requirements of tax, the Asia

Pacific Tax Complexity Survey conducted by Deloitte said.

- Japan, Australia, Indonesia and South Korea trail India in the complexity index.
- By 'complexity', it meant the perceived level of difficulty in interpreting the tax law and rules in the relevant jurisdictions.
- Many respondents felt reforms were needed in India around the administration of tax, like training for tax officers to improve understanding of taxpayers.
- It said the Goods and Services Tax (GST) will reduce complexity in tax environment by eliminating multiple taxes while improving trade and commerce.
- In addition to GST, introduction of GAAR from April 2017 and adoption of BEPS (Base Erosion and Profit Shifting) actions will increase complexity over next 2—3 years in the field of M&A tax and indirect tax in particular,

SPORTS

Monaco Grand Prix: Sebastian Vettel stretches title lead with win

- Ferrari's Sebastian Vettel won a slow-burning Monaco Grand Prix to extend his championship lead over Mercedes' Lewis Hamilton to 25 points.
- Vettel led home team-mate Kimi Raikkonen after passing the Finn by running longer to their only pit stops.
- Hamilton finished seventh after a difficult race from 13th on the grid.

India's Vaishali wins gold in Asian Blitz Chess Championship

- India's R Vaishali won the women's title with eight points from nine rounds in the Asian Continental Blitz Chess Championship in Chengdu, China
- Vaishali drew her final round game against Uurtsaikh Uuriintuya of Mongolia to finish half-a-point ahead of Iran's Sarasadat Khademalsharieh and clinch the gold medal.
- Her compatriot Padmini Rout finished third with seven points after a last round win over Yuxin Song of China.
- The Chennai player with an ELO rating of 2203 had finished third in the Asian Championship event

AWARDS & HONOURS

Satyabrata Rout gets Sangeet Natak Akademi Puraskar

- Satyabrata Rout, a professor from the Department of Theatre Arts, S N School of Arts and Communication, University of Hyderabad (UoH) has been awarded Sangeet Natak Akademi Puraskar for the year 2016.
- Rout has developed "a unique method of teaching and practising direction and design, which has been achieved through a long and continuous work experience with eminent theatre practitioners and scholars".
- He was one of the pioneers of 'visual theatre' in India, and has 'Scenography: An Indian Perspective'. He has directed a number of plays, participated in national and international theatre festivals and conducted numerous theatre workshops across the globe.
- The Sangeet Natak Akademi Puraskar (Akademi Award) is an award given by the

Sangeet Natak Akademi, India's National Academy of Music, Dance & Drama.

- It is the highest Indian recognition given to practising artists.

Lonely Planet India Travel Awards 2017: World's best travel destinations

- The tourism fraternity came together to celebrate yet another bonanza, with the 6th Lonely Planet India Travel Awards 2017 recognising their respective contributions to global travel.
- After thorough research, Lonely Planet India awarded destinations across the world, in several categories, as per the experience they offer to tourists.
- Destinations in India won accolades for their immense contribution to tourism. Karnataka (Best Destination for Culture), Maharashtra (Best Destination for Adventure), Madhya Pradesh (Best Destination for Wildlife), Himachal Pradesh (Best Destination for Family), Goa (Best Destination for Relaxation), Tamil Nadu (Best Destination for Value), Lucknow - Uttar Pradesh (Best Destination for Food & Drink), New Delhi (Best Destination for Shopping), Munnar - Kerala (Best Destination for Romance), Rajasthan (Best Destination for Indulgence) and Meghalaya (Best Emerging Destination) were among the awarded tourist hubs at a national level.
- Among the international destinations awarded were Japan (Best Destination for Culture), New Zealand (Best Destination for Adventure), South Africa (Best Destination for Wildlife), Singapore (Best Destination for Family), Thailand (Best Destination for Relaxation), Malaysia (Best Destination for

Value), Spain (Best Destination for Food & Drink), The USA (Best Destination for Shopping), Austria (Best Destination for Romance), France (Best Destination for Indulgence) and Iceland (Best Emerging Destination).

- Switzerland, on the other hand, was voted as the choicest holiday destination for Indian tourists,

Dr Sunil Kothari to be awarded the Akademi Ratna

- Dr Sunil Kothari, who was the first one to complete PhD from M S University's Department of Dance, has been selected for the coveted Akademi Ratna award by the Sangeet Natak Akademi.
- 83-year-old Kothari, who is a native of Matar town of Kheda district will receive the highest Indian recognition given to an artist in October by the President at Rashtrapati Bhavan.
- India's well-known dance historian and critic, Kothari, was instrumental in starting the School of Arts and Aesthetics at Jawaharlal Nehru University where he was appointed as the first professor.

Lake Pichola awarded as Best Natural Attraction in India

- HolidayIQ has awarded Lake Pichola as the best natural attraction in India. The award was received by Gunjeet Kaur, Additional Director, Rajasthan Tourism Reception Centre along with Assistant Director, R.K. Saini. Lake Pichola was awarded as "India's favourite Natural Attraction HolidayIQ Award".

- HolidayIQ.com is an information portal that is powered by user-generated content coming online from the travel community. This information comes in forms of reviews, interactive forums, photographs and videos.
- Lake Pichola was constructed in 1362 and named after its nearby Picholi village. This lake was created by building dams for meeting the drinking water and irrigation needs of the city. Pichola has four islands in it: Jag Niwas (that houses Lake Palace), Jag Mandir, Mohan Mandir (place from where king would watch Gangaur festival) and Arsi Vilas (small island that was an ammunition depot and also has a small palace).

