

Bankexamtoady.com

GK Digest

July 2017

Contain Current Affair of July 2017



Important Days

National Doctors Day: 1 July 2017

- National Doctors day in India is a big awareness campaign offering great opportunities to all to get aware about the roles, importance and responsibilities of the doctors as well as promote medical professionals to come closer and follow the responsibilities of their profession very dedicatedly.
- This day is celebrated in the memory of Dr. Bidhan Chandra Roy in order to pay honor to the entire medical profession.
- Doctor's Day in India was established by the Government of India in 1991 to be recognized and celebrated every year on 1st of July as National Doctors day.
- It is celebrated on 1st of July on the birth and death anniversary of the most famous physician of India Dr. Bidhan Chandra Roy

World Sports Journalists Day: July 2

- World Sports Journalists Day is a global professional observance held on July 2. It was

established by the International Sports Press Association (AIPS) in 1994 to mark the 70th anniversary of its foundation.

- The term "sports journalism" refers to a form of writing that reports on sporting topics, it is an essential element of any news media organization.
- AIPS was founded on July 2, 1924 during the Summer Olympics in Paris. It comprises continental sub-associations and national associations. Among its partners are many big sports federations, such as International Olympic Committee, FIFA, IAAF and others.

Independence Day in the United States: 4 July

- Independence Day is annually celebrated on July 4 and is often known as "the Fourth of July". It is the anniversary of the publication of the declaration of independence from Great Britain in 1776.
- Patriotic displays and family events are organised throughout the United States. In 1775, people in New England began fighting the British for their independence. On July 2, 1776, the Congress secretly voted for independence from Great Britain.
- Two days later, on July 4, 1776, the final wording of the Declaration of Independence

was approved, and the document was published.

Global Forgiveness Day: 7 July 2017

- Global Forgiveness Day is observed on July 07, 2017.
- It is a day to forgive, and a day to be forgiven! It was created in 1994 by the Christian Embassy of Christ's Ambassadors.
- The date has been moved from August 27th to August 7th.
- Studies show that people who forgive are happier and healthier than those who hold resentments.
- Forgiveness is the renunciation or cessation of resentment, indignation or anger as a result of a perceived offence, disagreement, or mistake, or ceasing to demand punishment or restitution.

Bank unions to observe July 19 as 'Save public sector banks day'

- The United Forum of Bank Unions has decided to observe July 19, the 48th anniversary of nationalization of major banks, as 'Save public sector banks' day.

- All members will wear a commemorative badge on the day, display posters in front of all branches, distribute leaflets and hold rallies/demonstrations at all centers across the country.
- Public sector banks are made to bear the cross for the sins of the private corporate defaulters

World Population Day: 11 July

- World Population Day, which seeks to focus attention on the urgency and importance of population issues, was established by the then-Governing Council of the United Nations Development Programme in 1989, an outgrowth of the interest generated by the Day of Five Billion, which was observed on 11 July 1987.
- By resolution 45/216 of December 1990, the United Nations General Assembly decided to continue observing World Population Day to enhance awareness of population issues, including their relations to the environment and development.
- The Day was first marked on 11 July 1990 in more than 90 countries.
- Since then, a number of a number of UNFPA country offices and other organizations and

institutions commemorate World Population Day, in partnership with governments and civil society.

Malala Day: 12 July

- 12 July 2013 is observed as Malala Day across the World and by United Nations.
- The day is being observed by the United Nations to highlight the fight of education of the Pakistani child activist Malala Yousafzai.
- 12 July, the day of Malala's Birth was declared as Malala Day by UN General Secretary Ban-Ki-Moon on her 16th Birthday.
- Malala is the girl from Pakistan, who was shot in head and neck by the Tehrik-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) on 9 October 2012 for advocating girls for their right to education and speaking against Taliban.

World Youth Skills Day: 15 July

- Today, on July 15, the world celebrates "Youth Skills Day" as a U.N. international day that was adopted by a resolution of the U.N. General Assembly.
- Theme: Skills for the Future of Work

17 July 2017 - Day of International Criminal Justice

- 17 July is the Day of International Criminal Justice. It marks the anniversary of the adoption of the Rome Statute on 17 July 1998, the founding treaty of the ICC, which seeks to protect people from genocide, crimes against humanity, war crimes and the crime of aggression.
- 17 July unites all those who wish to support justice, promote victims' rights, and help prevent crimes that threaten the peace, security and well-being of the world.



Nelson Mandela Day: 18 July

- Every year on 18 July — the day Nelson Mandela was born — the UN asks individuals around the world to mark Nelson Mandela International Day (18 July) by making a difference in their communities. Everyone has the ability and the responsibility to change the world for the better, and Mandela Day is an occasion for everyone to take action and inspire change.
- In November 2009, the UN General Assembly declared 18 July "Nelson Mandela

International Day" in recognition of the former South African President's contribution to the culture of peace and freedom.

Kargil Vijay Diwas: 26 July

- Kargil Vijay Diwas, named after the success of Operation Vijay. On this day, 26 July 1999, India successfully took command of the high outposts which had been lost to Pakistani intruders.
- The Kargil war was fought for more than 60 days, ended on 26 July and resulted in the loss of life on both sides, India and Pakistan and with the India regain possessions of Kargil
- Kargil Vijay Diwas is celebrated on 26 July every year in honour of the Kargil War's Heroes. This day is celebrated in the Kargil - Dras sector and the national capital New Delhi, where the Prime Minister of India, pays homage to the soldiers at Amar Jawan Jyoti at India Gate every year.
- Functions are also organized all over the country to commemorate the contribution of the Armed forces

July 28 Is World Hepatitis Day: Eliminate Hepatitis

- July 28, 2017 is World Hepatitis Day, one of only four disease-specific days recognized by the World Health Organization. Around the world and around the United States organizations and individuals come together on this day to raise awareness of the global burden of viral hepatitis and to influence change.
- This year's World Hepatitis Day theme is "Eliminate Hepatitis," and it provides an opportunity to highlight the serious impact hepatitis B and hepatitis C have around the globe and in the United States and to join in the call for action to prevent deaths and stem the tide of new infections.

EXAMS 

World Day against Trafficking in Persons: 30 July

- In 2013, the General Assembly held a high-level meeting to appraise the Global Plan of Action.
- The Member States also adopted resolution A/RES/68/192 and designated July 30 as the World Day against Trafficking in Persons.
- This resolution declared that such a day was necessary to "raise awareness of the situation of victims of human trafficking and for the promotion and protection of their rights."

- This year the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) has chosen 'act to protect and assist trafficked persons' as the focus of the World Day.
- This topic highlights one of the most pressing issues of our time -- the large mixed migration movements of refugees and migrants.
- The theme puts the spotlight on the significant impact of conflict and natural disasters, as well as the resultant, multiple risks of human trafficking that many people face.
- It addresses the key issue concerning trafficking responses: that most people are never identified as trafficking victims and therefore cannot access most of the assistance or protection provided.

International Tiger Day: 29 July

- The tiger is the largest of the world's big cats and this magnificent creature, with its distinctive orange and black stripes and beautifully marked face, has a day that is dedicated to it.
- This was first celebrated in 2010 and was founded at an international summit that had been called in response to the shocking news that 97% of all wild tigers had disappeared in

the last century, with only around 3,000 left alive.

National Events

GST comes into force after 17 years of debate

- The Goods and Services Tax (GST) -- India's biggest tax reform since independence -- tonight came into force after 17 tumultuous years of debate
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi termed the new levy as "good and simple tax" that marks economic integration of India.

ADB pledges USD 10 bn for development projects in India

- The Asian Development Bank (ADB) today committed USD 10 billion support for infrastructure building and immediate development needs of less-developed states in the country.
- Besides, the Manila-based multi-lateral funding agency decided to increase the annual funding by USD 1 billion to USD 4 billion.

- ADB expects India to grow by 7.4 per cent in the current financial year and 7.6 per cent in 2018-19.
- The funding agency is prepared to invest up to USD 5 billion during 2018-2022 for infrastructure building to develop the East Coast Economic Corridor. Nakaopraised progress on attracting investments in manufacturing industries in the Corridor.
- President of Asian Development Bank is Takehiko Nakao.

Mizoram celebrates 31st anniversary of Mizo peace accord

- The 31st anniversary of the signing of the historic Mizo peace accord between the Union government and the erstwhile underground Mizo National Front (MNF) was celebrated in Mizoram.
- All government offices and educational institutions remained closed as the day was declared a public holiday.
- The Mizo Accord was signed on June 30, 1986 ushering in an era of peace after 20 years of violence and disturbance in the state.

PM Narendra Modi welcomes Narmada water at Rajkot's Aji dam

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi welcomed the arrival of Narmada river waters in the city's main

water reservoir Aji dam, solving its perennial water woes.

- The Narmada water reaching the dam will resolve the water woes of the people of this city in Saurashtra region which has been facing perennial water shortage due to deficient rains.
- Perennially facing deficient rains, Aji dam has overflowed for only 11 times in the last 40 years. In the years when the dam is not filled, people of the city face water scarcity.
- Modi formally welcomed Narmada dam water into the Aji dam.
- Aji dam is located some 450 kms from Narmada dam in South Gujarat. Reminiscing his initial days after taking over as the Gujarat chief minister in 2001

Odisha inaugurates computerisation of PACS and Rupay KCC

- Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik inaugurated computerisation of PACS and launched RuPay Kisan Credit cards in the state.
- Odisha is the first state to implement an integrated Core Banking Solution Project covering all three tiers of short term cooperative credit structure - state cooperative bank, district central cooperative banks and 2,708 primary agriculture cooperative societies.
- With computerisation of PACS, farmers are now able to draw their sanctioned loans from the ATM network of National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) having 2.14 lakh ATMs of all banks across the country.

- Patnaik distributed micro ATMs for dispensation of loans at the doorsteps of the farmers and said the Government is keen to address all requirements of the farmers by converting the PACS as One Stop Shops.
- Now farmers of the state are empowered to access credit through the ATM network and Odisha is the first state in the country to introduce such foolproof system to ensure transparency through technology and teamwork.

TransStadia officially launched by Indian PM Modi

- Indian Prime Narendra Modi formally inaugurated TransStadia in Ahmedabad, Gujarat earlier today. The multi-purpose sports complex also hosts a 20-000 seater state-of-the-art football stadium, the first of its kind in the state.
- The facility's formal inauguration comes nearly eight months after it first hosted a global sports event.
- As per reports, the Arena by TransStadia is a Rs. 550 crore project, built on a unique Public Private Partnership (PPP) model, and is hailed as India's first convertible stadium.
- The venue also lays great emphasis on sustainable development through water conservation by rainwater harvesting, mist fire-fighting and zero waste water discharge with a state-of-the-art sewage treatment plant and water treatment plant.
- It ensures decreasing load on water resources by reusing and recycling 100 per cent of used or

treated water. It provides for energy-efficient building by providing terrace gardens and energy-efficient equipment.

Mumbai's 'Vikrikar Bhavan' renamed as GST Bhavan

- 'Vikrikar Bhavan' the headquarters of Maharashtra government's erstwhile Sales Tax department, was renamed as 'GST Bhavan' as the new tax regime rolled out.
- In two years, the 'GST Bhavan' will be shifted to Wadala from Mazgaon

Launch of National Biopharma Mission

- The first ever Industry-Academia mission to accelerate biopharmaceutical development in India will be formally launched by the Cabinet Minister for Science and Technology, Earth Sciences, Environment, Forests and Climate Change, Dr. Harsh Vardhan
- The program *named Innovate in India (i3)* will witness an investment of USD 250 million with USD 125 million as a loan from world Bank and is anticipated to be a game changer for the Indian Biopharmaceutical industry.
- It aspires to create an enabling ecosystem to promote entrepreneurship and indigenous manufacturing in the sector.
- As a flagship program of the Government of India in collaboration with World Bank, it promises to boost the growth curve for domestic

biopharma in India by accelerating the translation of research concepts into viable products, supporting clinical validation, enabling sustainable networks for collaboration between industry and academia, and supporting entrepreneurial ecosystem amongst many others.

IGNOU Announces Course Fee Waiver For Transgender Students

- The Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU) on Sunday announced exemption of fees for its transgender students of all programmes.
- Vice Chancellor (VC) Ravindra Kumar announced the initiative during the 22nd Prof G Ram Reddy Lecture, a release issued by the varsity said.
- The university holds the lecture on 2 July every year in the memory of the founding Vice Chancellor of the university professor G Ram Reddy. It invites eminent educationists and scholars to deliver lectures on higher education, especially in the open and distance learning domain.

Prime Minister inaugurates Textiles India 2017

- Narendra Modi inaugurated Textiles India 2017, Indias first ever mega textiles trade fair, being held at Gandhinagar, Gujarat.
- Textiles India 2017 gives fillip to Honourable Prime Ministers dream of Make in India.

Railways, NBCC to redevelop 10 railway stations

- Rail Land Development Authority today joined hands with National Building Construction Corporation for redevelopment of 10 railway stations across the country on global standards.
- The Railways has embarked on an ambitious project to redevelop 403 stations with the participation of private players, public sector and foreign agencies.
- The identified stations to be taken up initially by NBCC for redevelopment are Tirupati, Sarai Rohilla (Delhi), Nellore, Puducherry, Madgao., Lucknow, Gomtinagar, Kota, Thane (New), and Ernakulam.

Assam to raise new force for rhino protection

- The Assam government is going to raise a new Special Rhino Protection Force (SRPF) for better protection of the one-horned rhinos in Assam
- The government has already started the process of recruitment for the proposed force, which will be deployed for better protection of the one-horned rhinos in the state.
- There will be 22 officers for the proposed force who will be appointed on deputation for leading the force.

Telangana to Have Separate Agriculture Budget From Next Year

- Telangana would have a separate budget for agriculture from the next year.
- Chief Minister K Chandrasekhar Rao decided to substantially enhance funds for the agriculture sector and present a separate agriculture budget
- Rao also asked the officials to form farmers' associations at various levels -- from villages to the state -- to organise the cultivators, it said.
- Farmers would be provided training of modern and scientific methods of farming so as to increase the farm output

Madhya Pradesh eyes Guinness World Record by planting 6 crore saplings

- With an aim to create a Guinness World Record, the Madhya Pradesh government carried out a drive to plant six crore saplings in 12-hours along the banks of river Narmada.
- The plantation drive that started from 7 am continued till 7 pm along the banks of the river covering 24 districts of the state.
- Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan launched the day-long campaign by performing puja and planted saplings this morning at Amarkantak, from where river Narmada originates.
- According to a state public relations officer, a total of 6.67 crore saplings are being planted in 12-hours across 24 districts located in Narmada basin.

India successfully test-fires quick reaction surface-to-air missile

- India successfully test-fires quick reaction surface-to-air missile at Odisha's Chandipur test range
- The indigenously developed Quick Reaction Surface-to-Air (QRSAM) short range missile, which has a capability of engaging multiple targets, was successfully test-fired from a test range along the Odisha coast
- The missile has a strike range of 25 km to 30 km.
- Designed to be a quick reaction missile, it involves an all-weather weapon system capable of tracking and firing.
- The missile was test-fired at about 11.30 am from a truck-mounted canister launcher from launch complex-3 at the Integrated Test Range (ITR) at Chandipur near Balasore,

Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan launches G-Ride

- Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan launched G-Ride, a digital ride sharing platform designed and deployed for the IT industry by the Group of Technology Companies (GTech), the industry body of IT companies in the state.
- The G-Ride app automatically matches co-workers and neighbours and help them travel together to work. It is available in Android and iOS versions.

- Several IT companies in cities like Bengaluru, Chennai and Noida already encourage car-pooling and ride-sharing.
- The state government will accelerate deployment of disruptive digital resources in development initiatives and also in addressing challenges facing people

TERI ranked among world's top think tanks

- The Energy Resources Institute (TERI) has been ranked as the second best climate think tank in the world.
- The rankings were released by the the International Center for Climate Governance, which focuses on the design of climate policy and related governance issues.
- The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI) is a research institute based in New Delhi that conducts research work in the fields of energy, environment and sustainable development.
- Established in 1974, it was formerly known as Tata Energy and Resource Institute.
- As the scope of its activities widened, it was renamed The Energy and Resources Institute in 2003

Revenue Department removes additional excise duty on cigarette, tobacco

- The finance ministry has removed additional excise duty on tobacco, pan masala and

cigarettes with effect from July 1, following the GST implementation.

- The revenue department also "rescinded" the central excise notification dated February 27, 2010, which deals with excise duty rate on unmanufactured tobacco and chewing tobacco.
- The GST Constitutional (Amendment) Act permits the Centre to levy excise duty on six items including tobacco and tobacco products. The other items are petroleum crude, diesel, petrol, natural gas and ATF.
- Following the rollout of Goods and Services Tax (GST) from July 1, the central excise notifications for tobacco, pan masala and cigarettes had to be brought in line with the new indirect tax regime.
- Under the GST, a cess is levied on demerit and luxury goods over and above the peak GST rate of 28 per cent.
- The cess on pan masala has been decided at 60 per cent, while in tobacco the levy will vary from 71-204 per cent.

PM Narendra Modi adopts wrestlers' village Kakrahia, his third in Varanasi

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi will adopt Kakrahia, a village known for its wrestlers and wrestling arenas, under the Sansad Adarsh Gram Yojana
- This will be the third village to be adopted by the Prime Minister in his Lok Sabha constituency of Varanasi.

- In the previous two years, Modi adopted Jayapur and Nagpur, as his first and second villages.
- Yogi Adityanath visited Kakrahia on Sunday, and informed the people there that the Prime Minister has selected the village under the Sansad Adarsh Gram Yojana.

India-Thailand military exercise begins in Himachal

- A 14-day joint military training exercise between India and Thailand started in Himachal Pradesh
- The joint exercise of the Indian Army with the Royal Thailand Army commenced at Bakloh in Chamba district
- The aim of this exercise is to build and promote closer relations while exchanging skills and experiences between the two armies.
- Exercise Maitree 2017 is a continuation of a series of joint exercises between the Indian Army and the Royal Thailand Army. The previous edition of the exercise was held at Krabi in Thailand in 2016.

India's tallest ATC tower to be operational at Delhi airport

- The new 101.9-metre air traffic control (ATC) tower at the Delhi airport -- touted to be the country's tallest -- is likely to start operations by December.

- The airport operator has handed over the tower to the Airports Authority of India (AAI), whose chief said trial runs will begin soon.
- The tower, among the tallest structures in Delhi, will give a 360-degree view of the airport to the controllers who will be able to see all the three runways, aprons and taxiways.
- The tower, built at a cost of Rs 350 crore, has come up at a more centralised location. It is adjacent to the present tower and once ready, it will be the seventh tallest ATC tower in the world.

ADB, Centre ink pact for road revamp

- The Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the Government of India on Monday signed a \$220 million loan agreement meant to improve connectivity, transport efficiency, and safety on the State highways of Rajasthan.
- The loan is the first tranche of the \$500 million Rajasthan State Highways Investment Program, approved by ADB Board in May this year, that will upgrade about 2,000 km of State highways and major district roads to two-lane or intermediate-lane standards to meet road safety requirements,
- The first tranche loan will improve about 1,000 km of State highways and major district roads

MERIT app and e-Bidding portal launched

- Union Minister of State (IC) for Power, Coal, New & Renewable Energy and Mines, Shri Piyush Goyal launched here today the 'MERIT app (Merit Order Despatch of Electricity for Rejuvenation of Income and Transparency)' and the e-bidding portal for providing e-Bidding solution to States to select Independent Power Producers (IPPs) for procurement of power by transferring their domestic coal under the scheme of flexibility in utilization of domestic coal.
- the initiatives are taken in the direction of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of 'Minimum Government and Maximum Governance' through 'Speed, Skill and Scale'. The app and the web portal would result in optimum utilization of Coal which would save the consumer close to Rs. 20,000 crores five years down the line
- The advantages of MERIT app are as follows:
 - Empowerment of the Consumer and participative governance
 - Transparent information dissemination pertaining to marginal variable cost and source wise purchase of electricity
 - Promotes economy and efficiency in operations
 - Helps understand the utility portfolio and its complexity
 - Optimisation of the power procurement costs

UDAY covers 97% of discom debt: Centre

- About 97% of the total outstanding debt of all state power distribution companies (discoms)

has been covered under the Ujwal DISCOM Assurance Yojana (UDAY),

- So far, 86% of the restructurable debt has been revamped under the scheme
- The 26 states and 1 UT which have joined the UDAY scheme account for total outstanding debt of Rs. 3.82 lakh crore. Hence, about 97% of the total outstanding debt of all State discoms has been covered under UDAY
- The national average of aggregate technical and commercial (AT&C) losses (from all UDAY states) stood at 20.2% in FY17, according to the government, which added that billing efficiency has increased by two percentage points, from 81% in FY16 to 83% in FY17.

'White tiger' spotted in the Nilgiris

- A rare 'white tiger' with a pale skin color has been spotted for the first time in the Nilgiris by a wildlife photographer, arousing interest among conservationists and forest officials on whether it is a true genetic mutant.
- Photographer Nilanjan Ray from Bengaluru spotted the cat at an undisclosed location on a recent trip to the Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve.
- Scientific literature describes the cause as a genetic mutation among tigers that changes an amino acid responsible for the normal colour being formed, resulting in "natural polymorphism" (occurring in different forms).
- Such cats lack pheomelanin, which is responsible for the red-yellow hue in the skin coat. White

tigers have been reported predominantly from Rewa, Madhya Pradesh.

Environment Minister inaugurates Van Mahotsav

- The environment minister launched a month-long tree plantation drive to mark Van Mahotsav. The first tree planting campaign started in Delhi.
- It was part of Van Mahotsav celebrations, that is celebrated in the first week of July every year since 1950 in India.
- The country has vowed to expand its carbon sink, and forests are key to this because they absorb carbon dioxide are considered an important way to check the global rise in temperatures.
- Under the commitment, India has to create an additional sink of 2.5 to 3 billion tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent by 2030.

Karnataka 'Elevate 100' scheme for start-ups

- The Karnataka government has launched the 'Elevate 100' scheme to identify and nurture innovative start-ups.
- The aim is to identify 100 most innovative start-ups in the state to elevate them to the next level of success
- The Elevate scheme is the brainchild of the start-up cell, Karnataka Biotechnology and Information Technology Services (KBITS), to help start-ups across the state succeed by providing

them with access to mentors, networking opportunities, idea validation, incubation facilities, and in-depth sessions for start-ups on accounting, legal and emerging technologies.

India declares itself free from Bird Flu

- India has declared itself free from Bird Flu (highly pathogenic Avian Influenza - H5N1 and H5N8) and notified it to the World Organisation for Animal Health.
- The move will help it resume export of poultry products to the countries which had banned trade in such items early this year.
- India had reported outbreaks of Avian Influenza at various epicentres in Delhi, Gwalior (Madhya Pradesh), Rajpura (Punjab), Hissar (Haryana), Bellary (Karnataka), Allappuzha and Kottayam (Kerala), Ahmedabad (Gujarat), Daman (Daman) and Khordha and Angul in Odisha during October 2016 to February 2017.
- The countries which banned Indian poultry products, include United Arab Emirates (UAE) and Hong Kong.
- The World Organisation for Animal Health is recognised as a reference body by the World Trade Organization. It has 181 countries as its members.
- This global body keeps tab on animal health issues and advises countries on best practices to be followed during such outbreaks.
- India is, at present, the world's fifth largest egg producer and the 18th largest producer of broilers. In terms of export from India, poultry

products recorded 18% growth during the 2015-16 financial year over the same period of 2014-15.

India among 5 countries using wastewater for irrigation

- India and four other countries – China, Pakistan, Mexico and Iran — account for the most cropland in the world irrigated by dirty wastewater, putting millions of lives at serious health risks, new research has found.
- The global use of untreated wastewater from cities to irrigate crops downstream is 50 per cent more widespread than previously thought, according to the study published in the journal Environmental Research Letters.
- The study relies on advanced modelling methods to provide a comprehensive estimate of the global extent to which farmers use urban wastewater on irrigated cropland.
- According to the study, farmers' use of wastewater is most prevalent in regions where there is significant wastewater generation and water pollution.

Odisha govt signs EOI with IAAF & AFI to establish High-Performance Academy

- The Odisha government today signed an Expression of Intent (EOI) with the International Association of Athletics Federations (IAAF) and

Athletics Federation of India (AFI) to establish a High Performance Academy in Bhubaneswar.

- The EOI was signed by Sports Secretary Vishal Kumar Dev and AFI president Adille Sumariwala and IAAF president Lord Sebastian Coe in the presence of Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik.
- While Union Sports Ministry will provide coaching, integrated support services and education to athletes, the State Sports and Youth Services Department will provide funds and make sure availability of necessary infrastructure and support services, including an outdoor stadium. Besides, the IAAF will assist in educating elite coaches and provide specialists.

No detention policy to go away from next academic year

- The government has decided to do away with the no-detention policy for students from the next academic session
- The decision was taken following representation from most of the states as they said the quality of education has deteriorated because of the policy.
- Under the Right to Education (RTE) Act, 2009, no child admitted in a school will be held back in any class or expelled till the completion of elementary education covering Class 1-8.

Bengal Government to celebrate Kanyashree Utsav on July 25

- July 25 will mark the celebration of Kanyashree Utsav
- The day will witness representatives from all corners of the state coming together to congratulate accomplished Kanyashrees, who will be felicitated by the Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee herself.
- Students who have benefited from the Kanyashree Scheme from every district will participate in the celebratory event of this flagship scheme.
- The Kanyashree Scheme is not only Ms Banerjee's most ambitious project, but it is also the pride of the state.
- It has so far brought 40 lakh girls under its umbrella. The scheme aims at effectively empowering girls through far-sighted, holistic and all-round development, stressing on ending early marriage and opening up options for young women.
- It even includes development in areas such as sports. The success of the scheme has won it accolades both nationally and internationally.
- This includes the top prize at the United Nations Public Service Award 2017 and the Digital Empowerment Foundation-bestowed Manthan Award for Digital Inclusion and Development, and recognition at the UNICEF and DFID-organised Girl Summit in 2014.
- The scheme proved to be the best in the Public Service category at the UN forum from among 552 schemes across 63 countries

JIGYASA" - Student-Scientist connect programme launched

- Jigyasa, a student- scientist connect programme was officially launched in the national capital
- Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), has joined hands with Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan (KVS) to implement this programme.
- The focus is on connecting school students and scientists so as to extend student's classroom learning with that of a very well planned research laboratory based learning.
- The "JIGYASA" would inculcate the culture of inquisitiveness on one hand and scientific temper on the other, amongst the school students and their teachers.
- The Programme is expected to connect 1151 Kendriya Vidyalayas with 38 National Laboratories of CSIR targeting 100,000 students and nearly 1000 teachers annually.
- The program will also enable the students and teachers to practically live the theoretical concepts taught in science by visiting CSIR laboratories and by participating in mini-science projects.

Punjab unveils new transport policy to 'overhaul system

- Punjab cabinet approved the new transport policy to streamline the issuance of permits and licences across commercial and private transport vehicles.

- It also abolished the system of district transport officers (DTO) and restructuring the transport department,
- The cabinet decided to set up a special task force of the vigilance department and the state police to crack down on all illegally plying buses.
- The task force will have to weed out all such buses in a phased manner in over two months
- Once the scheme is implemented, permits of 5,432 buses indulging in extension/diversion of routes and another 6,700 minibuses, besides 78 integral luxury coaches, will be cancelled and allotted afresh.
- Under the new system, in case the number of eligible applications received for a particular route is more than the number of permits, lots will be drawn to allot permits. In case of private operators, not more than 25% of the total permits on a particular route will be issued to one firm/party/person.
- Permits issued under this scheme will be valid for a period of five years from the date of issue. Upon renewal, the permits shall be valid for a period of five years from the date of renewal.

Government To Set Up Skill Development Centres For Minorities In 100 Districts

- The government will set up 'Garib Nawaz' skill development centres in 100 districts of the country to offer employment-oriented training to the youth from minority communities.
- The government will also proffer marriage assistance to the tune of Rs. 51,000 (per head) to families of girl students who complete their

graduation availing the Centre's Begum Hazrat Mahal scholarship.

- The decisions were taken during a meeting of the governing body of the Maulana Azad Education Foundation (MAEF), a non-political and non-profit social services organisation funded by the ministry.
- The other cities where the centres will be set up include Lucknow, Rampur, Allahabad and Shahjahanpur in Uttar Pradesh, Mumbai and Nagpur in Maharashtra, Bhopal and Indore in Madhya Pradesh, Mewat and Panipat in Haryana, Patna and Kishanganj in Bihar, and Ranchi and Giridih in Jharkhand.

Tough anti-hijacking law comes into force

- The country's new anti-hijacking law, which prescribes capital punishment in the event of death of "any person", has come into force following a government notification.
- The 2016 Anti-Hijacking Act replaces a 1982-vintage law, according to which hijackers could be tried only in the event of death of hostages, such as flight crew, passengers and security personnel.
- In the new law, the definition has been expanded to include death of "security personnel on board" or "ground support staff" as well.
- In other cases of hijacking, guilty will be punished with imprisonment for life and fine,

besides confiscation of movable and immovable property held by him or her.

- The new law, which has come into effect after its notification on July 5, includes several acts within the definition of hijacking including making a threat, attempts or abatement to commit the offence.

MRP to be sole price decider from Jan. 1

- From January 1, 2018, the price of a packaged good would no longer depend on where you bought it — be it a local kirana store, a mall, a five-star hotel or an airport.
- The Consumer Affairs Ministry has amended the rules that govern packaged commodities to this effect.
- As per the amended Legal Metrology rules for packaged commodities, which will come into effect from the next calendar year, the Centre has clarified that the retail sale price shall be the maximum retail price (MRP) inclusive of all taxes, with the provision to round off the price to the nearest rupee or 50 paise.
- Further, to curb the possibility of any vendor charging differential prices for the same product, a new legal provision has been inserted that no person shall declare different MRPs on an identical pre-packed commodity.
- The new norms also require sellers to enhance the size of letters and numerals for making declarations about the packaged goods, such as their "best before date, month and year" to indicate their shelf life, for making it easier for consumers to read vital information

- Interestingly, for e-commerce marketplaces, declaring the month and year in which a commodity is manufactured or packed is not mandatory and if they fulfill certain conditions, they will not be held liable for whether the declarations were correct or incorrect.

Delhi Govt Launches Scheme Allowing 'Free Surgeries' in 48 Private Hospitals

- If patients do not get a date for surgery at a government hospital within one month, they can get themselves treated in private ones free of cost under the Delhi government's 'Free Surgery Scheme'.
- Such cases will be taken care of at 48 NABH-accredited private hospitals in Delhi-NCR. These include Moolchand Hospital, Rockland Hospital and Batra Hospital in south Delhi.
- The facility is available for 52 types of specified surgeries like heart by-pass, kidney stone surgery and laparoscopic gall bladder surgery.
- A patient should be a bona fide resident of Delhi to avail the scheme. The government has not put any income restriction to undergo free surgery.
- The patient will have the option of choosing a private hospital, where he wants to undergo surgery.

Bengaluru to host international meet on social justice

- A three-day Babasaheb B.R. Ambedkar International conference on social justice will be held in Bengaluru from July 21 to 23

- The conference will unveil the 'Bengaluru Declaration' outlining specific constitutional, institutional and policy responses to concerns of equity, human rights, freedom and democracy,"
- The conference on 'Reclaiming Social Justice, Revisiting Ambedkar' is a coming together of progressive forces committed to safeguarding the constitutional idea of India,
- Calling for a re-think on the social, political and economic paradigms to transform the spirit of politics, the Chief Minister said the stakeholders should study why and how marginalised groups were being discriminated against or excluded.
- The conference will strive to resolve all these concerns. We will form an 'alliance of equity' to lay the foundation of a new India for a new time

India to join new Global Foreign Exchange Committee

- India will soon get a seat on the Global Foreign Exchange Committee (GFXC), a newly-constituted forum of central bankers and experts working towards promotion of a robust and transparent forex market.
- The committee has been set up under the guidance of the Bank for International Settlements (BIS), an international financial organisation owned by 60 member central banks, representing countries from around the world.
- In a progress report on 'reducing misconduct risks in the financial sector', the Financial Stability Board (FSB) informed the G20 Summit,

- FSB is an international body for global financial system.
- This Code will be maintained and updated by the new GFXC, comprising public and private sector representatives from the foreign exchange committees of 16 international forex trading centres.

First Edition of WINGS 2017 Sab Uden, Sab Juden"- Expanding Regional Connectivity Hosted in New Delhi

- The First edition of WINGS 2017 Sab Uden, Sab Juden"- Expanding Regional Connectivity was hosted in New Delhi by the Ministry of Civil Aviation.
- Around 338 delegates from Government and Civil Aviation sector participated in the first edition of WINGS-2017. This event brought together the key stakeholders of the Aviation Sector such as States, Tourism Departments and Tour Operators as a Group representing airline consumers to facilitate interaction with various airlines, airport operators, cargo operators and other ecosystem players at a common forum.
- The WINGS-2017 lived upon the expectations and served as a unique outcome oriented platform for the stakeholders of the entire ecosystem in the Civil Aviation sector. Some notable outcomes expected from the forum are identification, marketing of new routes, destination and most importantly making flying accessible to the citizens across the country.

Ahmedabad becomes India's first World Heritage City

- The Walled City of Ahmedabad, founded by Sultan Ahmed Shah in the 15th century, has been declared India's first World Heritage City.
- The World Heritage Committee (WHC) of UNESCO made the announcement in Poland's Krakow.
- The 5.5 km walled city area with an approximate population of four lakh, living in century old wooden residences in around 600 pols or neighbourhoods, is regarded as a living heritage. The UNESCO had preferred Ahmedabad over Delhi and Mumbai.
- It has now joined the privileged club of heritage cities like Paris, Cairo, Edinburgh and two cities in the subcontinent, Bhaktapur in Nepal and Galle in Sri Lanka.



First International Aviation Security seminar organised by National Security Guard in Haryana

- National Security Guard (NSG) organized First International Aviation Security Seminar in Manesar, Haryana.
- The seminar was inaugurated by Minister of State for Civil Aviation Jayant Sinha whereas Minister of State for Skill Development & Entrepreneurship (I/C) Rajiv Pratap Rudy attended the seminar.

Govt to push e-education with 4 digital initiatives

- The Union government invited nearly 1,000 vice-chancellors of central, state, deemed and private universities and directors of premier institutes such as Indian Institutes of Management (IIMs) and Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) for the launch of four major digital initiatives in higher education on Guru Purnima
- Pranab Mukherjee launched Swayam — an indigenously designed massive open online course (MOOC), Swayam Prabha — 32 Direct-to-Home channels for transmitting high-quality educational content, the National Digital Library containing 6.5 million books, and the National Academic Depository for authenticating all certificates issued by institutions.
- These initiatives will increase the Gross Enrolment Ratio in the higher education from 24.5 (2015-16) to 30 by 2020,
- Swayam programme would target those students who could not complete their studies and professional who wished to upgrade their knowledge. Swayam, however, would not run courses such as engineering, medicine, dental, pharmacy, nursing, architecture, and physiotherapy.

India to invite 10 Asean leaders for Republic Day in 2018

- Taking an assertive step in its Act East Policy, India will invite the ten Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), leaders for the Republic Day parade and celebrations next year

- Republic Day 2018 will be the first time ever that so many leaders will together be chief guests at the parade which showcases India's military might.
- It comes at a particularly tense time for China and India, who are engaged in a stand-off over their border that they share with Bhutan.
- Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam are the members of Asean.
- Future focus areas of cooperation between ASEAN member states and India can be described in term of 3Cs- Commerce, Connectivity and Culture

Janani Sewa Scheme of Indian Railways

- As announced in the Rail Budget 2016-17, Zonal Railways have been advised to ensure availability of baby food, hot milk and hot water at Railway stations on payment basis.
- Presently, the items under Janani Sewa Scheme are available on most of the major Railway stations. Further, Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) has been advised to ensure availability of children's Menu through e-catering scheme.
- At present, children's menu are available through e-catering scheme for all trains passing through New Delhi, Lucknow Jn., Lucknow, Jaipur, Ajmer, Howrah, Chennai Egmore, Pathankot Jn. and Chhatrapati Shivaji Terminus railway stations.