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Indian researchers develop 3D bioprinted cartilage

- For the first time, Indian researchers have been able to achieve a measure of success in developing cartilages that are molecularly similar to the ones seen in human knees.
- While scientists attempting to tissue-engineer cartilage have focussed on growing cells on porous scaffolds, in a paradigm shift, a team led by Prof. Sourabh Ghosh from the Department of Textile Technology at the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Delhi has been successful in 3D bioprinting of cartilage using a bioink.
- The bioink has high concentration of bone-marrow derived cartilage stem cells, silk proteins and a few factors.
- The chemical composition of the bioink supports cell growth and long-term survival of the cells. The cartilage developed in the lab has remained physically stable for up to six

weeks.

'Judy' Malware hits 3.65 crore of Android users

- According to the source, A malware which is named as 'Judy' has been attacked more than 3.65 crores of Android users through the simple fashion and cooking game apps on the Google Play Store, as per the security company of Check Point.
- Once these apps are installed in the mobile phone, the malware uses the infected phone which is to click on the certain Google Ads is to increase the attacker's revenue.
- Play Store has been taken down most of the concerned applications.

BANKING & FINANCE

SBI, Canara Bank, Bank of Maharashtra again hit customers with hiked charges

- Nationalised banks such as State Bank of India (SBI), Bank of Maharashtra and Canara Bank have hiked charges for several services or facilities provided to customers.
- These include increase in charges for chequebook issuance, signature verification,

cash handling charges, withdrawals beyond stipulated numbers and card issuance charges.

- For issuance of local chequebook, reconstitution of account, addition or deletion in account, change in mobile number, photo attestation and for sign verification, Bank of Maharashtra charges Rs115 from customers.
- For signature or photo verification, Canara Bank will be charging Rs150 per case of attestation from 1st July, as against the existing Rs100.
- SBI, has revised its service charges for basic savings bank deposit (BSBD) accounts, whereby the customer would be charged Rs30 for issuance of a 10-leaf chequebook.
- The bank would issue only RuPay classic card free of cost, while for all other cards the customer has to pay stipulated charges.
- For BSBD customers, SBI allows four free withdrawals per month, beyond which the customer has to pay Rs50 per transaction at branch, Rs20 at other branch ATMs and Rs10 at SBI ATMs. These charges exclude service tax and would be applicable from 1 June 2017

Complete List of Important Days - Month Wise

January

Date	Important day
4 January	World Braille Day(207th birth anniversary of Louis Braille)
9 January	Pravasi Bharatiya Divas (NRI Day)
10 January	World Hindi Day
12 January	National Youth Day

15 January	<i>69th Indian Army Day</i>
24 January	<i>National girl child day</i>
25 January	<i>National Voters Day</i>
26 January	<i>International Customs Day</i>
26 January	<i>68th Republic Day</i>
27 January	<i>International Day of Commemoration in memory of the victims of the Holocaust</i>
29 January	<i>World Leprosy Day (last Sunday of January)</i>

February

Date	Important day
2 February	<i>World Wetlands Day</i>
4 February	<i>World Cancer Day</i>
6 February	<i>International day of Zero Tolerance to female genital mutilation</i>
7 February	<i>Safer Internet Day</i>
10 February	<i>National Deworming Day</i>
11 February	<i>International day Women and girls in Science</i>
12 February	<i>National Productivity Day</i>
13 February	<i>World Radio Day</i>
20 February	<i>World Day of Social Justice</i>
21 February	<i>International Mother language day</i>
22 February	<i>World Thinking day</i>
24 February	<i>Central Excise Day</i>
28 February	<i>National Science Day</i>

March

Date	Important day
1 March	<i>Zero Discrimination Day</i>
3 March	<i>World Wild Life Day</i>
4 March	<i>World Hearing Day</i>
8 March	<i>International Women's Day</i>
12 March	<i>World Kidney Day</i>
13 March	<i>Commonwealth Day</i>
15 March	<i>World Consumer Rights Day</i>
20 March	<i>International Day of Happiness</i>
21 March	<i>International Day of Forests</i>

21 March	World Down Syndrome Day
22 March	World Water Day
23 March	World Meteorological Day
24 March	World TB Day
27 March	World Theatre Day

April

Date	Important day
1 April	Prevention of Blindness Week
2 April	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ World Autism Awareness Day ▪ International Children's Book Day
4 April	National Day for Mine Awareness and Assistance in mine action
5 April	National Maritime Day
6 April	International Day for Sports Development and Peace
7 April	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ World Health Day ▪ Handloom Week
8 April	International Romani Day
10 April	World Homeopathy Day
11 April	National Safe Motherhood Day
12 April	International Day of Human Space Flight
13 April	Jallianwala Bagh Massacre
14 April	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar Jayanti ▪ Customs Day
17 April	World Hemophilia Day
18 April	World Heritage Day
21 April	Civil Services Day
22 April	World Earth Day
23 April	World Book and Copyright Day
24 April	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ National Panchayati Day ▪ Women's Political Empowerment Day, India
25 April	World Malaria Day
26 April	World Intellectual Property Day
29 April	International Dance Day
30 April	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Internattional Jazz Day ▪ Anti-Child Labour Day