CM Arvind Kejriwal launches e-RTI, Delhi becomes 2nd state to accept online applications

- Filing an RTI application with the Delhi government is now just a click away.
- Delhi became the second state to launch e-RTI portal that will enable citizens to file online Right to Information (RTI). Maharashtra is the first state to launch the online RTI platform.
- The portal launched will enable citizens to file RTI and seek information related to 172 departments of the Delhi government including the office of the chief minister and his ministers.
- The e-RTI application fee will have to be paid through net banking. Citizens can file the e-RTIs by logging at www.rtionline.delhi.gov.in
- You can also call at 011-23392726 and 011-23392421 for any queries related to the process of filing the RTI.



Mo HUA is the new name for urban development & housing ministry

- The government has merged the urban development and housing and urban poverty alleviation ministries. Now this will be known as Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA). This is third time the ministries have been merged.
- Subsequently, after the creation of Department of Urban Employment and Poverty Alleviation as a separate one in 1995, the ministry came to be known as the Ministry of Urban Affairs and Employment and it had two departments -

Department of Urban Development and
Department of Urban Employment and Poverty
Alleviation.

- The two were again merged in April 1999.
- Few months later in 1999, the ministry was bifurcated. A year later in 2000, the ministries were merged. Then again in May 2004 it was bifurcated into two ministries.

GST Rate Finder: Government launches app to check rates

- The government launched an app called GST Rate Finder-- which as the name suggests is your ready reckoner for all the tax rates that are to be levied under the GST (Goods and Services Tax) regime. The app has been developed by the Central Board of Excise and Custom (CBEC).
- First app of its kind which would be a ready reckoner for public, for customers, for consumers, traders, students, anyone who wishes to have very handily (GST) rates available. So, if you are in a market, a restaurant or anywhere you can easily check what the (GST) rate is
- A taxpayer can search for applicable CGST (Central GST), SGST (State GST), UTGST (Union Territory GST) rate and Compensation Cess on a supply

President of India inaugurates 'Ashiana Annexe' in Dehradun

- The President of India, Shri Pranab Mukherjee inaugurated the 'Ashiana Annexe' in Dehradun, Uttarakhand today (July 10, 2017) which comprises of twelve low cost dwelling units constructed to accommodate officers and staff of Rashtrapati Bhavan during Presidential visits to the Retreat at 'Ashiana'.
- These dwelling units have been constructed using the Habitech-NivaraTantra - Onsite Sanitation Integrated Community Housing Technology Innovations developed at the Asian Institute of Technology (AIT). The Technology innovations comprise unique blocks known as "compacted intermeshing" blocks which are made from local soil. The production of these blocks is on site and is an entirely green process.
- These blocks have novel cavities for horizontal and vertical reinforcement using steel bars which results in eliminating use of the conventional beams, columns and concrete lintel.
- The cavities also enable natural air curtain against temperature, noise pollution and water penetration. Other salient features of these dwelling units are that they are disaster resilient, sustainable and cost effective.
- Scientific treatment of sanitation waste enables mitigation of disease risk and ensures health and wellbeing of residents and the community.


Extension of NPS Fortnight from 11th July, 2017 to 21st July, 2017

- With a view to promote and create awareness about the National Pension System (NPS) and improve the quality of services provided to the subscribers, PFRDA is observing NPS fortnight from 27th June, 2017 to 11th July, 2017 successfully.
- Keeping in view the demand raised by Government Nodal Offices and also benefits to the NPS subscribers, PFRDA has decided to extend the NPS Service Fortnight from 11th July, 2017 to 21st July 2017.
- During this extended period also all the nodal offices, Pay and Account Offices and DDOs under the Central and State Governments, Points of Presence/ banks/ aggregators/ banking correspondents etc. will be involved with the acquisition, servicing of NPS subscribers and creating awareness about the National Pension System, in a proactive manner.
- NSDL has also developed an exclusive web link i.e. <https://npscra.nsdl.co.in/nps.php> ,which encapsulates all the information and functionalities related to NPS subscriber, including 'NPS Mobile App', which may be instrumental for effective & efficient use of NPS Service Fortnight.

36th NABARD Foundation Day celebrations

- On 12th July 2017 NABARD celebrated its 36th foundation day.
- National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) is an apex development bank in India, headquartered at Mumbai with branches all over India. The Bank has been

entrusted with "matters concerning policy, planning and operations in the field of credit for agriculture and other economic activities in rural areas in India".

- NABARD is active in developing financial inclusion policy and is a member of the Alliance for Financial Inclusion
 - NABARD was established on the recommendations of B.Sivaraman Committee, (by Act 61, 1981 of Parliament) on 12 July 1982 to implement the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development Act 1981.
 - It replaced the Agricultural Credit Department (ACD) and Rural Planning and Credit Cell (RPCC) of Reserve Bank of India, and Agricultural Refinance and Development Corporation (ARDC). It is one of the premier agencies providing developmental credit in rural areas.
 - NABARD is India's specialised bank for Agriculture and Rural Development in India.
- 

Committee formed to study legalities for separate State flag for Karnataka

- The State has constituted a nine-member committee headed by Principal Secretary, Department of Kannada and Culture, to study and submit a report to the government on the possibility of "designing a separate flag for Karnataka and providing it a statutory standing."
- Members of the committee include Secretaries to the Departments of Personnel and Administrative Services, Home, Law and

Parliamentary Affairs, president of Kannada Sahitya Parishat, chairman of Kannada Development Authority, vice-chancellor of Kannada University, Hampi, and Director of Department of Kannada and Culture.

- The committee was constituted following representation from journalist-writer and president of Karnataka Vidyavardhaka Sangha, Dharward, Patil Puttappa, and social worker Bheemappa Gundappa Gadada to the government.
- They urged the government to design a separate flag for Kannada 'naadu' and accord statutory standing for that.

NGT bans use of nylon and synthetic manja

- The National Green Tribunal on Tuesday imposed a complete ban on 'manja', the string used to fly kites, made of nylon or any synthetic material which is non-biodegradable, saying it posed a threat to the lives of birds, animals and humans.
- A bench headed by NGT Chairperson Justice Swatanter Kumar directed all state governments to prohibit the "manufacture, sale, storage, purchase and use" of synthetic manja or nylon threads and all other synthetic threads used for flying kites.
- The green panel clarified that the ban order would apply on nylon, Chinese and cotton manja coated with glass.
- "Due to 'manja' being coated with glass, metals and other sharp material, these strings act as

good conductors of electricity, increasing the probability of detached manja strings stuck in power lines, electrocuting kite flyers and passers-by coming into contact with these strings

Maharashtra launches free injectable contraceptive for women

- Maharashtra has become the first state in the country to provide women an injectable contraceptive for free.
- The state's public health department launched a programme called Antara on July 10 to offer women an injection of Medroxyprogesterone acetate (MPA), a birth-control hormone.
- The injection is supposed to be used within a week from the day a woman's menstrual cycle starts. Currently, the injections are available for free at public health facilities in Mumbai, Pune, Raigad, Nandurbar, Ahmednagar, Aurangabad, Kolhapur, Sangli, Ratnagiri and Beed.
- These injections will help in birth spacing

Shri J P Nadda launches new family planning initiatives on World Population Day

- Mission Parivar Vikas to focus on 146 districts in 7 states with high TFR
- Mission Parivar Vikas will focus on 146 high fertility districts in 7 states with high TFR. Under this, specific targeted initiatives shall be taken for population stabilisation through better services delivery

- Parivar Vikas is a new initiative conceived by the Ministry with a strategic focus on improving access through provision of services, promotional schemes, commodity security, capacity building, enabling environment and intensive monitoring.
- As a part of the new communications campaign linked to the rollout, the Health Minister also launched a new consumer friendly website on family planning and a 52 week radio show for couples to discuss issues related to marriage and family planning, which will be aired across the country.

Maharashtra government announces free insurance scheme for legislators and their families

- The Maharashtra government has decided to give free medical insurance cover of up to Rs10 lakh to all sitting and former legislators and their families.
- The government will have to set aside Rs9.96 crore a year to pay the insurance premiums of 335 sitting legislators and 837 former legislators — 1,172 in all. Each premium works out to Rs85,000.
- Legislators were earlier covered by the government's medical reimbursement scheme.
- A committee headed by top medical officials would examine and approve medical bills submitted by legislators. The annual expenditure on such reimbursements was about Rs9crore to Rs10 crore.

- Under the new scheme, six of a family, regardless of their age and medical condition, are collectively entitled to an insurance cover of up to Rs10 lakh.
- If the cover is exhausted, the policy has a contingency provision of Rs10 crore for all legislators.
- Family members of legislators won't have to undergo any medical tests

Niti Aayog ranks Andhra Pradesh best in three segments

- Andhra Pradesh, Telangana and Gujarat are the three best-performing states in "ease of doing business", NITI Aayog CEO Amitabh Kant said
- On the other hand, Tamil Nadu, Kerala and Assam fare worst in the rankings, he told reporters in New Delhi.
- Similarly, based on availability of electricity in rural households, he said, the best-performing states are Andhra Pradesh, Goa, Kerala, Punjab and Tamil Nadu, which have achieved 100% penetration.
- The bottom three are Bihar with 46%, Nagaland with 45% and Jharkhand with 40%,
- In nutrition, Kerala, Goa and Tripura are the best-performing states while Meghalaya, Jharkhand and Bihar are the worst, Kant said.
- Tamil Nadu, Mizoram and Kerala come out on top in terms of reading comprehension while Uttarakhand, Chattisgarh and Bihar are at the bottom.

- In October last year, it was announced that the bifurcated states of Andhra Pradesh and Telangana were the new joint top-ranked states of 2016, in ease of doing business.
- The Assessment of State Implementation of Business Reforms, 2016, based on the ranking by Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion, tracks the level of implementation of norms by state governments making it easier to do business in.
- Telangana and Andhra ended the closely-contested contest with a score of 98.78 per cent on the 340 parameters that states were ranked on.

In a first, Rajasthan fixes minimum education qualification for cooperative body polls

- In a move that is a first for the country, Rajasthan has fixed minimum educational qualification for candidates interested in contesting elections for elections to village cooperative societies and various other cooperative bodies.
- To this effect, the Rajasthan Government amended the State Cooperative State Cooperative Societies Rules, 2003. The new rules will benefit around 10,000 cooperative and agricultural credit societies. In the long run the societies will reap the benefits as their management would be in expert hands.
- The notification regarding the amendment was released on July 10.

- For contesting election as members of governing boards of dairy societies, farming societies, consumer societies, weavers' societies, urban banks, housing construction societies, primary land development banks, credit societies and cooperative unions, the minimum educational qualifications will range from class 5 to class 8

Super 30 Scheme Uttarakhand Launched For Meritorious Students

- Uttarakhand government has started to provide free coaching for meritorious students of the state for admissions into IIT with the launch of Super-30 scheme.
- The motive of Super 30 scheme uttarakhand is to improve the standards of higher education in the state.
- The idea of Super 30 is taken from Super-30 in Bihar run by Dr. Anand Kumar who prepares 30 students every year for IIT admissions.
- For the Super-30 scheme a college will be selected in each district where the free coaching for IIT and Civil services aspirants will be provided by the government.
- Another similar scheme for the aspirants of civil services will also be launched in which free coaching will be provided by the state government to selected students. A
- scheme for post graduate students to study Ph.D will also be introduced soon in which financial assistance to 100 post graduate students will be provided for Ph.D programme.

Arunachal, Andaman and Nicobar Islands get exemption from SC highway liquor ban

- The Supreme Court on Wednesday allowed Arunachal Pradesh and Andaman and Nicobar Islands to join the club of Sikkim and Meghalaya, both of which enjoy full exemption from the court's ban on sale of liquor within 500 metres of National and State Highways.
- A Bench led by Chief Justice of India J.S. Khehar took note of the geographical quirks of Arunachal Pradesh and the islands and concluded that they "deserved parity" with Sikkim and Meghalaya.
- On March 31, the north-eastern States of Sikkim and Meghalaya got a full exemption from the 500-m no-liquor zone ban after the court took into consideration their hilly terrain and also the fact that 82% of its area was forest land and over 90% of its liquor shops would be closed if the ban was imposed strictly in its original form.
- In a further partial relief, the court had also taken note of the fact that excise licence period varies in different States and extended beyond April 1, 2017. In such States, the court had extended the deadline for phasing out the licences to September 30, 2017.

Mukul launches 'most inclusive' Life programme

- Meghalaya chief minister Mukul Sangma launched the Livelihood Intervention and

Facilitation of Entrepreneurship (Life) programme in Songsak in the East Garo Hills.

- Songsak is about 210km west of the state capital, Shillong.
- Life is the "most inclusive" of all the programmes of the state government, "unlike the central schemes, which are mostly meant for the people below poverty line".
- The government, with its convergence of thoughts and actions, has been making an effort to reach out to the people with different sustainable and livelihood programmes to empower and enable the people for economic prosperity.
- The main idea of Life was to ensure people migrate from urban areas to rural areas, as against the current trend, for taking up activities that revolves around agriculture, horticulture and other allied sectors.



Indian Railways To Launch RailCloud To Optimise Server Management

- The Indian Railways will launch RailCloud tomorrow, a virtual server with an inbuilt security system that will enable faster connectivity at a reduced cost.
- Developed by rail PSU RailTel at an estimated cost of about Rs. 53 crore, Railcloud aims at optimising server resources and its management.
- Cloud computing is an emerging technology for faster and on demand commensurate

deployment of server resources which results in reduced costs.

- This makes the system suitable to meet higher demand," said a senior Railway Ministry official.
- Currently, all IT applications have separate servers which increase the cost of operations and purchases.
- The state-run transporter will also launch tomorrow Nivaran-Grievance Portal, the first IT application on the RailCloud.
- Nivaran is a platform for resolution of service-related grievances of serving and former railway employees.
- RailCloud will cover all management related to various services like human resources, health and hospital, signal assets, freight and logistics and energy among others.

DIPP to set up India's first TISC in Punjab

- The Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion (DIPP), Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Government of India, signed an Institutional agreement with the Punjab State Council of Science and Technology in New Delhi to establish India's first Technology and Innovation Support Center (TISC) at Patent Information Centre, Punjab, under the World Intellectual Property Organization's (WIPO) TISC program.
- The objective of the TISC is to stimulate a dynamic, vibrant and balanced Intellectual Property Rights (IPRs) system in India to foster creativity and innovation, thereby promoting

entrepreneurship and enhancing social, economic and cultural development by establishing a network of TISCs in India.

- WIPO's Technology and Innovation Support Center (TISC) program 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 Rights (IPRs).

NGT to impose Rs 50,000 fine for dumping waste in Ganga river

- In a landmark order aimed at cleaning up and rejuvenating the Ganga, considered a holy river by millions of Indians, the National Green Tribunal (NGT) banned all construction within 100 metres of the river's edge from Haridwar in Uttarakhand to Unnao in Uttar Pradesh.
- This ban will remain in place until authorities complete the demarcation of the Ganga's floodplains and identify all permissible and non-permissible activities
- This was among a range of measures that a six-member NGT bench headed by its chairperson, justice Swatanter Kumar, listed out in a huge 543-page judgment on petition by environmentalist M.C. Mehta.
- The tribunal said any individual, company or government body found to be dumping waste into the river could be fined Rs50,000.

The country is set to get its first high-speed rail training centre at Gandhinagar.

- The centre will provide for advanced training modules on cutting edge technologies.
- The construction will begin shortly after the foundation-laying ceremony is held in September,
- Being constructed over railway land measuring 4,400 metres at an estimated cost of Rs 600 crore, the training centre will have a sample track fitted with the overhead electrical systems to enable testing of bullet trains that will run on the Mumbai-Ahmedabad route.
- While India's first bullet train is proposed to hit the track in 2023, the training centre is supposed to start operating by 2020

Maharashtra first state to have law against social boycott

- With the President of India giving assent to the Maharashtra Prohibition of People from Social Boycott (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act, 2016, Maharashtra has become the first state in the country to bring a law making social boycott a crime.
- The movement, initiated by late Narendra Dabholkar, gained momentum after he was shot dead and the Maharashtra legislature passed the law unanimously in 2016.
- Maharashtra Andhashraddha Nirmoolan Samiti (MANS) executive president Avinash Patil said

the President has signed the law following which the state published it in the gazette.

- The new law proposes action against extra-judicial bodies like jat (caste) and community panchayats, and prescribes a maximum punishment of three years in jail. As per the law, the offence of imposing social boycott will attract a maximum punishment of 3 years in prison or a fine up to Rs 1 lakh or both. The abetment of the offence also attracts the same punishment and fine.

Green tribunal declares area near Ganga as 'No-Development Zone'

- An area of 100 metres from the edge of the Ganga between Haridwar and Unnao has been declared a "No Development Zone", with the National Green Tribunal (NGT) on Thursday prohibiting dumping of waste within 500 metres of the river.
- An environment compensation of Rs.50,000 will be imposed on anyone dumping waste in the river. The NGT also directed the Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand governments to formulate guidelines for religious activities on the ghats of the Ganga and its tributaries.
- No-development zones are zones where no construction, including commercial or residential buildings, can come up.

Varanasi to have an international center for research on rice varieties

- The Union Cabinet - country's highest decision making body - on Wednesday approved setting up International Rice Research Institute (IRRI), South Asia Regional Center (ISARC) in Varanasi which will work on developing high-yielding rice varieties. The Center will be established at existing campus of the National Seed Research and Training Center in the holy city of eastern India within six months.
- A Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) will soon be signed for setting up the Center between the country's agriculture ministry and the IRRI, Philippines.
- The ministry will provide physical space for laboratories, offices and training classes with associated infrastructure and land at the National Seed Research and Training Center (NSRTC) in Varanasi, the Prime Minister Narendra Modi's parliamentary constituency.
- This Center will be the first International Center in the eastern India and it will play a major role in harnessing and sustaining rice production in the region. It is expected to be a boon for food production and skill development in the eastern India and in other South Asian and African countries.