May

Date	Important day
1 May	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ International Labour Day ▪ May Day ▪ Maharashtra Day
2 May	World Asthma Day
3 May	World Press Freedom Day
4 May	International Firefighters Day
5 May	International Midwives Day
7 May	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ World Athletics Day ▪ World Laughter Day ▪ Rabindra Nath Tagore Jayant
8 May	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Mother's Day ▪ World Redcross Day ▪ Road Safety Week
10 May	World Migratory Bird Day
11 May	National Technology Day
12 May	International Nurses Day
15 May	International Families Day
16 May	National Dengue Day
17 May	World Telecommunication Day
18 May	World AIDS Vaccine Day
20 May	World Metrology Day
21 May	Anti-Terrorism Day
22 May	International Day for Biological Diversity
23 May	World Turtle Day
25 May	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ International Missing Children's Day ▪ World Malaria Day
26 May	Gunners Day- New Zealand
28 May	Maharana Pratap Jayanti
29 May	International Day of UN Peacekeepers
30 May	Goa Statehood Day
31 May	World No Tobacco Day

June

Date	Important day
1 June	World Milk Day
2 June	International Sex Workers' Day
4 June	International Day for Innocent Children Victims of Aggression

	Cancer Survivors Day
5 June	World Environment Day
8 June	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Coal Miners Day ▪ World Ocean Day
12 June	Anti-Child Labour Day
14 June	World Blood Donor Day
15 June	World Elder Abuse Awareness Day
16 June	International Day of Family Remittances
17 June	Word Day to Combat Desertification and Drought
19 June	International Day for the elimination of Sexual Violence and Conflict
20 June	World Refugee Day
21 June	International Yoga Day
23 June	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Public Service Day ▪ International Widow's Day ▪ International Olympic Day
26 June	International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit trafficking
29 June	National Statistics Day

July

Date	Important day
1 July	National Doctor's Day
2 July	World Sports Journalists' Day
4 July	American Independence Day
7 July	Global Forgiveness Day
11 July	World Population Day
12 July	Malala Day
15 July	World Youth Skill Day
17 July	International Justice Day
18 July	International Nelson Mandela Day
26 July	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ International Day for the conservation of the mangrove ecosystem ▪ Kargil Vijay Diwas
28 July	World Hepatitis Day
29 July	International Tiger Day
30 July	World Day Against Trafficking in Persons

August

Date	Important day
1 August	World Breastfeeding Week (1-7 August)
6 August	Hiroshima Day & Anti-Nuclear Day
7 August	Handloom Day
9 August	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Kranti Diwas (Quit India Movement) ▪ International Day of the world's indigenous peoples
10 August	World Bio-Fuel Day
11 August	National Daughter's Day
12 August	International Youth Day
13 August	Organ Donation Day
15 August	Independence Day of India
19 August	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ World Photography Day ▪ World Humanitarian Day
20 August	Sadbhawana Diwas/ Harmony Day
29 August	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Sanskrit Day ▪ International Day Against Nuclear Test ▪ National Sports Day
30 August	National Small Industry Day

September

Date	Important day
1 September	National Nutrition Week (1-7 September)
2 September	World Coconut Day
4 September	National Labour Day USA
5 September	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ National Teachers Day ▪ International Charity Day
8 September	International Literacy Day
10 September	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ World First Aid Day ▪ World Suicide Prevention Day
12 September	International Day for South-South Cooperation
13 September	World Chocolate Day
14 September	Hindi Diwas
16 September	International Day for the Preservation of Ozone Layer
20 September	Railway Police Force Foundation Day
21 September	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ World Peace Day ▪ World Alzheimer Day
22 September	World Cancer Free Day
25 September	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ World Rivers Day

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ World Pharmacists Day
26 September	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ World Environmental Health Day ▪ World Contraception Day
27 September	World Tourism Day
28 September	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ World Rabies Day ▪ Gunners Day India ▪ World Maritime Day
29 September	World Heart Day
30 September	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ World Deaf Day ▪ International Translation Day

October

Date	Important day
1 October	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ International Day for Older Persons ▪ World Vegetarian Day
2 October	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ World Habitat Day ▪ World Habitat Day (First Monday of October) ▪ International Day of Non-Violence/Mahatma Gandhi Jayanti
4 October	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ World Space Week (4-10 October) ▪ World Animal Day
5 October	World Teachers Day
6 October	World Smile Day (First Friday of October)
8 October	Airforce Day
9 October	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Columbus Day ▪ World Post Day
10 October	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ World Mental Health Day ▪ World Day Against Death Penalty
11 October	International Girl Child Day
13 October	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ World Sight Day ▪ International Day for Disaster Reduction
14 October	International Standards' Day
15 October	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ International Day of Rural Women ▪ World Students Day ▪ Safe Motherhood Week (15-21 October)
16 October	World Food Day
17 October	Anti-Poverty Day
20 October	World Statistics Day
21 October	Police Commemoration Day

24 October	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ United Nations Day ▪ World Development Information Day ▪ World Polio Day
27 October	World Day for Audiovisual Heritage
28 October	National Ayurveda Day
29 October	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ International Internet Day ▪ World Stroke Day
31 October	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ National Unity Day ▪ World Savings Day ▪ World Cities Day ▪ Vigilance Awareness Week (31-5 November)

November

Date	Important day
1 November	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ No Tobacco Day ▪ World Vegan Day ▪ Karnataka Formation Day
5 November	World Tsunami Awareness Day
7 November	National Cancer Awareness Day
8 November	International Radiology Day
9 November	World Quality Day
10 November	World Science Day for Peace and Development
11 November	National Education Day
12 November	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ World Pneumonia Day ▪ Public Service Broadcasting Day
13 November	World Kindness Day
14 November	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Children's Day ▪ World Diabetes Day
16 November	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ International Day for Tolerance ▪ World Philosophy Day
20 November	Universal Children's Day
21 November	World Television Day
25 November	International Day For the Elimination of Violence Against Women
26 November	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Constitutional Day-India ▪ National Milk Day
28 November	Raising Day of National Cadet Corps