Naidu launches revamped NHB RESIDEX

- Minister of Housing and Urban Affairs Venkaiah Naidu has released the new version of NHB RESIDEX.

- The revamped and expanded online user-friendly NHB RESIDEX captures upward and downward movements in the prices of residential real estate prices revealed that prices during January-March 2017 have increased over that of October-December 2016, in about half of the cities covered under the survey while the other half have either registered a decline or remained the same.

Govt launches plan to eliminate malaria by 2027

- The government launched a national strategic plan for the elimination of malaria and pledged to eradicate the vector-borne disease by 2027.
- The strategic plan gives year-wise elimination targets in various parts of the country depending upon the endemicity of malaria in the next five years.
- The salient features of the NSP include containment of breeding, strengthening malaria surveillance, establishing a mechanism for early detection and prevention of outbreaks of malaria, promoting the prevention of malaria by the use of Long Lasting Impregnated Nets (LLINs), effective indoor residual spray and augmenting the manpower and capacities for effective implementation for the next five years.

India ranks 116 out of 157 nations on SDG index

- India is ranked 116 out of 157 nations on a global index that assesses the performance of

countries towards achieving the ambitious sustainable development goals (SDGs).

- The SDG Index and Dashboards Report produced by the Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN) and the Bertelsmann Stiftung shows that world leaders need to strengthen their joint efforts to realise the 17 global goals.
- Sweden leads the list, followed by Denmark and Finland. Among the G7 countries, only Germany and France can be found among the top ten performers.
- The United States ranks 42nd on the Index, while Russia and China rank 62nd and 71st respectively.

Indian Railways launches first solar-powered DEMU train

- In line with the Indian Railways 'Solar Mission' to reduce dependency on fossil fuels, Railways launched its first 1600 [HP](#) solar-powered DEMU (Diesel Electric Multiple Unit) train from Safdarjung railway station
- The train has six trailer coaches, with 16 solar panels fitted in each of them. The solar panels will power all the electrical appliances inside.
- Railways' first DEMU rake with solar power hotel load system, based at Shakurbasti shed, was launched by Railway Minister Suresh Prabhu. Shakurbasti DEMU shed has provisioned dual fuel arrangement in 16 of the total holding of 1400 HP Driving Power Cars.

Delhi Police to be equipped with 'super cop belt'

- National capital police will be the first state police who will get 'super cop belt,' a specially designed belt, widely used by Police in UK, USA, Russia and para-military forces like CRPF, CISF, NSG etc. Recently, Delhi Police has flouted a tender for 10,000 belts for its officers performing ground duties.
- This belt will help cops to keep things like Gun, Mobile Pouch, Security Batten, Wireless Set Pouch & ammunition pouch.
- currently a cop has to carry wireless set, pistol, and cartridge separately. During any protest or event which have large public gathering, these equipments become liability, a Delhi police official claimed.
- In a case, a police constable posted in security unit of Delhi police, attached with a Member of Parliament lost his official pistol and 12 rounds. Later, he was arrested after an audit of weapons was done.

Matunga becomes India's first railway station run by women

- Matunga suburban railway station in Mumbai has become the first station in India to be run by an all-women staff.
- A total of 30 women staffers, including eleven booking clerks, five Railway Protection Force (RPF) personnel and seven ticket checkers are working under station manager Mamta Kulkarni,

who was the first female station master in Central Railway's Mumbai division.

India celebrated Falun Gong

- Falun Gong, the ancient Chinese holistic system that is banned in China, was celebrated in India on July 15 with a parade and Human Word Formation in the capital.
- Organisers of the event, Falun Dafa Association of India, which has been teaching Falun Gong in India, said the event would highlight the persecution against the practitioners in China.
- Apart from the parade of July 15, the group will hold events and public interactions at Gandhi Smriti, Rajghat on July 14 and 15.

Mexican city named best for travel, Udaipur ranks 14: Survey

- San Miguel de Allende in Mexico has been named the World's Best City in a survey by Travel and Leisure magazine, while Udaipur has been ranked 14th.
- US city Charleston, Thai city Chiang Mai, Japanese city Kyoto and Italian city Florence have completed the top five. Interestingly, seven of the 15 cities on the list are located in Asia.

Govt. clears three export infra plans

- With deficient infrastructure severely hurting the competitiveness of India's exports, the Centre – for the first time under a new scheme launched in March to address the problem — has given its approval for three proposals including one to establish an Integrated Cargo Terminal (ICT) at the Imphal International Airport.
- The other applications that received the green signal from an (Inter-Ministerial) Empowered Committee (EC) chaired by Commerce Secretary Rita Teatia were: modernisation of infrastructure facility in Karnataka for marine exports – where the total cost is Rs. 13.34 crore; and construction of a new 'Standard Design Factory' building at Cochin Special Economic Zone (SEZ) for which a total of Rs. 61.63 crore will have to be spent
- This is proposed to be established at the Andhra Pradesh Med Tech Zone in Visakhapatnam – with four separate facilities at a total cost of about Rs. 169 crore.
- The Indian medical device market was worth about \$4 billion in 2015 and exports of these items from India were close to \$1 billion (in 2016).
- The EC has, however, granted an in-principle nod for a proposal to establish a 'Coastal Cashew Research and Development Foundation' in Karnataka, for which the total cost estimated is Rs. 10 crore.

TR Zeliang sworn in as Nagaland chief minister

- Sixty-five-year-old TR Zeliang returned as Nagaland chief minister after a gap of more than five months when governor PB Acharya sworn him in at Raj Bhawan at Kohima, hours after dismissing Shurhozelie Liezietsu.
- A graduate from Arts College of Kohima, Zeliang served as a minister in Congress government, led by SC Jamir. In 2003, he broke away from Congress and formed the Nagaland Congress with six other Congress members only to merge with Naga People's Front.

Naveen Patnaik dedicates Odisha's longest bridge to nation


- Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik today dedicated to the nation the state's longest bridge and named it after Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose.
- The 2.88 km bridge over the river Kathajodi will connect the state capital of Bhubaneswar with Cuttack reducing the distance between the two cities by 12 km.
- Patnaik said he was delighted to name the state's longest bridge after Netaji who was born and brought up in Cuttack. Although the construction work of the bridge started after Patnaik laid the foundation in February 2011, the completion missed the deadline by over three years.

Supreme Court allows Centre to replace MCI oversight committee

- The Supreme Court allowed the Centre to replace the oversight committee set up to supervise the functioning of the Medical Council of India (MCI) with a fresh panel of five eminent doctors.
- A five-judge Constitution bench, headed by Chief Justice J S Khehar, said the Centre had proposed the names of five eminent doctors to replace the oversight committee whose term had just expired.
- It also gave the Centre liberty to replace any doctor in the list with another if he does not wish to be a part of the oversight committee.
- MCI had contended that the directions of the constitution bench which had set up the oversight committee were based on certain material which could not be controverted at the time of the order.

Maha approves revised policy of scheme aimed to improve girl child ratio

- The Maharashtra government today approved a revised policy of the 'Majhi Kanya Bhagyashree' scheme, according to which families who have a yearly income of upto Rs 7.5 lakh will be benefited.
- The scheme, launched by the state government on April 1, 2016 in place of 'Sukanya' scheme, is aimed at improving the skewed girl child ratio, prevent sex determination and female foeticide, and support female education.

- According to the earlier provisions, the 'Majhi Kanya Bhagyashree' scheme catered to girls from Below Poverty Line (BPL) families and those whose annual income was upto Rs 1 lakh.
 - According to the revised provisions, families having an income upto Rs 7.5 lakh will be eligible for the scheme, an official from the Chief Minister's Office said.
 - As per the revised provisions after bearing the first girl child, if the mother or the father undergoes a family planning operation, a sum of Rs 50,000 shall be deposited in a bank in the name of the girl child.
 - Also, if any of the parents undergo a family planning operation after bearing the second girl child, a sum of Rs 25,000 shall be deposited in the name of both children.
 - The girl will be able to withdraw the interest money twice - once she attains 6 years of age and when she turns 12.
- 

UIDAI Launches mAadhaar app

- The UIDAI or Unique Identification Authority of India has launched a new mobile app, called mAadhaar, that will negate the need to carry the Aadhaar card in wallets.
- Users of this mAadhaar app will have all the demographic details of Aadhaar card in their smartphones.
- Information like name, date of birth, gender and address along with the user's photograph (that is linked with Aadhaar card) will be available in the app.

- The app comes with a biometric lock/unlock feature to secure the personal data. Once a user enables the lock system, the app remains locked till he/she chooses to either unlock it (which is temporary) or disable the locking system.
- It also has a "TOTP generation" (Time-Based One-Time Password) process which can be used instead of SMS-based OTP.

Shala Siddhi Prohatsan Yojana started in 25,000 MP schools

- In order to provide qualitative education to the students, 'Hamari Shala Kaisi Ho' and 'Shala Siddhi Karyakram' are being implemented by the School Education department in Government schools of the State.
- The State Education Centre has started Shala Siddhi Prohatsan Yojana to encourage best works under this programme. The Shala Siddhi Prohatsan Yojana has been started in 25,000 schools of the State till date.
- A time table has been fixed for the award process. According to the time table, selection committees at block level will be formed by the district core committees till July 22.
- The selected schools will forward their applications for Shala Siddhi Karyakram to Sankul Principals till July 28.
- The selection committee will forward applications of 3 primary and 3 middle schools for awards to District Institute for Education and Training (DIET).

- The selected schools at block level will be awarded at District Head Quarters on the occasion of Independence Day Celebration programme.

Ram Nath Kovind Wins India's Presidential Election

- Ram Nath Kovind was on Thursday declared elected as India's 14th President polling 65.6% of the vote defeating the Opposition's joint candidate, former Lok Sabha Speaker Meira Kumar, who secured 34% of the vote.
- Mr. Kovind will be the second Dalit President of India after late President K.R. Narayanan but, more significantly, the first from politically significant Uttar Pradesh and the first person from the BJP to hold the office of President since Independence.
- The value of each vote of an MP was 708. Among the States, each vote in Uttar Pradesh had the highest value of 208, while each vote from Sikkim had the lowest value of seven. Mr. Kovind got the highest number of votes – 335 – from U.P. and the lowest – just 1 – from Kerala.
- Ms. Kumar secured the highest number of votes – 273 – from West Bengal and drew a blank in Andhra Pradesh.

New Pension Scheme With 8% Fixed Rate To Be Launched Today

- Finance Minister Arun Jaitley will launch a pension scheme for elderly with 8 per cent fixed rate of interest on their savings today.
- It can be purchased offline as well as online through Life Insurance Corporation (LIC) of India which has been given the sole privilege to operate this scheme, the finance ministry said in a statement on Thursday.
- Pradhan Mantri Vaya Vandana Yojana (PMVVY) is a pension scheme announced by the government exclusively for the senior citizens aged 60 years and above which is available from May 4, 2017 to May 3, 2018.
- Pension is payable at the end of each period, during the policy term of 10 years, as per the frequency of monthly, quarterly, half-yearly, yearly as chosen by the pensioner at the time of purchase, it said.
- The scheme is exempted from Goods and Services Tax, adding, loan up to 75 per cent of purchase price shall be allowed after 3 policy years to meet the liquidity needs.
- On death of the pensioner during the policy term of 10 years, the purchase price will be paid to the beneficiary.

Telangana puts cap on school bag weight

- Acting on proposals submitted by the Commissioner and Director of School Education, the Telangana School Education Department on Tuesday issued strict guidelines to reduce the weight of school bags for children in the State.

Schools including aided and un-aided private schools have to follow guidelines

- Telangana government has capped the weight of their school bags between 1.5 kg and 5 kg.
- It has also barred schools from assigning homework to students of primary grades -- I to V.
- According to the Government Order (GO) issued yesterday, the maximum weight of a school bag with textbooks and notebooks should not exceed 1.5 kg for Class I and II and 2 to 3 kg for Classes III to V.

Second phase of rural connectivity project BharatNet gets approval

- Project BharatNet, the Union Cabinet is learnt to have cleared the proposal for the second phase of the project, under which 1,50,000 gram panchayats would be connected with optic fibre cable (OFC), according to a top government official. In the first phase of the project, 1,00,000 gram panchayats were connected as of end March, albeit two years after it was originally intended to. The original target set by the government for laying down OFC in 1 lakh gram panchayats was March 2015, but was later advanced to March 2017.
- The approval entails a total estimated expenditure of Rs 42,068 crore for the implementation of BharatNet, which will be funded from Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF). Out of this amount, Rs 11,148 crore is the cost of providing connectivity to 1,00,000

gram panchayats in phase-I and Rs 18,792 crore is for providing connectivity to remaining 1,50,000 gram panchayats in phase-II.

- Balance amount is for such essential activities not covered in the initial BharatNet framework, which include, last mile connectivity architecture, operation and maintenance and replacement of BSNL's poor quality fibre being used in the project between block to gram panchayat

Lok Sabha passes IIIT Public Private Partnership Bill 2017

- The Lok Sabha passed the IIIT Public Private Partnership Bill 2017.
- The Bill provides to establish 20 IIITs under Public Private Partnership mode across the country and authorise them to award degrees to the students.
- The Bill intends to address the challenges faced by the Indian information technology industry and growth of the domestic information technology market. It includes developing new knowledge in information technology, providing manpower of global standards and ensuring autonomy in governance.
- At present, there are fifteen functional Indian Institutes of Information Technology in public-private partnership mode, which are proposed to be declared as Institutes of national importance under the Bill.

Climate projects of three States get Centre's nod

- Proposals for climate adaptation projects submitted by Rajasthan, Gujarat and Sikkim have been approved by the Union Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change.
- The three projects approved by the National Steering Committee on Climate Change will receive funds under the National Adaptation Fund for Climate Change (NAFCC). Current projects address a range of climate change vulnerabilities in the states, which are not addressed under the ongoing schemes of the Central and State governments, a statement from the Ministry said.
- The projects in Rajasthan and Sikkim are targeted at water security, while in Gujarat, the project will focus on increasing the adaptive capacity of communities dependent on natural resources in the Kachchh district, the official statement said.
- With India being a signatory to the UN Paris climate change deal, the country is looking to step up work on climate change mitigation as well as adaptation to fulfil the targets under the National Action Plan on Climate Change.
- Under this, individual state governments are expected to develop State Action Plans on Climate Change, and propose projects — especially in climate sensitive sectors such as agriculture, water, forests, and others — which will receive financial support from the NAFCC. It is estimated that the Ministry has approved 21 projects worth about ₹435.72 crore in the last two years.

Janahitha grievance redressal system launched in Telangana

- Telangana Government launched a portal "Janahitha" grievance Redressal system.
- The program is aimed for the public to submit their complaints online smoothly and get speedy redressal. The public can also apply for various welfare schemes through the facility.
- The complaint redressal process would be monitored by officials at the district headquarters and Secretariat in Hyderabad.

Centre, Haryana Govt. ink pact to revive River Saraswati

- The Centre and the Government of Haryana joined hands to revive the long lost River Saraswati and provide water to the drought-prone areas of India.
- Union Minister of State for Petroleum and Natural Gas (Independent Charge) Dharmendra Pradhan and Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar witnessed the signing of the 'Memorandum of Agreement'.
- The MoA signed today will not just increase the availability of water in the region but will also help in efforts towards rediscovering the lost lineage of Saraswati River.
- In years to come, water will be a costlier commodity than Oil; in fact, in some parts of the World it's already costlier,

Jaitley releases National Trade Facilitation Action Plan

- Finance Minister Arun Jaitley released the National Trade Facilitation Action Plan (NTFAP)
- The Action Plan aims to transform cross-border clearance ecosystem through efficient, transparent, risk-based, co-ordinated, digital, seamless and technology driven procedures which are supported by advanced sea ports, airports, and land borders.
- The NTFAP aims to achieve improvement in ease of doing business by reducing cargo release time and cost, promote paperless regulatory environment, transparent and predictable legal regime and improved investment climate through better infrastructure.

President of India Inaugurates Bicentenary Celebration of Paika Rebellion of Odisha

- The President of India Shri Pranab Mukharjee inaugurated the "Bicentenary celebration of the heroic Paika Rebellion of Odisha, a valiant uprising of Paikas against the British rule" organised by the Ministry of Culture
- Paika uprising was in the nature of a rebellion by people of Odisha.
- It was aimed at upholding the rights of the Odia people and sovereignty of Odisha. Paika Rebellion was not only the rebellion of Paikas, it was a National War waged by ordinary people at the grassroots level who resented the

dispossession of their Sovereign of his rights and the consequential repressive measures that followed.

Ministry of Rural Development to launch Aajeevika Grameen Express Yojana

- The Ministry of Rural Development will launch a new sub-scheme under Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana – National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM) which will be named as "Aajeevika Grameen Express Yojana (AGEY)".
- the main objectives of AGEY are to provide an alternative source of livelihoods to members of Self Help Groups (SHGs) under DAY-NRLM by facilitating them to operate public transport services in backward rural areas. This will provide safe, affordable and community monitored rural transport services like e-rickshaws, 3 and 4 wheeler motorised transport vehicles to connect remote villages with key services and amenities including access to markets, education and health for the overall economic development of the area.
- The financial support under the programme is mainly in the form of Revolving Fund and Community Investment Funds, given as grants to the Self Help Groups (SHGs) and their federations.
- So far, the total amount released to SHGs is Rs. 1815 crore to about 3.96 lakh SHGs. A sum of Rs. 1088 crore has also been disbursed to 7.28 lakh SHGs as revolving Fund.

- DAY-NRLM also focuses on bank linkage of the institutions to enable their income. The Cumulative Bank Credit mobilized for women SHGs and their federations since inception is to the tune of Rs 1.19 lakh crores.

Maharashtra govt lifts ban on scented supari

- The Maharashtra government, while renewing its annual ban on gutka and pan masala, has removed 'scented supari' from the list at least until a special committee gives its verdict. In other words, scented supari - which health activists claim is just another name for pan masala can be sold in Maharashtra.
- The state banned gutka, pan masala, chewable tobacco, zarda, among other harmful products, on health grounds in 2012.
- These products contain carcinogens such as tobacco and heavy metals and many studies across India have linked their use to increased incidence of oral cancer. Oral cancer accounts for over a third of all cancers in India.

India Displaces Pakistan as 3rd Largest Terror Target, US Report Claims

- A report by the US state department says that India is the 3rd largest terror target in 2016. Interestingly, India has replaced its estranged neighbour, Pakistan on the list and is just behind Iraq and Afghanistan.

- The data revealed India's position as the third largest terror target. According to it, out of the 11,072 terror attacks across the world in 2016, 927 took place in India. Reportedly this is 16 per cent more than what it was in 2015, that is 798. In 2016, 337 deaths were caused by acts of terror and it is 17 per cent more than 2015's 289 deaths.
- As per the report, Pakistan faces major threats from the terror groups

Radio broadcasting in country completes 90 years

- Radio broadcast completes 90 years in country today and first ever radio broadcast in the country went on the air from the Bombay Station on July 23, 1927 under a private company, the Indian Broadcasting Company.
- On 8th of June, 1936, the Indian State Broadcasting Service became All India Radio. All India Radio (AIR) has been serving to inform, educate and entertain the masses since its inception, truly living up to its motto – Bahujan Hitaya Bahujan Sukhaya.
- All India Radio, now under Prasar Bharati, has the distinction of being one of the major broadcasting organizations in the world. The News Services Division of All India Radio disseminates news and comments to listeners in India and abroad.
- AIR's home service comprises 420 stations today located across the country, reaching nearly 92 per cent of the country's area and 99.19 per cent

of the total population. AIR originates programming in 23 languages and 146 dialects.

UP govt launches free power connection scheme for BPL families

- Uttar Pradesh Power Minister Srikant Sharma launched free power connection scheme for the BPL card holders in the state.
- The scheme would also benefit the poor people who do not have BPL cards at present.
- Such people would have to pay between Rs 80 to Rs 120 for getting the power connection
- The Centre had launched the free gas connection scheme for the poor, the Yogi Adityanath government in Uttar Pradesh is giving free power connection to the same class of people.



Lucknow Metro Station Is Set to Become India's First to Provide Free Water & Toilet Facilities

- On top of being India's first metro network to offer free drinking water and toilet facilities, Lucknow Metro will also become the first in the country to have its own FM radio station.
- It will operate alongside a collaboration with a private radio station to provide information regarding metro safety as well as on and off board entertainment. It will also provide free - WiFi at all stations to commuters with a 'Go Smart' card.

- Lucknow Metro is expected to cover 140km in the city in a total of four phases over the next 25 years, operating two routes, from North to South and East to West.
- Once completed, the Metro will shoulder the huge responsibility of ferrying a large portion of Lucknow's over 3 million population, and will become an integral service in a city that continues to grow and attract large number of people.
- It is also reported that it will be the fastest built metro system in the world and the most economical high speed rapid transit system project in India.

Lok Sabha Amends Free, Compulsory Education Bill

- The Lok Sabha gave its approval to a bill amending the law on free and compulsory education to extend the deadline for teachers to acquire the prescribed minimum qualifications for appointment.
- According to the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act, 2009, which came into force on April 1, 2010, a teacher, who did not possess minimum qualifications, was required to acquire them in five years.
- The Act was enacted to provide free and compulsory education to all children between the age of six and 14 years.
- The central government subsequently received requests from states for extension of the period

to enable them complete the training process for in-service untrained teachers.

- Teachers should register on the Swayam portal and they will also be provided hands-on experience by the respective state governments, he said.
- Swayam is a government-initiated programme designed to achieve access, equity and quality in education.

Rijiju inaugurates RIWATCH Museum, Chimari Bridge

- Minister of State for Home Affairs, Kiren Rijiju inaugurated the Research Institution of World Ancient, Traditional, Culture & Heritage (RIWATCH) Museum at Roing and hoped that it would serve as a place of exchange of cultural values of various tribes of the state and the North East.
- The MoS also pressed for documentation and research to preserve age-old culture and traditions of the state, and exhorted people to shoulder the responsibility to pass on traditional and cultural values to the next generation.

India launches first R&D facility for high-end fuels, gas

- India has launched its first petroleum Research & Development (R&D) facility for testing high-end BS-VI quality fuel emissions

- Operated by state-run Indian Oil Corp (IOC), the R&D facility is designed to test all types of fuel including petrol, diesel, ethanol-blended petrol, bio-diesel, CNG, LNG, hydrogen-CNG and 2G-ethanol blends to ensure they meet the superior BS-VI norms that are to be implemented across the country by April 2020
- This "first-of-its kind" facility was inaugurated by Petroleum Minister Dharmendra Pradhan in Faridabad in the National Capital Region (NCR)

India Gets Its First R&D Facility For BS-VI Fuels

- India has received its first R&D facility for high-end BS-VI (BS6) fuels, operated by the Indian Oil Corp (IOC).
- The facility is located in Delhi and was inaugurated by Dharmendra Pradhan, the Petroleum Minister.
- The new R&D facility is designed to test petrol, diesel, ethanol-blended petrol, biodiesel, CNG, LNG, hydrogen-CNG, and 2G-ethanol to ensure they meet BS-VI norms.
- The new BS-VI norms are set to be implemented in the country by April 2020.

Kerala hosted literary fest with tolerance as theme

- Kerala is getting ready to host a literary festival with tolerance as the core theme.
- Creative writers, journalists, theatre and film personalities deliberated on tolerance at the fifth edition of South India Writers Ensemble

(SIWE), held at Chengannur, a sleepy town in coastal Alappuza district, from July 24.

Manish Sisodia flags off GST mobile vans to address traders' concerns in Delhi

- The Delhi government flagged off six mobile vans that will go across city markets to raise awareness on the goods and services tax (GST) and address concerns of traders regarding the new tax regime.
- The 'GST awareness mobile vans' were flagged off by finance minister Manish Sisodia from the Delhi Secretariat here and have senior officials of the trade and taxes department on board.
- These vans would run through different markets across the city for around 15 days and the officials would address the issues raised by traders.

315th Sainik Rest House opened in Delhi

- Defence Minister Arun Jaitley inaugurated the 315th Sainik Rest House of the Kendriya Sainik Board (KSB) here aimed to provide facilities for former servicemen.
- The minister expressed hope that the rest house, built at Naraina tri-junction near Delhi Cantonment area in west Delhi at a cost of around Rs 8 crore, would be the beginning of an initiative.

- The KSB will be able to expand on these in the years to come so that such facilities become an integral part of facilities for ex-servicemen,
- On the occasion, Jaitley also launched the new portal of the Sainik Rest House.
- Developed in-house by the KSB, the portal lists out details, facilities, restrictions for use of the rest house and would soon provide facility for online payment

Govt launches 'SHe-box' portal for sexual harassment complaints

- The Women and Child Development ministry launched an online platform to enable women employees of the Central government to file complaints related to sexual harassment at the workplace.
- Union minister Maneka Gandhi said the platform will cater to Central government employees in the beginning and thereafter, its ambit will be widened to include the private sector as well.
- The online complaint management system — 'SHe-box' (sexual harassment electronic box) — hosted on the website of the Women and Child Development Ministry, also seeks to ensure "effective implementation" of the Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act, 2013.
- Once a complaint is submitted to the 'SHe-Box', it will be directly sent to the internal complaints committee (ICC) of the ministry/department/PSU/autonomous body etc

concerned, having jurisdiction to inquire into the matter.

Mobile App for Road Maintenance "Aarambh launched

- The Hon'ble Union Minister Shri Tomar and Ms. Greenfield launched the following publications and Mobile App for Road Maintenance "Aarambh":
- Resource mobilization for rural roads maintenance has always been a challenge for the States.
- This Concept Note outlines innovative ways which can be adopted by the state Governments for mobilizing additional funds for road maintenance and presents some international best practices worldwide.
- This Mobile Phone App aims at use of GIS based mapping for making road inventories, condition surveys, and producing cost estimates and other relevant data for preparation and monitoring of annual road maintenance plans.
- Its usage would greatly enhance the service delivery of the state level institutions in planning and implementing performance based rural roads maintenance contracts.

Lok Sabha Passes the Admiralty Bill,2016

- The Admiralty (Jurisdiction and Settlement of Maritime Claims) Bill, 2016 was passed by the Lok Sabha yesterday.

- The Bill aims to establish a legal framework to consolidate the existing laws relating to admiralty jurisdiction of courts, admiralty proceedings on maritime claims, arrest of vessels and related issues. It also aims to replace archaic laws which are hindering efficient governance.
- The Bill confers admiralty jurisdiction on High Courts located in coastal states of India and this jurisdiction extends upto territorial waters.
- The Bill provides for prioritization of maritime claims and maritime liens while providing protection to owners, charterers, operators, crew members and seafarers at the same time.

FSSAI bans stapler pins in tea bags from January 2018

- The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) is banning the use of stapler pins in tea bags effective January 1, 2018.
- The move is expected to affect the fast growing packaged tea business in the country, as FSSAI has deemed the use of stapler pins in tea bag a serious health hazard.
- It has also directed all food safety commissioners to take action to prevent the use of unsafe packaging materials by companies and take up measures for enforcement of its order.
- According to industry estimates, the tea bag segment contributes 3-4 per cent by value of total tea sales but it is one of the fastest

growing segments at 50-60 per cent year-on-year.

India to host maiden men's World Boxing Championship in 2021

- Boxing Federation of India (BFI) managed a major coup by bringing to India the 2021 men's World Championship for the first time as well as the women's Worlds next year.
- Both the events will be taking place in the Capital, according to the proposal submitted by BFI president Ajay Singh at the two-day International Boxing Association (AIBA) meeting in Moscow.

Punjab launches 'Apni Gaddi Apni Rozgar' scheme

- The Punjab government announced the launch of its flagship 'Apni Gaddi Apna Rozgar' scheme by flagging off over 100 uberMOTO bikes. Under the scheme the state government will be providing commercial two wheelers and four wheelers to unemployed youth at subsidised rates.
- Though Uber will be able to operate easily with in Punjab
- Uber, the ridesharing app that connects riders with drivers, also announced the launch of its bike-sharing product, uberMOTO, in Mohali, Ludhiana, Zirakpur and Kharar in the presence of Manpreet Singh Badal Minister for Finance,

Planning and Employment Generation in Punjab.

Madras HC makes Vande Mataram mandatory in schools, govt and private offices

- Singing of Vande Mataram in schools, government offices, private entities and industries in Tamil Nadu has been made compulsory by the Madras high court.
- While schools must sing it at least once a week either on Monday or Friday, the national song must be crooned in offices once a month

Reliance Defence delivers 2 patrol vessels to Navy

- Sixteen months after Reliance Infrastructure subsidiary Reliance Defence and Engineering Ltd (RDEL) took control of Pipavav Defence and Offshore Engineering Company, two naval offshore patrol vessels (NOPVs) were launched at RDEL's shipyard today in Pipavav
- The two NOPVs, named 'Shachi' and 'Shruti', are the first warships to be launched by a private sector shipyard in India
- The two patrol boats are part of five ships under the P-21 project being constructed for the Indian Navy by RDEL.
- RDEL is the first private sector company to obtain the licence and contract to build NOPVs. The modern warship has a length of 105 metres with a displacement of 1500 tonnes. It would be propelled by two diesel engines which can

deliver speeds up to 25 knots and has an endurance of about 6,000 nautical miles, the company said.

- RDEL has the only modular shipbuilding facility in India with a capacity to build fully fabricated and outfitted blocks. The fabrication facility spread over 2.1 million sq ft has an annual capacity of 144,000 tonnes.

Ministry of Earth Sciences Celebrates its 11th Foundation Day on July 28, 2017

- Union Minister for Science & Technology, Earth Sciences and Environment, Forests & Climate Change Dr. Harshvardhan inaugurated the 11th Foundation Day of Ministry of Earth Sciences in New Delhi On this occasion, the Minister also launched two Mobile Apps (i) India Quake for dissemination of earthquake parameters and (ii) Sagar Vani to disseminate ocean information and alerts to the user community in timely manner.
- The Life Time Excellence Award was presented to Professor K. Gopalan for his significant contribution in the field of isotope geoscience.
- The National Awards for Ocean Science & technology, Atmospheric Science & technology and Geoscience & technology were given to Prof. P. N. Vinayachandran, Dr. K. Krishnamoorthy and Professor K. S. Krishna respectively.
- The Young Researcher Awards were presented to Dr. Dhanya C. T. and Dr. Vikram Vishal for their outstanding work in Earth Science & Technology.

PM launches deep-sea fishing scheme for Rameswaram fishermen

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi today launched a deep-sea fishing scheme for fishermen of Tamilnadu that would help them overcome problems of fishing in Palk Strait.
- Under the initiative taken up under the "Blue Revolution" scheme, the Centre would allocate Rs 1,500 crore over a period of time for conversion of bottom trawling boats into deep sea liners.
- Under the Blue Revolution scheme, Rs 100 crore was allotted and as a Special Financial Package Rs 100 crore was sanctioned by the Centre for this initiative

Prime Minister Narendra Modi Inaugurates APJ Abdul Kalam Memorial In Rameswaram

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi today inaugurated a memorial dedicated to former president APJ Abdul Kalam at Peikarumbu near Rameswaram on his second death anniversary.
- He opened the memorial built in the hometown of the former president at a location where the mortal remains of the "missile man" are buried.

Mumbai Metro to Launch India's First Mobile Ticketing System

- In a move to ease commuter woes, Mumbai Metro One announced the launch of India's first mobile ticketing system, OnGo
- This system will help commuters pass the AFC (automated fare collection) gates using their mobile phones
- The commuters will be able to buy tickets or monthly passes using the Mumbai Metro app on their smartphone. Once they make the payment using their mobile wallet or e-wallet, a QR code will be generated.
- The gate's sensor will then scan this code and let them access the platform.

NITI Aayog clears six proposals for high-tech public transport

- Niti Aayog cleared half-a-dozen proposals of the transport ministry exploring options to improve public transport. which will make mMass rapid transportation technologies such as hyperloop, metrino and pod taxis a reality in India after
- The transport ministry has formed a six member committee, headed by a former top official of Railways, to study safety parameters associated with these technologies and global practices.
- Something like metrino (pod taxis) is almost one tenth of the cost of the metro, so there's a cost advantage as well.
- However, technologies such as hyperloop can take some time but we would like them to come to India

No immediate arrests in dowry harassment cases

- A Family Welfare Committee (FWC) in every district will scrutinise dowry harassment cases before local police can arrest the accused, the Supreme Court said laying down a set of guidelines to curb misuse of the law.
- Indian Penal Code's Section 498A has been criticised for giving "disgruntled women" a legal option to harass their husbands

Punjab govt launches 'Care Companion Programme'

- To improve patient care through better family engagement and education, the Punjab government launched a flagship health scheme — Care Companion Programme (CCP).
- Under the innovative program, the hospital hallways or wards will turn into classrooms and taps into the most compassionate and willing resource available for care, that is the patient's own family, by teaching the family high-impact medical skills to take care of their loved ones in the hospital and at home,
- CCP will initially be implemented in Maternal and Child Health wings of six district hospitals at Amritsar, Patiala, Jalandhar, SBS Nagar, Sangrur, Tarn Taran.
- The aim is to reduce the number of baby deaths and complications like infections in the first 30 days' post-discharge, and ensure adoption of long-term health pro motive behaviours.

Ministry of Health releases Operational Guidelines for Planning and Implementation of Family Participatory Care

- Ministry of Health and Family Welfare recently released Operational Guidelines for Planning and Implementation of Family Participatory Care (FPC) for improving newborn health.
- The guidelines will serve as a guiding document for those intending to introduce FPC in their facility as an integral part of facility based newborn care.
- The document also provides details of infrastructure, training, role of health care providers and steps in the operationalization of FPC in the newborn care unit.
- The operational guidelines of FPC are for all stakeholders involved in the process of planning and delivering newborn care.
- The guidelines also addresses various aspects of attitudes, infrastructural modifications and practice that will help in establishing FPC at Special Newborn Care Units (SNCU)
- Under FPC, the capacities of parents-attendants are built in newborn care through a structured training programme (audio -visual module and a training guide).
- The staff at newborn care unit will provide continuous supervision and support. Provisions for infrastructure and logistics strengthening required for implementing FPC are ensured in the annual state Program Implementation Plan (PIP).

- The guidelines will be shared with the States for implementation and it is expected that these guidelines when implemented by States would further improve the quality of care being provided in the SNCUs across the country.

Delhi Metro becomes the first 100 percent 'green' Metro system in the world

- Delhi Metro has become the only completely 'green' Metro system in the world for adhering to green building norms for its residential colonies, officials said on Friday.
- Delhi Metro has secured the platinum rating for adherence to green building norms for its 10 residential colonies from the Indian Green Building Council (IGBC).
- The Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC) had earlier received the green certificates for its Phase-3 stations,

DRDO develops India's first unmanned tank, Muntra

- Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has developed India's first unmanned tank, which has three variants – surveillance, mine detection and reconnaissance in areas with nuclear and bio threats.
- It is called Muntra (Mission UNmanned TRAcked) and has been rolled out of the Chennai lab.
- Though the tank has been developed and tested for the army by Combat Vehicles Research and Development Establishment (CVRDE) in Avadi,

paramilitary has expressed interest to use them in Naxal-hit areas.

- The tanks will facilitate Indian Armed forces in conducting unmanned surveillance missions. Muntra-S has been developed for unmanned surveillance missions, whereas Muntra-M is built for detecting mines. Muntra-N will be deployed in areas where nuclear radiation or bio weapon risk is high
- Two of these tanks were put on display at an exhibition organised by DRDO as a tribute to former president APJ Abdul Kalam.