December

Date	Important day
1 December	World AIDS Day
2 December	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ International Day for Abolition of Slavery ▪ National Pollution Control
3 December	International Day for the Persons with Disabilities
4 December	Indian Navy Day
5 December	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ International Volunteer Day for Economic and Social Development ▪ World Soil Day
7 December	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ International Civil Aviation Day ▪ Armed Forces Flag Day- India
8 December	Plastic Free Day
9 December	International Anti-Corruption Day
10 December	Human Rights Day
11 December	International Mountain Day
12 December	Universal Health Coverage Day
14 December	World Energy Conservation Day
16 December	Vijay Diwas
18 December	International Migrants Day
20 December	International Human Solidarity Day
22 December	National Mathematics Day
23 December	Kisan Diwas
24 December	National Consumers Day
25 December	Good Governance Day

States of India - Capital, CM, Governor and Demographics

State	Capital	CM	Literacy Rate	Governor	Population Density	Borders
Andhra Pradesh	Vijaywada, Hyderabad	Nara Chandrababu Naidu	67.66%	ESL Narasimhan	308 km sq	Maharashtra, Chhattisgarh, Odisha, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Telangana

Arunachal Pradesh	Itanagar	Pema Khandu	66.96%	Padmanabha Acharya	17 per km. sq	Assam, Nagaland
Assam	Dispur	Sarbananda Sonowal	73.18%	Banwarilal Purohit	397 per km. sq	Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Tripura
Bihar	Patna	Nitish Kumar	63.82%	Ram Nath Kovind	1102 per km. sq	Jharkhand, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal
Chhattisgarh	Raipur	Raman Singh	71.04%	Balram Das Tandon	190 per km. sq	Andhra Pradesh, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Odisha, Uttar Pradesh
Goa	Panaji	Manohar Parrikar	88.70%	Mridula Sinha	390 per km.	Maharashtra, Karnataka
Gujarat	Gandhinagar	Vijay Rupani	80.18%	OP Kohli	310 per km.	Rajasthan, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh
Haryana	Chandigarh	Manohar Lal Khattar	76.64%	Kaptan Singh Solanki	573 per km. sq	Punjab, Himachal, Rajasthan
Himachal Pradesh	Shimla	Virbhadra Singh	83.78%	Acharya Dev Vrat	123 per km. sq	Jammu and Kashmir, Punjab,

						Haryana
Jammu and Kashmir	Jammu (Winter) Srinagar (Summer)	Mufti Mohammad Sayeed	66.7%	NN Vohra	56 per km. sq	Himachal Pradesh, Punjab
Jharkhand	Ranchi	Raghuvar Das	67.6%	Draupadi Murmu	414 per km. sq	Uttar Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Odisha, West Bengal
Karnataka	Bengaluru	K. Siddaramaiah	75.60%	Vajubhai Rudabhai Val	320 per km. sq	Goa, Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Kerela
Kerala	Thiruvananthapuram	Pinarayi Vijayan	93.91%	P. Sathasivam	860 per km. sq	Karnataka, Tamil Nadu
Madhya Pradesh	Bhopal	Shivraj Singh Chouhan	70.60%	Om Prakash Kohl	236 per km. sq	Uttar Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Rajasthan
Maharashtra	Mumbai	Devendra Fadnavis	82.9%	C. Vidyasagar Rao	370 per km. sq	Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Goa
Manipur	Imphal	N. Biren Singh	79.21%	Najma A. Heptulla	120 per km. sq	Nagalan, Mizoram, Assam
Meghalaya	Shillong	Mukul Sangma	75.84%	Banwarilal	130 per	Assam

				Purohit	km. sq	
Mizoram	Aizawl	Lal Thanhawla	91.58%	Nirbhay Sharma	52 per km. sq	Assam, Manipur, Tripura
Nagaland	Kohima	Shurhozelie Liezietsu	80.11%	PB Acharya	119 per km. sq	Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur
Odisha	Bhubaneswar	Naveen Patnaik	73.45%	S.C. Jamir	270 per km. sq	Chhattisgarh, Andhra Pradesh, Jharkhand, West Bengal
Punjab	Chandigarh	Amarinder Singh	76.68%	V. P. Singh Badnore	550 per km. sq	Himachal Pradesh, Haryana, Jammu and Kashmir, Rajasthan
Rajasthan	Jaipur	Vasundhara Raje	68%	Kalyan Singh	201 per km. sq	Gujarat, Haryana, Punjab
Sikkim	Gangtok	Pawan Chamling	82.2%	Shriniwas Patil	86 per km. sq	West Bengal
Tamil Nadu	Chennai	Edappadi K. Palaniswami	80.33%	C. Vidyasagar	479 km sq	Kerela, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh
Telangana	Hyderabad	K. Chandrashekar Rao	66.50%	E.S.L. Narasimhan	310 per km. sq	Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka
Tripura	Agartala	Manik Sarkar	87.75%	Tathagata	350 per	Assam,

				Roy	km. sq	Mizoram
Uttar Pradesh	Lucknow	Yogi Adityanath	67.68%	Ram Naik	820 per km. sq	Bihar, Chhattisgar, Haryana, Jharkhand
Uttarakhand	Dehradun	Trivendra Singh Rawat	79.63%	K.K. Paul	189 per km. sq	Uttar Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh
West Bengal	Kolkata	Mamata Banerjee	77.08%	Keshari Nath Tripathi	1000 per km. sq	Odisha, Jharkhand, Bihar, Sikkim

Power Tex India Scheme for Powerlooms

Introduction:

- Power Tex India scheme was launched by Union Textiles minister Smriti Zubin Irani at Bhiwandi in Maharashtra, Erode in Tamil Nadu and also in all power loom sector across the country on April 3rd, 2017.
- This scheme will be active for a period of three years until March 2020.
- It will hugely benefit the small power loom weavers for their survival.
- To upgrade the power loom sector of our country, the government has increased the subsidy by 30%.
- Power looms using solar power plants will be granted 50% subsidy.
- SIMA (South India Mills Association) Chairman M. Senthil Kumar said that the power loom sector has been facing numerous challenges due to sluggish global and domestic market condition.