International Events

British PM Theresa May narrowly wins Parliament confidence vote

- British Prime Minister Theresa May's Conservative minority government secured lawmakers' backing for its legislative plans by a narrow margin but only after making a sudden concession on abortion funding to stave off defeat.
- The House of Commons voted by 323 to 309 to approve last week's Queen's Speech, which laid out the government's agenda for the next two years.

6th Joint Trade Committee Meeting between India and Myanmar

- The 6th India – Myanmar Joint Trade Committee (JTC) Meeting co-chaired by Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman, Minister of Commerce & Industry from India and Dr. Than Myint, Union Commerce Minister from Myanmar was held at New Delhi.
- The Joint Trade Committee plays a key role in facilitating issues related to enhancement of the bilateral economic partnership between the two countries.
- Myanmar shares a long land border of over 1600 Kms with India as well as a maritime boundary in the Bay of Bengal.
- Our bilateral relationship has been further strengthened by the high level exchanges between our countries. Prime Minister of India visited Myanmar in November 2014 for the Twelfth India-ASEAN Summit. State counsellor of Myanmar visited India in October 2016

German Parliament Approves Same-Sex Marriage

- The lower house of the German Parliament voted to legalize same-sex marriage after a brisk but emotional debate
- The historic decision came with a swiftness rare in Germany's usually staid politics, just five days after Chancellor Angela Merkel unexpectedly relaxed her party's opposition to same-sex marriage and allowed lawmakers to vote on the issue according to their consciences.

- Germany will join Ireland, France, Spain and other nations in extending full marital rights to same-sex couples, including the right to adopt children.

China Is Building The World's 1st Vertical 'Forest City' To Help Clean Up Its Pollution Problem

- After China's Nanjing city became the first Asian city to be getting a vertical forest (by 2018), China is building a forest city – Liuzhou Forest City – which will boast urban settlements and vertical forests. And, this will help curb pollution by leaps and bounds.
- Liuzhou Forest City will be built north of Liuzhou in the south and the mountainous province of Guangxi, an area of about 175 hectares along the Liujiang River.
- The new city of 30,000 inhabitants will be able each year to absorb about 10,000 tons of CO₂ and 57 tons of particulate matter and to produce about 900 tons of oxygen

Carrie Lam Is Sworn In as Hong Kong's First Female Leader

- Carrie Lam was sworn in as Hong Kong's chief executive, becoming its first female leader and the fourth person to hold the top government post since China regained control of the former British colony in 1997.

- She was previously the top deputy to Leung Chun-ying, the unpopular chief executive who chose not to seek a second term.
- Mrs. Lam was sworn in by President Xi Jinping of China on his final day of a three-day visit to mark the 20th anniversary of Hong Kong's return to Chinese control.
- Mrs. Lam, 60, was chosen by the previous system, with a largely pro-government election committee selecting her from three candidates vetted by the central government.

International Events

Syrian President Bashar Assad Will Be Face of New Bank Note

- A new 2,000 Syrian Lira (\$3.9) bank note with the face of President Bashar Assad goes into circulation
- The notes are the first time Syria will depict President Bashar Assad on its currency since he took office 17 years ago.
- Assad's face appears on the new banknotes at a time when his government is boasting military successes against the armed rebellion across the country. The currency previously only carried images of historic icons or pictures of his father, Hafez Assad.

WHO declares an end to the Ebola outbreak in the Democratic Republic of the Congo

- World Health Organization (WHO) declared the end of the most recent outbreak of Ebola virus disease (EVD) in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC).
- The announcement comes 42 days (two 21-day incubation cycles of the virus) after the last confirmed Ebola patient in the affected Bas-Uélé province tested negative for the disease for the second time. Enhanced surveillance in the country will continue, as well as strengthening of preparedness and readiness for Ebola outbreaks.
- The effective response to this latest EVD outbreak in Africa was achieved through the timely alert by local authorities of suspect cases, immediate testing of blood samples due to strengthened national laboratory capacity, the early announcement of the outbreak by the government, rapid response activities by local and national health authorities with the robust support of international partners, and speedy access to flexible funding.

New Israeli flower named after PM Modi

- A new fast-growing Israeli flower was today named after Prime Minister Narendra Modi, in a special gesture to mark the first visit of an Indian premier to the Jewish nation.
- Israeli Crysanthemum flower will now be called "MODI"
- Earlier, Modi visited the Danziger "Dan" flower farm along with his Israeli counterpart Benjamin Netanyahu in Mishmar Hashiva where they were

briefed about the latest technologies being used for floriculture.

India gets good ranks on FSB's reform report card to G20

- The Financial Stability Board (FSB), an international body for global financial system, today listed India among countries that are 'compliant or largely compliant' on implementation of priority area reforms.
- Ahead of the G20 Summit in Germany to be attended by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, among other world leaders, the FSB today submitted its status report on progress in financial regulatory reforms in various jurisdictions, including India.
- The report listed India as a 'compliant' jurisdiction with regard to the Basel III reforms in area of risk-based capital and as 'largely compliant' on liquidity coverage ratio.
- Other countries that have been found to be 'compliant or largely compliant' on these metrics include Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Japan, Mexico, South Korea, Russia, Singapore, South Africa, Switzerland, Turkey and the US.
- At the same time, France, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, Spain and the UK have been found to be 'materially non-compliant' on at least one parameter.
- With regard to the Net Stable Funding Ratio (NSFR), India figured among the countries where

"final rule published but not in force, or draft regulation published".

India, Israel ink 7 agreements

- India and Israel signed seven agreements to increase cooperation in key sectors like space, agriculture and water conservation after Prime Minister Narendra Modi held in-depth talks with his Israeli counterpart Benjamin Netanyahu.
- A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed for setting up of USD 40 million worth India-Israel Industrial Research and Development (R&D) and Technical Innovation Fund.
- Scientists and researchers development
- Two-way trade and investment flows
- Two agreements were signed to increase cooperation on water conservation
- In the agriculture sector, the two countries have agreed for India-Israel Development Cooperation – a three-year work programme in agriculture from 2018 to 2020.
- Cooperation regarding cooperation in atomic clocks. Besides, separate MoUs were signed on Cooperation in GEO-LEO optical link and cooperation in Electric Propulsion for small satellites.

10th Session of the India- Jordan Trade and Economic Joint Committee (TEJC)

- The 10TH India-Jordan Morocco Trade and Economic Joint Committee (TEJC) Meeting was held in New Delhi on 4th and 5th July 2017
- The two countries emphasised the need for diversification of bilateral trade and deepening their engagements for greater cooperation in the investment sector. During the TEJC meeting, the two sides also reaffirmed their mutual interest and discussed the roadmap for cooperation in various fields such as Fertilizer Sector, Customs, Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement, Visa and Consular issues, Health and Pharmaceuticals, Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises, Maritime Transport, Rail Transport, and Air Transport, Renewable Energy, Energy Efficiency, and Smart Grid development, Information Technology, Higher Education and Vocational Training, Agriculture sector etc.
- The two leaders also inked the revised Economic and Trade Cooperation Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India, and the Government of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, aiming at boosting and diversifying bilateral trade relations, in addition to promote economic, trade and investment cooperation based on the principle of equity, non-discrimination.

India slips to be fourth largest investor into UK

- India has slipped by one spot to become the fourth-largest foreign investor into the UK, according to the official figures

- The US remains on the top, investing in 577 projects in the UK, with China (including Hong Kong) remaining in second place with 160 projects. India set up 127 new projects in Britain last year and safeguarded 7,645 existing jobs as a result and created 3,999 new jobs in 2016-17, it said.
- However, it lost its position as the third largest investor in the UK to France which set up 131 projects last year, according to the data. India shares the fourth spot with Australia and New Zealand, which also set up 127 projects collectively.

Trilateral Malabar exercise to kick off on July 10

- The Malabar naval exercise involving Indian, American and Japanese navies will kick start on July 10 in the Bay of Bengal, amid China's growing military assertiveness in the disputed South China Sea.
- A sizeable number of aircraft, naval ships and nuclear submarines of the navies of the three countries will be part of the annual exercise, considered a major war game in the region.
- The exercise is taking place in the backdrop of a major military standoff between armies of India and China in the Sikkim section and Beijing ramping up its naval presence in the South China Sea.
- The aim of the Malabar exercise is to achieve deeper military ties and greater interoperability

among the three navies in the strategically-important Indo-Pacific region.

- India and the US have regularly conducted the annual exercise since 1992.

122 countries adopt global treaty banning nuclear weapons

- A global treaty banning nuclear weapons was adopted at the United Nations on Friday despite opposition from nuclear powers Britain, France and the United States which said it disregards the reality of dealing with international security threats such as North Korea.
- The treaty was adopted by a vote of 122 in favor with one country — NATO member The Netherlands — voting against, while Singapore abstained.
- None of the nine countries that possess nuclear weapons — the United States, Russia, Britain, China, France, India, Pakistan, North Korea and Israel — took part in the negotiations or the vote.
- Even Japan — the only country to have suffered atomic attacks, in 1945 — boycotted the talks as did most NATO countries.

India ranks 23rd among 165 nations in cybersecurity index

- India is ranked a high 23rd out of 165 nations in a global index that measures the commitment of nations across the world to cybersecurity.
- The second Global Cybersecurity Index (GCI), released by the UN telecommunications agency International Telecommunication Union (ITU), said only about half of all countries have a cybersecurity strategy or are in the process of developing one and urged more countries to consider national policies to protect against cybercrime.
- India is ranked 23rd on the index with a score of 0.683 and has been listed in the "maturing" category, which refers to 77 countries that have developed complex commitments to cybersecurity and engage in cybersecurity programmes and initiatives.
- The index has been topped by Singapore with a 0.925 score

UNESCO puts city of Hebron on its heritage in danger list

- UNESCO declared the Old City of Hebron an endangered world heritage site, sparking outrage from Israel in a new spat at the international body.
- Meeting in Poland, the UN's cultural arm voted 12 to three — with six abstentions — to give heritage status to Hebron's Old City in the occupied West Bank, which is home to more than 200,000 Palestinians and a few hundred Israeli settlers.

- The city is home to the imposing Tomb of the Patriarchs, the resting place of key Biblical figures Abraham, Isaac and Jacob and one of the most important religious sites to Muslims and Jews alike.
- Hebron is also a stark example of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

Ex-martial arts star wins election as Mongolia's president

- Former martial arts star Khaltmaa Battulga won Mongolia's presidential run-off election
- Battulga, 54, a member of the Democratic Party, won with 50.6 percent of the vote as 60.9 of Mongolia's voters went to the poll, according to data from the General Election Commission. Battulga was running against parliament speaker Miyeegombo Enkhbold of the ruling Mongolian People's Party, who drew 41.2 percent of the vote.

UK launches 'Grand Trunk Road' project to mark 70th anniversary of India's partition

- The British government has launched a new project titled the 'Grand Trunk Road' to mark the 70th anniversary of India's partition in August 1947 with volunteers from the Muslim, Sikh and Hindu communities in the UK coming together to stage special events.
- The UK-wide project was launched this week to bring British Asians of all faiths and backgrounds

together to reflect on their shared history through 11 special events funded by the department for communities and local government.

- The aim is for the participants to remember lives lost and learn about the history of partition first-hand from those who lived through the violence, displacement and ultimately the birth of India, Pakistan and eventually Bangladesh in 1971.
- It will explore the relationships formed, as Hindus, Sikhs and Muslims of South Asian background were forced to flee to the UK in the wake of Idi Amin's upheaval in 1972.

India to import crude oil from US for first time

- India, the world's third-largest oil importer, will import crude oil from the United States for the first time after Indian Oil Corp bought a cargo that will be delivered in October.
- The purchase comes after Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to the US in June when President Donald Trump said his country looked forward to exporting more energy products to India.
- IOC bought 1.6 million barrels of US Mars crude, a heavy, high-sulphur grade, and 400,000 barrels of Western Canadian Select that will be delivered onboard a Very Large Crude Carrier
- IOC had to obtain special permission from the shipping ministry to buy the cargo on a delivered basis as local regulations favour the use of Indian flagged carriers for imports

- India is the latest Asian country to buy US crude after South Korea, Japan, China, Thailand, Australia and Taiwan as the countries seek to diversify oil imports from other regions after the OPEC cuts drove up prices of Middle East heavy-sour crude, or grades with a high sulphur content.

G20 Hamburg Action Plan praises India for promoting ease of doing business, labour reforms

- Acknowledging steps being taken by India for sustainable and inclusive growth as well as support to global economy, the G20 has praised the initiatives in the country for promoting ease of doing business, startup funding and labour reforms.
- In its Hamburg Action Plan, adopted at the G20 Summit of leaders from the world's 20 largest economies, the group also noted that "in the financial sector, India is popularising a number of derivative instruments in exchanges or electronic trading platforms" as part of measures to enhance resilience of its economy.
- On steps being taken by G20 countries for promoting inclusive growth this year, the Action Plan said India is introducing labour market reforms to provide security to workers, increase female participation in the workforce and make doing business easier in the country.

Japan's Okinoshima island gains Unesco World Heritage status

- Japan's Okinoshima island, an ancient religious site where women are banned, has been declared a World Heritage site by the UN's cultural body Unesco.
- Okinoshima is home to the Okitsu shrine, built in the 17th century to pray for the safety of sailors.
- Before setting foot on the island, men must take off their clothes and undergo a cleansing ritual.
- When they leave they are not allowed to take away any souvenirs, or disclose details of their visit.
- Long before the shrine was built, Okinoshima was used for rituals involving prayers for oceangoing ships and trade ties with Korean and Chinese people,

Iran appoints female CEO to lead national airline

- Iran has appointed a female CEO to lead its national airline Iran Air for the first time since it was established in the 1940s
- Transport Minister appointed Farzaneh Sharafbani, 44, who holds a PhD in aerospace engineering.

Cabinet nod for clarity on investment pact with Bangladesh

- The Union Cabinet approved the Joint Interpretative Notes (JIN) on the Agreement between India and Bangladesh for to bring clarity to the interpretation of the existing Bilateral Trade and Promotion Agreement (BIPA).

- The JIN includes interpretative notes to be jointly adopted for many clauses, including, the definition of investor, definition of investment, exclusion of taxation measures, Fair and Equitable Treatment (FET), National Treatment (NT) and Most Favoured Nation (MFN) treatment, expropriation, essential security interests and Settlement of Disputes between an Investor-and a Contracting Party.
- With increasing Bilateral Investment Treaty (BIT) disputes, issuance of such statements is likely to have strong persuasive value before tribunals
- The Cabinet was apprised of two Memorandum of Understandings (MoUs). The first was between India and Bangladesh on cyber security cooperation.
- The other was between India and Palestine on cooperation in the field of information technology and electronics.
- The Cabinet also gave an ex-post facto approval for signing a Joint Declaration of Intent (JDI) between India and Germany on cooperation in health.
- The Cabinet also enhanced the age of superannuation of Medical Officers of Central Armed Police Forces and Assam Rifles from 60 to 65 years.

Conservative Malta becomes 24th nation to legalize same-sex marriage

- Maltese lawmakers voted to legalize same-sex marriage on the Roman Catholic Mediterranean island, fulfilling Prime Minister Joseph Muscat's

campaign promise to make this the first law brought before parliament in his new term.

- The law, which drew cross-party support, removes words including as "husband," "wife," "mother" and "father" from the Marriage Act and replaces them with the gender-neutral "spouse," "parent who gave birth" and "parent who did not give birth."
- Malta was the 24th country in the world to legalize same-sex marriage with Tuesday's vote coming just two weeks after German lawmakers approved a similar measure in June.

22nd World Petroleum Congress Opens in Istanbul

- The 22nd World Petroleum Congress, the largest gathering for the oil and gas industry, began on Sunday in Istanbul with a view to addressing the challenges facing the sector.
- The World Petroleum Congress is organized every three years by the London-based World Petroleum Council and includes 65 member countries from around the world, representing over 96 percent of the global oil and gas production and consumption.
- More than 20,000 participants, including high-level executives, representatives of international organisations and government leaders from over 100 countries, are expected to be present for the five-day Istanbul Congress.

In a First, India to Host 8th Theatre Olympics in 2018

- India will host the Theatre Olympics in 2018, first since the event's inception in 1993, Ministry of Culture in association with National School of Drama (NSD)
- Celebrating the cultural and lingual diversity of the participating countries, the theatre event is expected to host over 50 international and 150 Indian theatre groups over the span of two month
- Ratan Thiyam, chairperson of NSD Society, informed that the theme for the upcoming event will be 'Flag of Friendship'.
- With the inaugural ceremony scheduled to be held on 17 February 2018, the event will come to a close in Mumbai on 8 April 2018 with a gala function.

India contributes additional \$1 million to UN partnership fund

- India has contributed an additional million dollars to a UN partnership fund launched to support sustainable development projects across the developing world.
- The India-UN Development Partnership Fund was set up last month as a partnership between India and the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC).
- India had made an initial contribution of a million dollars when the fund was created and the amount was allocated for the implementation of a project benefiting seven

Small Island Developing States in the South Pacific.

France Celebrates Bastille Day

- Bastille Day is a day of celebrations of French culture.
- Many large-scale public events are held, including a military parade in Paris, as well as communal meals, dances, parties and fireworks.
- The Bastille is a medieval fortress and prison in Paris. Many people in France associated it with the harsh rule of the Bourbon monarchy in the late 1700s.
- On July 14, 1789, troops stormed the Bastille. This was a pivotal event at the beginning of the French Revolution. Fête de la Fédération was held on July 14, 1790. This was a way to celebrate the establishment of a constitutional monarchy in France.
- The Eiffel Tower in Paris and the French national flag, or tricolor, are important symbols of Bastille Day.
- The French national flag is one-and-a-half times as wide as it is tall.
- It consists of three vertical bands of equal width colored blue, white and red.
- The same colors are displayed in bunting and banners of many shapes on Bastille Day. People may also wear clothing or face paint in these colors.

Model United Nations Regional Conference underway at Kathmandu

- A Model United Nations Regional Conference is being held at Kathmandu. The event is organised by the US Embassy in partnership with the Youth Thinker's Society.
- Youths from 12 South and Central Asian countries including India are participating in 5 day conference.
- The basic aim of the MUN is to provide a platform to young minds to channelise energy and resources for a more prosperous and peaceful world.
- The event is also providing an opportunity to youths to get familiar with the operations of UN conference and other agencies.
- The conference simulate four UN committees– United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), Economic and Financial Committee (ECOFIN), United Nations Security Council (UNSC) and United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC).

US House passes bill on defence co-operation with India

- The U.S National Defence Authorisation Act (NDAA) 2018 passed by the House of Representatives has mandated the Secretaries of Defence and State to come up with a strategy for advancing defence cooperation between India and the U.S in six months. The legislation that appropriates funds for defence will have to

be passed by the Senate before it moves for the President's signature.

- Indian American Representative Ami Bera, Vice-Ranking Member of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, moved the amendment on US-India defence cooperation.

Indonesia renames part of South China Sea

- Indonesia will now refer to the northern areas of its exclusive economic zone in the South China Sea as the "North Natuna Sea" in an act of defiance against Beijing's territorial ambitions in the region
- At a press conference in Jakarta, Deputy Minister for Marine Sovereignty Arif Havas Oegroseno unveiled a new map with the renamed territory
- Part of the renamed area falls in China's "nine-dash line" — waters extending hundreds of miles to the south and east of China's island province Hainan.
- China claims the entirety of the sea, but Vietnam, Taiwan, the Philippines, Brunei and Malaysia all have competing territorial claims to parts that are near their respective shores
- Indonesia is not the first country to rename part of the South China Sea.
- In 2011, the Philippines renamed the waters as the "West Philippine Sea" and two years later took the territorial dispute before an international tribunal at The Hague.

India, EU establish Investment Facilitation Mechanism

India and EU on Friday announced the establishment of an Investment Facilitation Mechanism (IFM) to promote investments from European Union. The mechanism will allow for a close coordination between the European Union and the India with an aim to promote and facilitate EU investment in India. This agreement builds on the joint statement of the 13th EU-India Summit held in Brussels in March 2016, where EU had welcomed India's readiness to establish such a mechanism and leaders from both sides had reaffirmed their shared commitment to oppose protectionism and to work in favour of a fair, transparent and rule-based trade and investment environment.

As part of the IFM, the EU Delegation to India and the Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion (DIPP) agreed to hold regular high level meetings to assess and facilitate "ease of doing business" for EU investors in India.

UAE Minister of State for Tolerance 'most powerful Arab woman in government'

- Arab's Minister of State for Tolerance has topped a poll of the most powerful Arab women in government this year,

- Sheikha Lubna Al Qasimi was followed by two women from Egypt - Sahar Nasr, the country's minister of investment and international cooperation, and Ghada Wali, the minister of social solidarity.
 - Forbes has also released a list of the top 100 most powerful Arab businesswomen for 2017, and the UAE represents the highest number of women, with 18, followed by Egypt, with 16.
 - Saudi Arabia's Lubna Olayan, who runs Saudi conglomerate the Olayan Group, tops the businesswoman list.
 - Others on the list include Sheikha Bodour Al Qasimi, who chairs the Sharjah Investment and Development Authority, and Lobna Helal, the deputy governor of the Central Bank of Egypt.
 - The rankings were compiled by taking into account scope of the role or ministry, years of experience and company revenues, or GDP in the case of government.
- 

Israel to partner DRDO for developing missile defence system for India

- In a major upgrade to its defences, the Indian Army has signed a MoU with the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) to raise one regiment of the advanced Medium Range Surface to Air Missiles (MRSAM). The army plans to have a total of five regiments of this air defence system, which will be deployed opposite to China and Pakistan.
- The MRSAM marks a paradigm shift in the capabilities of the Indian Army.

- The system can shoot down enemy ballistic missiles, aircraft, helicopters, drones, surveillance aircraft and Airborne Warning and Control System (AWACS) aircraft. Meant for the Army Air Defence, the MRSAM is an advanced, all weather, mobile, land-based air defence system.
- It is capable of engaging multiple aerial targets at ranges of more than 50 km.
- Each MRSAM system comprises a command-and-control system, a tracking radar, missiles, and mobile launchers.
- Each regiment consists of four launchers with three missiles each. So five regiments will have 60 missiles.
- A MOU has been signed between the army and the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) for one regiment.

India, Japan civil nuclear deal comes into force

- The landmark India-Japan civil nuclear agreement came into force. Foreign Secretary S. Jaishankar exchanged the diplomatic notes with the Japanese envoy to India to formalise the completion of the process.
- The pact was signed in Tokyo during the visit of Prime Minister Narendra Modi to Japan on November 11, 2016.
- This Agreement is a reflection of the strategic partnership between India and Japan and will pave the way for enhanced cooperation in energy security and clean energy. It seeks to promote full cooperation between the two countries in the development and uses of

nuclear energy for peaceful purposes on a stable, reliable and predictable basis

- The deal is essential for bringing a network of nuclear energy cooperation for India, especially with the U.S. as prominent American nuclear companies are owned by the Japanese nuclear majors like Toshiba.

Australia joins International Solar Alliance

- Australia's foreign minister Julie Bishop has signed the framework agreement to join the International Solar Alliance (ISA).
- The Alliance, spearheaded by India and France, seeks to promote solar adoption, skill sharing and best practice for nations situated mainly between the tropics, driven by the Paris Agreement.
- Australia has now joined 34 other countries by signing the framework agreement.
- The Australian prime minister first announced his nation's intentions of joining the alliance in April.
- In one of the first tangible actions of the ISA in May, several countries agreed to support commissioning of a study on a common risk mitigation mechanism (CRMM) for PV generation.
- The International Solar Alliance is an alliance of more than 120 countries, most of them being sunshine countries, which come either completely or partly between the Tropic of Cancer and the Tropic of Capricorn. The alliance's primary objective is work for efficient exploitation of solar energy to reduce

dependence on fossil fuels. This initiative was first proposed by Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi in a speech in November 2015 at Wembley Stadium, in which he referred to sunshine countries as suryaputra

- The alliance is a treaty-based inter-governmental organization. Countries that do not fall within the Tropics can join the ISA and enjoy all benefits as other members, with the exception of
- The initiative was launched by Modi at the India Africa Summit, and a meeting of member countries ahead of the 2015 United Nations Climate Change Conference in Paris in November 2015.
- The Framework Agreement of the International Solar Alliance opened for signatures in Marrakech, Morocco in November 2016, and 121 countries have joined.



Russia, Hungary to host swim short-course world champs

- Hungary — Russia and Hungary will host two future editions of the world championships in short-course swimming.
- Swimming's world governing body, FINA, says Kazan will host in 2022 and Budapest in 2024. They beat bids from Hong Kong and Taipei City.
- The 25-meter pool championships are staged every two years in December, and include hosting the FINA World Aquatics Convention.

- The decision was announced in Budapest, which is currently staging the two-yearly world championships over the full 50-meter distance.
- Kazan in the Russian region of Tatarstan staged the previous 50-meter worlds in 2015.

India presents national review report on SDG implementation in UN

- India has presented its national review report on the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to the United Nations (UN), emphasising that as the fastest growing major economy it is uniquely placed to deliver on its commitments.
- The report details various measures and programmes being implemented across India towards achieving the core objectives ambitious global goals.
- These include poverty eradication, economic growth, ending hunger and achieving food security, gender equality, promoting inclusive and sustainable industrialisation and climate action.
- The programmes highlighted in the report are the 'Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act', 'Beti Bachao Beti Padhao', 'Sagarmala', 'Clean India' campaign and the Aadhaar Act.

India to host global conference on cyber space in November

- India will host Global Conference on CyberSpace (GCCS) 2017, the world's largest conference on cyber space here on November 23 - 24 and the conference will be inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.
- The GCCS is taking place outside Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) nations for the first time.
- The theme for the GCCS 2017 is 'Cyber4All: An Inclusive, Sustainable, Developmental, Safe and Secure Cyberspace'.
- The GCCS is a prestigious international conference that aims at encouraging dialogue among stakeholders of cyberspace, which has been taking place since 2011.
- The cyber security will be one of the major focus areas in GCCS 2017 especially as the central government is in the process of setting up separate sector specific emergency response centres to ensure cyber security and strengthen technology infrastructure.

Russian-Chinese naval exercises kick off in Baltic Sea

- The first stage of the joint Russian-Chinese naval exercises dubbed "Maritime Cooperation-2017" has kicked off on Friday in the Baltic Sea
- The first stage of the Russian-Chinese naval exercises 'Maritime Cooperation-2017' will be held from July 21 to July 28. It consists of two stages - a coastal stage, from July 21 to July 24, and an active sea stage, from July 25 to July 28

- According to the active stage of the drills, the Russian and Chinese seamen, as well as marine aviation crews, will train to organize anti-submarine, anti-aircraft and anti-ship defense, as well as free a vessel from "pirates" and conduct a search and rescue operation to provide help to the vessel in distress in the Baltic Sea. Besides, the seamen will train to fire at surface and air targets.

India ranks 132 in commitment to narrow income inequality

- India has been ranked 132nd among 152 nations in a new index tracking commitment to reducing income inequality. Sweden led the index while Nigeria remained the worst performer.
- The index prepared by Development Finance International, Inc. and Oxfam ranks nations on the basis of their welfare spending, the progressive nature of their tax system and prevailing wage inequality in the labour market.
- The report highlights India's less-than adequate spending on welfare measures on account of its low tax to gross domestic product (GDP) ratio compared to that of some other nations as well as the disparity between wages of men and women for the same work. India collects just 16.7% of GDP as taxes, while South Africa manages to collect over 27%,
- Top 5 Best Performers Sweden, Belgium, Denmark, Norway, Germany

- Worst Performer: Nigeria, Bahrain, Myanmar, Albania, Panama

China Opens Cinema Theatre In South China Sea Island

- China has opened a modern cinema theatre on Yongxing Island in the disputed South China Sea as part of its plan to establish authority over the area
- China has been expanding facilities in the islands under its control encouraging population settlements in the area, where Beijing also built artificial islands some with facilities for garrison as well as airstrip reinforcing its control over the area.
- Vietnam, the Philippines, Malaysia, Brunei and Taiwan have counter claims over the South ChinaSea.

World's first floating wind farm emerges off coast of Scotland

- The world's first full-scale floating wind farm has started to take shape off the north-east coast of Scotland.
- The revolutionary technology will allow wind power to be harvested in waters too deep for the current conventional bottom-standing turbines.
- The Peterhead wind farm, known as Hywind, is a trial which will bring power to 20,000 homes.

- Manufacturer Statoil says output from the turbines is expected to equal or surpass generation from current ones.
- It hopes to cash in on a boom in the technology, especially in Japan and the west coast of the US, where waters are deep.

Bolivia's President Declares 'Total Independence' From World Bank And IMF

- Bolivia's President Evo Morales has been highlighting his government's independence from international money lending organizations and their detrimental impact the nation
- Bolivia's past dependence on the agencies was so great that the International Monetary Fund had an office in government headquarters and even participated in their meetings.
- Bolivia is now in the process of becoming a member of the Southern Common Market, Mercosur and Morales attended the group's summit in Argentina last week.
- Bolivia's popular uprising known as the The Cochabamba Water War in 2000 against United States-based Bechtel Corporation over water privatization and the associated World Bank policies shed light on some of the debt issues facing the region.

BRICS Youth Forum opens in Beijing

- The 2017 BRICS Youth Forum opened in Beijing to discuss the development of the youth in the countries of the grouping.
- Themed 'Enhance BRICS Partnership, Promote Youth Development', the three-day forum gathered 50 youth representatives working as civil servants, scholars, entrepreneurs, artists and journalists from the BRICS countries.
- Representatives will hold discussions on issues concerning youth policies and entrepreneurship, as well as the roles of BRICS youth in global governance, before formulating an action plan for the forum, state-run Xinhua news agency reported.
- The five BRICS countries — Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa — first came up with the idea of establishing a dialogue mechanism for BRICS youth in 2014 during a meeting between BRICS leaders in South Africa.
- In the past three years, the forum has had achievements in various fields, such as youth policies and employment through dialogue

Zimbabwe gives Mugabe power to appoint judges

- Zimbabwe's parliament on Tuesday passed a bill amending the constitution to give the president sweeping powers to appoint the country's top judges without consulting any other institution.
- If passed into law, the bill will give Robert Mugabe the sole responsibility to appoint the chief justice and their deputy.
- Under the 2013 constitution, the president could only appoint a chief justice from individuals

recommended by the judicial services commission and after public interviews of the candidates.

- Vice President Emmerson Mnangagwa, who heads Zimbabwe's parliament, hailed the adoption of the bill.
- Mugabe's ruling Zanu-PF party enjoys a majority in the 270-seat legislature.
- A total of 182 lawmakers voted in favour of the changes that tinker with the country's constitution, which was adopted in a 2013 referendum after being put together by the ruling and opposition parties under a power-sharing government.

Australia sends its first uranium shipment to India

- Australia has sent its first uranium shipment to India for testing purposes ahead of possible commercial sales.
- This comes after India and Australia signed an agreement for civil nuclear cooperation in 2014 to meet India's growing energy needs.
- This is a first of its kind agreement as India is not a party to the nuclear non-proliferation treaty.

Sports Amateur golfer Diksha wins silver at Deaflympics

- Young Indian golfer Diksha Dagar scripted history after winning a silver medal in the womens individual golf event of the Deaflympics, which is being held at the Samsun, Turkey.

- The 16-year-old from Haryana got a bye in the quarterfinals and then defeated Germanys Gonzalez Podbicanin A 9 & 8 in the semifinals to set up a final clash with Yost Kaylin, who plays in the Ladies Professional golf tour of America, for the gold medal.
- Diksha had broken a field record in the first round with two-under 68 and carded 71 in the second round to total one- under 139, while Kaylin (73, 69) totalled two-over 142.

CAC adopts Codex norms for three spices

- In a significant move, the Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC) adopted three Codex standards for black, white and green pepper, cumin and thyme paving the way for an universal agreement on identifying quality spices in various countries.
- The adoption of Codex standards for the three spices will help evolve a common standardisation process for their global trade and availability.
- The Codex Alimentarius or "Food Code" is a collection of standards, guidelines and codes of practice adopted by the Codex Alimentarius Commission.
- The Commission, also known as CAC, is the central part of the joint FAO (Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations)/WHO (World Health Organisation) Food Standards Programme.

- It was established by FAO and WHO to protect consumer health and promote fair practices in food trade.

BRICS tax authorities ink key pact to enhance cooperation

- Tax authorities of the five BRICS countries signed a landmark document to establish a mechanism for taxation cooperation
- The BRICS Taxation Cooperation Memorandum, signed at the fifth meeting of BRICS Heads of Tax Authorities, is the blocs first document that elevates taxation cooperation to the institutional level, Xinhua news agency reported.
- The authorities also agreed to cooperate on taxation information exchange, improve consultation procedures efficiency, boost taxation capacities and plan paths for coordination of taxation policies and tax collection.
- The meeting comes ahead of the 2017 BRICS Summit to be held in Fujian provinces Xiamen city from September 3 to 5.
- The BRICS countries - Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa - are home to 42 per cent of the worlds population. Their total share in the global economy has risen from 12 per cent to 23 per cent in the past decade, while contributing more than half of global growth.

'India among top nations with potential for digital payments': Digital Evolution Index 2017

- The Fletcher School at Tufts University in partnership with Mastercard today unveiled the Digital Evolution Index 2017.
- This comprehensive research tracks the progress countries have made in developing their digital economies and integrating connectivity into the lives of billions.
- The research identifies Singapore, the United Kingdom, New Zealand, the United Arab Emirates, Estonia, Hong Kong, Japan, and Israel as digital elites characterized by high levels of digital development and a fast rate of digital evolution. With momentum and innovation on their side, these 'stand out' markets exemplify the sweet spot of advancement and future growth.
- Combining the pace and state of digital advancement, the research puts markets into four distinct categories:
- **Stand Out** –Singapore, the United Kingdom, New Zealand, the United Arab Emirates, Estonia, Hong Kong, Japan, and Israel demonstrate high levels of digital development while continuing to lead in innovation and new growth.
- **Stall Out** – Many developed countries such as in Western Europe, the Nordics, Australia and South Korea have a history of strong growth, but their momentum is slowing. Without further innovation, they are at risk of falling behind.
- **Break Out** – Though still at relatively lower absolute levels of digital advancement, these

countries demonstrate the fastest momentum, are poised for growth and are attractive to investors. China, Kenya, Russia, India, Malaysia, Philippines, Indonesia, Brazil, Colombia, Chile and Mexico exhibit this breakout potential.

- **Watch Out** – Countries such as South Africa, Peru, Egypt, Greece and Pakistan face significant challenges, constrained both by low levels of digital advancement and a slow pace of growth.

Sri Lanka signs deal on Hambantota port with China

- Sri Lanka has signed a \$1.1bn (£837m) deal with China for the control and development of the southern deep-sea port of Hambantota.
- The deal had been delayed by several months over concerns that the port could be used by the Chinese military.
- The government has given assurances that China will run only commercial operations from the port, on the main shipping route between Asia and Europe.
- Sri Lanka's government says money from the deal will help repay foreign loans.
- Under the proposal, a state-run Chinese company will have a 99-year lease on the port and about 15,000 acres nearby for an industrial zone.

World's longest suspension footbridge opens in Switzerland

- The longest pedestrian suspension bridge in the world was officially opened in Switzerland today, measuring in at just under half-a-kilometer long.
- The steel bridge, which connects two sections of a walking trail between Grächen and Zermatt in the south of the country, was unveiled after a construction period of just ten weeks.
- At 494 meters long, it overtakes the "Titan-RT" bridge in Germany as the world's longest pedestrian suspension bridge.
- And at a narrow 65cm wide, the bridge stretches like a thin wire across the sheer valley floor.