- This scheme would give great relief to all the states of India, especially Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu that accounts over 75 % of power loom of the country.
- It has overall nine major components, including two new schemes.

Nine Components of Power Tex India Scheme:

- In-Situ up-gradation of Plain Power looms.
- Group Workshed Scheme (GWS).
- Yarn Bank Scheme.
- Pradhan Mantri Credit Scheme.
- Solar Energy Scheme
- Common Facility Centre (CFC)
- Tex Venture Capital Fund
- Facilitation, IT, Awareness, Market development and Publicity for power loom schemes.
- Grant-In-Aid and Modernization and Up gradation of power loom service centres.

Objectives of this Scheme:

- The main Objective of In-Situ Up-Gradation component is to benefit the economically weaker low-end power loom units by providing them financial assistance.
- Group Workshed scheme will benefit all power loom units having up to 8 looms.
- Under Yarn Bank Scheme Yarn will be purchased at the wholesale rate and it will be sold to small weavers at a reasonable price, which will cut-off middle man supplier's brokerage charge on sales of yarn.
- Pradhan Mantri Credit Scheme will provide Loan Facility under Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana to power loom units which are decentralized.
- Solar Energy Scheme provides financial assistance for the installation of solar photo voltaic plants to alleviate the power cut problems.

National Ayush Mission (NAM) - Details, Objectives and Benefits

What is National Ayush Mission (NAM)?

- AYUSH stands for Ayurveda, Yoga and Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha and Homoeopathy.
- Department of AYUSH, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India has launched National AYUSH Mission (NAM) during 12th Plan.
- The National AYUSH Mission covers essential facilities like AYUSH Hospitals and Dispensaries, development of AYUSH Educational Institutions, ASU&H(Ayurveda, Siddha and Unani & Homoeopathy) drugs quality control covering State Government ASU & HPharmacies, State Drugs Testing Laboratories, drugs control framework and promotion of Medicinal Plants.
- The traditional medicine treatments have a huge potential to solve the various health problems . Promotion of these medicine systems is the need of the hour as they offer numerous benefits and employment etc.

- As all allopathic and surgical procedures focus on the treatment of a disease, the AYUSH system focus on overall healthy lifestyle as the key to good health.

Objectives of National Ayush Mission (NAM)

- One of the most important objectives is to provide cost effective AYUSH health care through out the country by improving access to the AYUSH Services.
- To strengthen institutional capacity at the state level by upgrading AYUSH educational institutions, State Govt. ASU&H Pharmacies, Drug Testing Laboratories.
- To Support cultivation of medicinal plants by adopting Good Agricultural Practices (GAPs) to provide sustained supply of quality raw-materials.
- Help in setting up of clusters through convergence of cultivation, warehousing, value addition and marketing and development of infrastructure for entrepreneurs.

Different Benefits of AYUSH

- AYUSH healthcare services are cheap and affordable.
- Traditional medicines have comparatively lesser side effects.
- Very helpful towards lifestyle related disorders, especially yoga.
- Overall focus on health of body and mind. Thus, it is focused on prevention, being true to the fact that "prevention is better than cure".

Nodal Department for implementing National AYUSH Mission (NAM)

- At the Centre, Department of AYUSH is responsible as the nodal Department for implementing National AYUSH Mission. The Mission is steered by a National AYUSH Mission (NAM) Directorate, Chaired by Secretary, Department of AYUSH.
- At the State level, the Mission is governed and executed by a State AYUSH Society. The Governing Body is chaired by the Chief Secretary and Principal Secretary/Secretary

I/c of AYUSH/ Health & F.W. of the concerned State is the convenor.

- The Governing Body of the State AYUSH society will finalize the State Annual Action Plan (SAAP) after recommendations by the Executive Body.
- The Mission Directorate of National AYUSH Mission has been vested with adequate administrative and financial powers to enable it to achieve the objectives of the Mission.

The Way forward

- The doubts regarding the efficacy and safety of AYUSH systems need to be addressed via scientific research.
- Traditional knowledge of Ayurveda should be protected from piracy and misappropriation.
- Development of Standard Treatment protocols to build public trust in AYUSH.
- Emphasis on the preventive aspect of these systems especially Yoga is the key. PM Modi led the way when he emphasized that Yoga is akin to health insurance.

Joint Military Exercises of India With Other Countries: 2016-17

Name of the exercise	Country/Countries
Surya Kiran IX	India- Nepal
Lamitye	India- Seychelles
Multi-national FTX	India- ASEAN plus
Garuda Shakti IV	India- Indonesia
Shatrujeet	India only
Nomadic Elephant	India- Mongolia
Chakravyuh - II	India Only
Maitree	India- Thailand
Prabal Dostyk	India- Kazakhstan

Yudh Abhyas	India- United States
Indra	India- Russia
Mitra Shakti	India- Sri Lanka
urya Kiran X	India- Nepal
Sampriti	India- Bangladesh
Hand in Hand	India- China
Ekuverin	India- Maldives
Khanjar IV	India- Kyrgyzstan
Surya Kiran XI	India- Nepal
Al Nagah-li	India- Oman
Bold Kurukshetra	India- Singapore
Nomadic Elephant XII	India- Mongolia
Thar Shakti	India only
Malabar	India- United States
Red Flag	India- United States
Cope	India- United States
Varuna	India- France
Ajeya Warrior	India-United Kingdom
Indra Dhanush	India-United Kingdom
slinex	India- Sri Lanka
Simbex	India- Singapore
Maitree	India-Thailand
Ausindex	India-Australia
Konkan	India- UK
Ex Ekuverin	India- Maldives
Sahyog Kaijin	India- Japan
IBSAMAR	India, South Africa, Brazil

List of UNESCO World Heritage sites in India

World Heritage site	Location
Agra Fort	Delhi
Ajanta and Ellora caves	Maharashtra
Taj Mahal	Uttar Pradesh
Group of Monuments at Mahabalipuram	Tamilnadu

Sun Temple, Konark	Odisha
Kaziranga National Park	Assam
Keoladeo National Park	Rajasthan
Manas Wildlife Sanctuary	Assam
Churches and Convents of Goa	Goa
Fatehpur Sikri	Uttar Pradesh
Group of Monuments at Hampi	Karnataka
Khajuraho group of monuments	Madhya Pradesh
Elephanta Caves	Maharashtra
Great Living Chola Temples	Tamilnadu
Group of Monuments at Pattadakal	Karnataka
Sundarbans National Park	West Bengal
Nanda Devi and Valley of Flowers National Park	Uttarakhand
Buddhist monuments at Sanchi	Madhya Pradesh
Humayun's Tomb	Delhi
Qutub Minar and its monuments	Delhi
Mountain Railways of India*	India*
Mahabodhi Temple Complex at Bodh Gaya	Bihar
Rock Shelters of Bhimbetka	Madhya Pradesh
Champaner-Pavagadh Archeological Park	Gujarat
Chatrapati Shivaji Terminus (formerly known as Victoria Terminus)	Maharashtra
Red Fort Complex	Delhi
The Jantar Mantar, Jaipur	Rajasthan
Western Ghats	Tamilnadu, Kerala, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Karnataka and Goa
Hill Forts of Rajasthan	Rajasthan
Great Himalayan National Park Conservation Area	Himachal Pradesh
Rani-Ki-Vav(The Queen's Stepwell) at Patan	Gujarat
Archaeological sites of Nalanda Mahavihara at Nalanda	Bihar
Khangchendzonga National Park	Sikkim
Architectural work of Le Corbusier	Chandigarh

Awards & Honours: April-May 2017

2017 BILLBOARD MUSIC AWARDS

Award	Awardee
Top Artist	Drake
Top New Artist	Zayn
Billboard Chart Achievement Award Presented by Xfinity	Twenty One Pilots
Top Male Artist	Drake
Top Female Artist	Beyonce
Top Duo/Group	Twenty One Pilots
Top Billboard 200 Artist	Drake
Top Hot 100 Artist	Drake
Top Song Sales Artist	Drake
Top Radio Songs Artist	Twenty One Pilots
Top Streaming Songs Artist	Drake
Top Social Artist	BTS
Top Touring Artist	Beyonce
Top R&B Artist:	Beyonce
Top Rap Album	Drake
Top Country Album	Chris Stapleton
Top Rock Album	Metallica
Top Latin Album	Juan Gabriel
Top Dance/Electronic Album	Lindsey Stirling
Top Christian Album	Top Gospel Album
Top Hot 100 Song	The Chainsmokers Featuring Halsey
Top Selling Song	Justin Timberlake, "Can't Stop The Feeling"
Top Radio Song	Justin Timberlake, "Can't Stop The Feeling"
Top Streaming Song (Audio)	Drake Featuring WizKid & Kyla, "One Dance"
Top Streaming Song (Video)	Desiigner, "Panda"
Top Collaboration	The Chainsmokers Featuring Halsey, "Closer"
Top R&B Song	Drake Featuring WizKid & Kyla, "One Dance"
Top R&B Collaboration	Drake Featuring WizKid & Kyla, "One Dance"
Top Rap Song	Desiigner, "Panda"
Top Rap Collaboration	Rae Sremmurd Featuring Gucci Mane, "Black"

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	Beatles
Top Country Song	Florida Georgia Line, "H.O.L.Y."
Top Country Collaboration	Kenny Chesney Featuring Pink, "Setting The World On Fire"
Top Rock Song	Twenty One Pilots, "Heathens"
Top Latin Song	Nicky Jam, "Hasta El Amanecer"
Top Dance/Electronic Song	The Chainsmokers Featuring Halsey, "Closer"
Top Christian Song	Hillary Scott & The Family, "Thy Will"
Top Gospel Song	Travis Greene, "Made A Way"

I-LEAGUE AWARDS 2017

Award	Awardee
Best goalkeeper award	Debjit Majumder
Jarnail Singh Best Defender' of Hero I-League 2016-17 award	Anas Edathodika
Best Midfielder of Hero I-League 2016-17	Alfred Kemah Jaryan
Best Striker award	Aser Pierrick Dipanda Dicka
Best Emerging Player of Hero I-League' award	Jerry Lalrinzuala
Syed Abdul Rahim Best Coach Award	Khalid Jamil
Hero of the League	Sunil Chhetri

7TH ANNUAL ASIAN AWARDS

Award	Awardee
Rising Star Award at the 7th Annual Asian Awards	Child actor Sunny Pawar,
Fellowship Award at the 7th annual Asian Awards	Sachin Tendulkar
Award for outstanding achievement in Cinema	Om Puri
Outstanding achievement in Music.	Adnan Sami
Outstanding Achievement in Television	Krishnan Guru-Murthy
Business Leader of the Year	Ajay Banga
Entrepreneur of the year	Masayoshi Son
Social Entrepreneur of the year	Nisha Dutt
Philanthropist of the year	Dr Jack Preger

Outstanding achievement in sport

Ding Punhui

OTHER AWARDS & HONOURS

Award	Awardee
Indian MNC of the year' by AIMA	Hero MotoCorp Ltd.
Indian National Science Academy (INSA) medal for the Young Scientist Award	Sanjay Pratihar
Avvaiyar Award"	Padma Venkataraman
US Transformative Chief Minister Award	Chandrababu Naidu
Diplomatic Service Merit Sungnye Medal of the Republic of Korea	Rajive Kaul
Special Jury Remi Award at the 50th annual Worldfest-Houston International Film Festival	The Black Prince
MTV's genderless award	Emma Watson
India's Young Scientist	Vikram Vishal
2016 Wisden-MCC (Melbourne Cricket Council) Cricket Photograph of the Year	Saqib Majeed,
Best Film at the New York Indian Film Festival (NYIFF).	Mukti Bhawan"
Best Director for her directorial debut 'A Death in the Gunj & Best Actress for 'Lipstick Under My Burkha' at 2017's New York Indian Film Festival (NYIFF).	Konkona Sensharma
Media For Sanitation' award by Railways Minister	NDTV
K Chandrasekharan Memorial Award	M P Veerendra Kumar
Football Writers' Association Footballer of the Year.	N'Golo Kant
Aon Best Employers India in the 2017	Sony Pictures
Woodrow Wilson Award	Chanda Kochhar
"Smart Village Award	Govardhan Eco Village
Florence Nightingale award	Krishna Kumari
Aravind Kumar Rengan	National Science Academy (INSA) Young Scientist 2017.

The Federation of Noida Residents Welfare Association	Navratan Legend Award
Institute of Technology (IIT) Delhi Team	Startups National Award 2017
Pawan Kumar Chamling	First Bhairon Singh Shekhawat Lifetime Achievement Honour in Public Service
Govardhan Eco Village	Smart Village Award by the India Trade Promotion Organisation (ITPO)
Bharti Airtel	Aon Best Employer India 2017
Krishna Kumari	Florence Nightingale award
Anshu Jamsenpa	first Indian woman to scale Mount Everest four times
Shrinivas Kulkarni	Dan David prize
Purnima Barman & Sanjay Gubbi	Whitley Award (Green Oscar)
David Letterman	Kennedy Center's 2017 Mark Twain Prize for American Humor.
The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)	Indira Gandhi Prize for Peace
Sanjeev Gupta	CEO of the Year (UK)

Important Sports Events Winners : January - May 2017

Event	Winner Country/Person	Opponent/ Runner
Mexico City ePrix	Lucas di Grassi	
ITU Triathlon World Cup	Men: Richard Murray Women: Katie Zaferes	
Junior and Cadet World Fencing Championships	Russia-16 medals	Italy- 12 medals
Youth World Weightlifting Championships	China- 9 medals	Kazakhstan-6 medals
European Weightlifting Championships	Russia-11medals	Romania-7 medals
Masters Tournament	Sergio García	Justin Rose
Hong Kong Sevens	Fiji	South Africa
Women's World Open Squash Championship(2016)	Nour El Sherbini	Raneem El Weleily

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Marathon des Sables	Men: Rachid El Morabity Women: Elisabet Barnes	
Grand National	Horse: One For Arthur Jockey: Derek Fox	
ITU World Triathlon Series	Men: Mario Mola Women: Andrea Hewitt	
Chinese Grand Prix	Lewis Hamilton	Sebastian Vettel
Argentine motorcycle Grand Prix	MotoGP: Maverick Viñales Moto2: Franco Morbidelli Moto3: Joan Mir	MotoGP: Valentino Rossi Moto2: Miguel Oliveira Moto3: John McPhee
Paris–Roubaix	Greg Van Avermaet	Zdenek Stybar
IIHF World U18 Championships	United States	Finland
Singapore Sevens	Canada- 22 Points	United States-19 Points
CARIFTA Games	Jamaica- 86 medals	Trinidad and Tobago- 22 medals
Monte-Carlo Masters	Rafael Nadal	Albert Ramos Viñolas
World Snooker Championship	Mark Selby	John Higgins
Bahrain Grand Prix	Sebastian Vettel	Lewis Hamilton
Boston Marathon	Men: Geoffrey Kirui Women: Edna Kiplagat	Men: Galen Rupp Women: Rose Chelimo
ISU World Team Trophy in Figure Skating	Japan- 109 points	Russia- 105 Points
European Judo Championships	France- 8 medals	Russia- 10 medals
Asian Weightlifting Championships	China- 36 medals	North Korea- 14 Medals
CONCACAF U-17 Championship	Mexico	United States
IAAF World Relays	United States- 60 points	Jamaica- 39 points
Japan Women's Sevens	New Zealand	Canada
Motorcycle Grand Prix of the Americas	MotoGP: Marc Márquez Moto2: Franco Morbidelli Moto3: Romano Fenati	MotoGP: Valentino Rossi Moto2: ThomasLithi Moto3: Jorge Martin
London Marathon	Men: Daniel Wanjiru Women: Mary Keitany	Men: David Weir Women: Manuela Schar
Liège–Bastogne–Liège	Alejandro Valverde	Dan Martin
European Badminton Championships	Men: Rajiv Ouseph Women: Carolina Marín	Men: Andrews Antonsen Women: Kristy Gilmour
Russian Grand Prix	Valtteri Bottas	Sebastian Vettel
Asian Amateur Boxing	Uzbekistan- 9 medals	Kazakhstan- 8 medals

Championships

India-4 Medals

Important Social Reforms in India

Movement	Founder	Purpose of the movement
Atmiya Sabha- Calcutta, 1815	Raja Ram Mohan Roy	To Promote Free thinking & also challenged & criticized orthodox religions
Brahmo Samaj- Calcutta, 1828	Raja Ram Mohan Roy	Ban on Sati System
Dharma Sabha- Calcutta, 1829	Radhakant Dev	Counter the social reform movements led by characters such as Raja Ram Mohan Roy and Henry Derozio
Tattvabodhini Sabha- Calcutta, 1839	Debendranath Tagore	To promote a more rational and humanist form of Hinduism based on the Vedanta , the Upanishads
Manav Dharma Sabha- Surat, 1844	Durgaram Mancharam	The objectives of the Sabha were to expose the false arts present in Christian, Muslim and Hindu religions
Paramhansa Mandli- Bombay, 1849	Dadoba Pandurang	Breaking Caste rules, supporting Women's education & widow remarriage
Brahmo Samaj of India-Calcutta, 1866	Keshab Chandra Sen	Native Marriage Act, 1872-Age of groom(18) & bride (14)
Satyashodhak Samaj- Pune, 1873	Jyotiba Phule	Social Service & Spread education among women & lower caste people
Arya Samaj- Bombay, 1875	Swami Dayanand Saraswati	Condemned Animal Sacrifices, caste system etc., & endorsed that Vedas are everything. Started Shuddhi Movement to bring back those Hindus who had converted to Islam and Christianity.
Ramakrishna Mission- Belur,	Swami Vivekananda	Main aim & ideals of the mission are only spiritual & humanitarian & has no relation with politics

1897		
Aligarh Movement- Aligarh, 1886	Syed Ahmad Khan	Education of Muslims
Theosophical Society-New york, 1875	Madam H.P. Blavatsky and Col H.S. Olcott	Opposed Child Marriage
Prarthna Samaj- Bombay, 1867	Atmaram Pandurang	Abolition of Child marriages, Educational opportunities to the lot of women & widow remarriage
Young Bengal Movement- Calcutta, 1828	Henry Louis Vivian Derozio	Free Thinking & revolt against the Social & religious structure of Hindu Society
Servants Of India Society- Bombay, 1905	Gopal Krishna Gokhale	To promote education, Sanitation, Health care & fight the social evils of untouchability & discrimination
Social Service League-Bombay , 1911	N.M. Joshi	The League conducted training programs for volunteers, whose services were later utilized for relief work among people suffering from famines, epidemics, floods and other disasters, and also for welfare programs among the poor and the needy
Bhoodan movement- Telangana, 1951	Acharya Vinoba Bhave	Donate land to the Harijans
Kuka / Namdhari Movement- Ludhiana, 1857	Guru Ram Singh	Non- Violence & Non- cooperation as the two weapons against British

List of International Organizations and Their Headquarters

Organizations	Headquarters	Country
Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank	Beijing	China
New Development Bank	Shanghai	China
Asian Development Bank	Manila	Philippines
International Monetary Fund	Washington DC	USA
World Bank	Washington	USA

	DC	
United Nations' Organization	New York	USA
UNICEF (United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund)	New York	USA
UNFPA (United Nations Fund for Population Activities)	New York	USA
UN Conference on Trade and Development	Geneva	Switzerland
World Health Organization	Geneva	Switzerland
World Economic Forum	Geneva	Switzerland
International Labour Organization	Geneva	Switzerland
World Trade Organization	Geneva	Switzerland
World Meteorological Organization	Geneva	Switzerland
World Intellectual Property Organization	Geneva	Switzerland
International Committee of Red Cross	Geneva	Switzerland
UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization)	Paris	France
Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development	Paris	France
United nations Industrial Development Organization	Vienna	Austria
International Atomic Agency	Vienna	Austria
Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries	Vienna	Austria
Amnesty International	London	UK
International Maritime Organization	London	UK
Commonwealth of Nations	London	UK
SAARC (South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation)	Kathmandu	Nepal
ASEAN (Association of South-East Asian Nations)	Jakarta	Indonesia
Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation	Singapore	Singapore
North Atlantic Treaty Organization	Brussels	Belgium
International Cricket Council	Dubai	UAE
Food and Agriculture Organization	Rome	Italy
International Court of Justice	The Hague	Netherland
International Olympic Committee	Lausanne	Switzerland
FIFA (Federation Internationale de Football Association)	Zurich	Switzerland
World Wide Fund for Nature	Gland	Switzerland
Organization for the prohibition of Chemical Weapons	The Hague	Netherland
IUCN (International Union for Conservation of Nature)	Gland	Switzerland
International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry	Zurich	Switzerland
South Asian Wildlife Enforcement Network	Kathmandu	Nepal

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International Organization for Standardization	Geneva	Switzerland
Indian Ocean Rim Association for Regional Cooperation	Ebene	Mauritius
International Shooting Sports Federation	Munich	Germany
World Chess Federation	Athens	Greece
International Hockey Federation	Lausanne	Switzerland
IAAF (International Association of Athletics Federations)	Monaco	Europe
International Hydrographic Organization	Monaco	Europe
ICOMOS (International Council on Monuments and Sites)	Paris	France