Banking & BUISNESS

Axis Bank, IIC pact to boost trade with Latin America

- Axis Bank announced that it will help traders boost relations between India and Latin America and the Caribbean in a collaboration with Inter-American Investment Corporation.
- It will facilitate trade with Latin America and the Caribbean in which Axis Bank will participate in the Trade Finance Facilitation Program (TFFP) as a confirming bank.
- Axis Bank is the first Indian Bank to be a part of such a facility.
- The Inter-American Investment Corporation (IIC) will be acting on behalf of the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB).

SBI waives charge on IMPS fund transfer of up to Rs 1,000

- Country's largest bank SBI has waived charges for fund transfer of up to Rs.1,000 through its IMPS (Immediate Payment Service) to promote small transactions.
- State Bank of India had been charging ₹5 along with the applicable service tax for IMPS fund transfer of up to Rs.1,000. IMPS is an instant interbank electronic fund transfer service through mobile phones as well as internet banking.
- For IMPS, charge will be Rs. 5 along GST for fund transfer in the range of Rs. 1,000 to Rs. 1 lakh. The charge will go up to Rs. 15 for transactions of Rs.1-2 lakh. GST at the rate of 18 per cent is applicable on all financial transactions.

RBI amends order on bankruptcy action on 12 large Non Performing Assets

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has amended its earlier order asking banks to initiate bankruptcy proceedings against 12 companies which have outstanding loans amounting to over Rs 5,000 crore as on March 2016.
- The amendment, made through a notification late on Saturday, comes after the Gujarat High Court asked the RBI to remove the stipulation on its order last month that the 12 non-performing

assets (NPAs), or bad loans, would be granted priority at the National Company Law Tribunal.

- In June, the RBI identified 12 accounts totaling 25 per cent of the NPAs of the banking system for insolvency proceedings.
- The IAC (Internal Advisory Committee) noted that under the recommended criterion, 12 accounts totaling about 25 per cent of the current gross NPAs of the banking system would qualify for immediate reference under IBC (Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016),
- The IAC has been constituted under the Banking Regulation (Amendment) Ordinance, 2017, passed by the government in May, that allowed more power to the RBI to tackle the NPAs issue. It has been empowered to issue directions to commercial banks to initiate insolvency proceedings for recovering bad loans.

Chhattisgarh govt to merge DCCBs with state cooperative banks

- The Chhattisgarh government has decided to merge all the branches of the district central cooperative banks (DCCBs) with the state cooperative banks.
- The merger of DCCBs into a single entity would serve the farmers with better and efficient banking facilities,
- The decision would enable small DCCB to merge into the state cooperative bank that would ensure the fiscal strength of the entity. After the

merger, the working capital of the bank would increase to more than Rs 10 crore.

- This would help the farmers to get more loans from the banks.

YES Bank Launches 'YES GST' Program to Assist MSMEs

- YES BANK has launched GST-Ready products for MSMEs
- GST ready Current Account, in partnership with Numbers and Clear tax. Numbers is a fintech start-up that is part of the YES Accelerator program
- Considering that the working capital cycle is expected to change from quarterly to monthly, a 'GST Ready Working Capital Management' product will be made available
- GST ready Invoicing and Cash Management solution
- MSMEs are the backbone of the economy and it is vital to ensure that they are GST prepared. At YES BANK, we realize the importance of actualizing this learning objective using our differentiated knowledge banking approach."

RuPay to tap premium customers as banks renew deals with Visa, Mastercard

- The National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) is looking at increased uptake of its

RuPay debit cards among premium customers, as deals signed between banks and its global competitors Visa and MasterCard expire over the next few years.

- Though RuPay controls 42 per cent of the Indian debit card market, the share of its cards is only 16 per cent of total Point of Sale (PoS) and e-commerce transactions. This is largely due to the fact that the majority of RuPay cards — around 220 million— are held by benefactors of the Jan Dhan Yojana scheme.
- NPCI has already signed up over 750 banks, including cooperative banks and regional rural banks (RRBs), in the country, far larger than the 50 odd top banks Visa and MasterCard used to cater, prior to the RuPay's entry.
- Despite this deep penetration, top banks in the country continue to issue Visa and Mastercard debit cards instead of Rupay cards.

GMR gets Rs 1,330 cr loan from Axis Bank for developing Mopa airport

- GMR Goa International Airports Ltd, a subsidiary of GMR Airports Ltd, has executed a debt facility agreement for the development of Greenfield airport at Mopa.
- The GMR arm had won the bid to develop and operate the Greenfield airport at Mopa in North Goa last year and the concession agreement was signed on November 8, 2016.
- The foundation stone for the project was subsequently laid by the Prime Minister, Narendra Modi, on November 13, 2016.

- Goa has been witnessing an aviation boom with traffic at the existing Dabolim growing at near 30 per cent annually for the past three financial years. As per the concession agreement, GMR will design, build, finance and operate the international airport for 40 years with extension option for another 20 years.
- The Greenfield airport will be developed in stages and will be scaled up as per traffic growth demands. The airport will be a full service airport catering to domestic and international passenger besides freight services.

Finance Minister Arun Jaitley Launches 'Aaykar Setu' To Enhance E-Access Of Taxpayers

- Finance Minister Arun Jaitley on Monday launched 'Aaykar Setu' -- an e-initiative for the Income tax Department to directly communicate with the taxpayers and aimed at providing information on useful tax services.
- Aaykar Setu which compiles various tax tools, live chat facility, dynamic updated and important links to various processes within the Department in a single module, Mr Jaitley stressed on the government's commitment towards continuously upgrading taxpayer services
- To enhance mobile access experience, a mobile responsive android version was also released along with the desktop version.
- The taxpayers will also be able to receive regular updates regarding important tax dates, forms

and notifications on mobile numbers registered with the Income Tax Department.

No GST on gifts to employees up to Rs. 50,000 and on perks in contract

- Gifts from employers to employees worth up to Rs. 50,000 will not attract the Goods and Services Tax, nor will perquisites enjoyed by employees as part of the employment contract
- In common parlance, gift is made without consideration, is voluntary in nature and is made occasionally. It cannot be demanded as a matter of right by the employee and the employee cannot move a court of law for obtaining a gift
- This means that GST will have to be paid only in exceptional situations where gifts are given on voluntary basis, such as Diwali gifts to employees and that too if the value is more than Rs. 50,000
- Since services provided by an employee to a firm do not constitute supply of goods or services, there could be no GST levied on anything provided by employers as part of the contractual agreement with the employee

Nepal SBI launches first paperless banking services

- Nepal SBI Bank, a subsidiary of the State Bank of India, today launched its fully automatic

digital banking services in the Nepalese capital Kathmandu.

- This is for the first time the State Bank of India has expanded the paperless banking system outside India.
- Digital banking provides various services including cash deposit, opening of new accounts, distribution of debit card, ATM and online banking information on touch of the screen.
- Customers can avail the services from SBI In touch Bank.
- The digital banking unit also has a robot, which provides important information to customers in an interactive manner.

Government To Launch New Tranche Of Sovereign Gold Bonds

- The government will launch the next tranche of sovereign gold bond (SGB) scheme, the first in 2017-18, on July 10.
- The bonds will be sold through banks, Stock Holding Corporation of India Limited (SHCIL), designated post offices and recognized stock exchanges namely the NSE and BSE
- The sovereign gold bond scheme was launched in November 2015 with an objective to reduce the demand for physical gold and shift a part of the domestic savings, used for purchase of gold, into financial savings.
- The government has so far issued eighth tranches of SGBs and mobilized Rs. 5,400 crore till date.

- Investors in these bonds have been provided with the option of holding them in physical or dematerialized form.
- As per the statement, the bonds with tenure of 8 years will be tradable on stock exchanges within a fortnight of the issuance on a date as notified by the RBI.
- The investors will be compensated at a fixed rate of 2.50 per cent per annum payable semi-annually on the nominal value.
- Payment for the bonds will be through cash payment (up to a maximum of Rs. 20,000) or demand draft or cheque or electronic banking.
- The maximum amount subscribed by an entity will not be more than 500 grams per person per fiscal year. A self-declaration to this effect will be obtained. In case of joint holding, the investment limit of 500 grams will be applied to the first applicant only.
- Price of bond will be fixed in rupees on the basis of simple average of closing price of gold of 999 purity published by the India Bullion and Jewelers Association Limited for the week (Monday to Friday) preceding the subscription period. The issue price of the gold bonds will be Rs. 50 per gram less than the nominal value.

RBI limits customer liability in online banking frauds

- Laying out norms for limiting customer liability in online banking frauds, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI)
- in cases of zero and limited liability of the customer "on being notified by the customer, the

bank shall credit the amount involved in the unauthorized electronic transaction to the customer's account within 10 working days from the date of such notification by the customer (without waiting for settlement of insurance claim, if any) directed banks to credit the amount involved in the unauthorized electronic transaction within 10 working days to the account holder.

- RBI also said that banks need to ask their customers to mandatorily register for SMS alerts and e-mail alerts for electronic banking transactions.

RBI allows large NBFCs to offer NPS

- The Reserve Bank of India has allowed systematically important non-banking finance companies to offer the new pension scheme (NPS). NBFCs with asset size of Rs 500 crore and above, that have made a net profit in the preceding financial year be permitted to offer NPS after registration with the pension regulator.
- Eligible NBFCs extending such services shall ensure that NPS subscription collected by them from the public is deposited on the day of collection with the trustee bank

Canara HSBC Oriental Bank of Commerce Life Insurance ties up with Dhanlaxmi Bank for marketing bancassurance

- Private life insurance company Canara HSBC Oriental Bank of Commerce Life Insurance has

entered into an alliance with the Kerala-based Dhanlaxmi Bank for marketing various life insurance products.

- As part of the agreement, the Bank will be a corporate agent for 3 years; however, both aim to continue this relationship for long term.
- The insurance company with a customer base of 115 million and a pan India network of 9500 branches has garnered Rs.110 crore profit in FY17, registering a 40 per cent growth vis-a-vis 38 per cent in the previous fiscal.
- During the first quarter of FY18, Mathur said the company has already posted a 50 per cent growth and is getting into Tier II and III cities with a focus on many traditional products and whole life endowment plans.
- With this up, Dhanlaxmi Bank is entering into a new business which would increase its profitability in the coming days

Indus OS, Yes Bank to Launch OS-Integrated UPI Payment Platform

- Domestic android-based mobile operating system Indus OS on Wednesday announced a partnership with Yes Bank to launch an OS-integrated UPI payment platform.
- Indian consumers will be able to use this platform through SMS, dialer interface and third party apps.
- Indus OS is further working to link the platform with Aadhaar-authenticated OS to enhance the security of the framework.

- Integrating UPI into the mobile OS will help in creating multiple use cases for payments and spur the adoption of UPI in our country

South Indian Bank ties up with PFG Forex

- South Indian Bank has tied up with PFG Forex for remittance facility for the benefit of Indian expatriates from Australia. The new facility will leverage the bank to reach the Indian diaspora.
- Under this arrangement, NRIs can enjoy cost-effective and fast remittance services using SIB's Express facility.
- NRIs can visit the PFG Forex outlets across Australia for remittances to India. SIB is already having correspondent banking arrangement with National Australia Bank and Fly World Money Exchange for remittances to India.
- Recently SIB's international banking division has been awarded the ISO 9001: 2015 certification for Quality Management Systems.
- The certification was awarded for implementing systems and procedures as per the standards laid down by the International Organization for Standardisation.

EPFO ties up with 5 banks to collect PF dues

- Retirement fund body EPFO has inked pacts with five banks for collections of provident dues and to make retirement payments.
- The tie-ups with Bank of Baroda, ICICI Bank, HDFC Bank, Axis Bank and Kotak Mahindra Bank will help EPFO save around Rs 125 crore a year

and expedite its investments as well as payment of benefits to its members.

- Employers having bank account with these banks can now deposit PF dues directly in EPFO's account using internet banking in real time basis instead of going through the aggregator mode.
- EPFO is negotiating with seven more banks for the same purpose. Tie-ups with these banks will be beneficial because each of them accounts for 0.5 per cent of EPFO remittances a year.
- The seven banks are IDBI Bank, Bank of India, Corporation Bank, Indian Overseas Bank, Canara Bank, Central Bank of India and Bank of Maharashtra.

India in 88th place in money hoarded in Swiss banks

- India has slipped to the 88th place in terms of money parked by its citizens with Swiss banks, while the U.K. remains on the top.
- Also, the money officially held by Indians with banks in Switzerland now accounts for a meager 0.04 per cent of the total funds kept by all foreign clients in the Swiss banking system, as per an analysis of the latest figures compiled by the Swiss National Bank as on 2016-end.
- India was placed at 75th position in 2015 and at 61st in the year before that, though it used to be among top-50 countries in terms of holdings in Swiss banks till 2007. The country was ranked highest at 37th place in 2004.
- The latest data from the Zurich-based SNB comes ahead of a new framework for automatic

exchange of information between Switzerland and India to help check the black money menace.

- The funds are the official figures and do not indicate the quantum of black money.

MSME Ministry inks pact with SAP India, Intel, HMT

- The Ministry of Medium, Small and Micro Enterprises (MSME) on Tuesday signed memoranda of understanding with SAP India, Intel and HMT with the aim to digitally empower small businesses.
- Launching the "Digital MSME Scheme", MSME Minister Kalraj Mishra said the scheme revolved around cloud computing, which was emerging as a cost-effective and viable alternative in comparison to in-house IT infrastructure installed by MSMEs.
- Cloud computing is free from the burden of investment on hardware/software and infrastructural facilities
- The initiative aims to provide MSMEs with access to technology to help them streamline and integrate key processes, such as financials, sales and inventory with a single business software. The tech major said it would also provide software and training curriculum to trainers identified by the Ministry under the 'train the trainer' method.

Yes Bank inks pact with Santander

- Santander UK plc and Yes Bank has signed a memorandum of understanding to help boost UK-India trade and local business networking opportunities.
- The new partnership will enable Santander to offer its clients access to banking facilities and local support in India through Yes Bank network, while Yes Bank customers will gain access to the range of financial and practical support that Santander offers businesses looking to trade internationally.
- Santander UK plc. is a British bank, wholly owned by the Spanish Santander Group.
- Santander UK plc. manages its affairs autonomously, with its own local management team, responsible solely for its performance.

Credit Card Bill Payment Exempt From Cash Dealing Limit

- Restrictions on cash dealings of Rs. 2 lakh or more will not apply to credit card bill payments, business correspondents appointed by banks and issuers of prepaid instruments, the revenue department has said.
- The Finance Act 2017 banned cash transaction of Rs. 2 lakh or above with effect April 1, 2017. However, some exceptions were made.
- Through a notification, the Income Tax Department has exempted five entities from the purview of this Section.
- These include receipts by a business correspondent on behalf of a banking company or co-operative bank; and receipt by a company

or institution issuing credit cards against bills raised in respect of one or more credit cards.

- Receipt from an agent by an issuer of pre-paid payment instruments, receipt by a white label ATM operator from retail outlet and receipt which is not includible in the total income under clause (17A) of section 10 of the I-T Act, 1961, have been excluded from the purview of the Section 269ST.

Microsoft India inks pact with NISA

- Microsoft India on Monday signed an agreement with National Independent Schools Alliance (NISA) to offer Microsoft Aspire School Program (MASP) Pro Plus to over 55,000 member schools.
- MASP aims to equip schools with technology and innovative learning solutions, modernize campuses, and prepare future-ready students, among others.
- With this partnership, schools across 23 states can now avail MASP Pro Plus.
- NISA brings together budget private schools (BPS) from across the country to give them a unified voice to address their concerns about legislations.

FINO becomes payments bank

- FINO Payments Bank has commenced operations as a payments bank with effect from June 30, according to the Reserve Bank of India.
- FINO PayTech Ltd, Navi Mumbai, was one of the 11 applicants which were issued in-principle approval for setting up a payments bank.

- Besides FINO, the other applicants which have launched payment bank operations are Airtel M Commerce Services, Department of Posts and Vijay Shekhar Sharma

Svatantra Microfin launches cashless solution 'Saathi'

- Mid-sized microfinance institution Svatantra Microfin is looking at doubling its loan disbursements to Rs. 800 crore by 2019, even as it plans to expand its operations to more States within the same period.
- The firm, founded and promoted by Ananya Birla in 2012, has so far disbursed micro-credits worth Rs. 450 crore. Its loan book stands at Rs. 260 crore, and it has grown 220 per cent year-on-year since its launch in 2014.
- The firm also claims to have broken even this year.
- Svatantra has also launched an app, an end-to-end cashless solution called Saathi, for an entire spectrum of operations in areas such as loan originating system, loan management system and collections.
- In partnership with third-party service providers, it has also created an affordable, cashless medical claim product for up to five family members.

NMCE and ICEX to merge, creating India's third largest commodity exchange

- National Multi-Commodity Exchange (NMCE), India's first demutualized multi-commodities

exchange, will merge with Indian Commodity Exchange (ICEX)

- The proposed merger will create India's third largest commodities exchange, offering a range of contracts including bullion, oil, rubber and other agri-commodities.
- The exchange will also offer the world's first diamond futures contract, which has already received "in-principle" approval from the regulator
- According to the agreed swap ratio, ICEX shareholders will hold 62.8% stake and NMCE shareholders will hold 37.2% stake in ICEX, post-merger.
- The merged entity will have shareholders from both exchanges including MMTC, Indian Potash, Krishak Bharti Cooperative (Kribhco), IDFC Bank, India bulls Housing Finance, Reliance Capital, Bajaj Holdings, Central Warehousing Corp., Punjab National Bank and Gujarat Agro Industries. Reliance Capital, a part of the Anil Ambani led Reliance Group, is the largest investor in ICEX.

Karnataka Bank unveils 'KBL Image Debit Card'

- City based private sector bank - Karnataka Bank, in its pursuit to transform customer satisfaction into customer delight, has unveiled yet another novel card variant 'KBL-image debit card. It is intended to enable bank's debit cardholders to customize/personalize debit card with image of their choice.
- This card is one of the new-fangled card products that will fulfill debit cardholders' desire

to capture their best moments/family/friends impression on the face of debit card.

- The customers will have the option of selecting an image either from bank's gallery of images or any image of their choice to be printed on the debit card.
- This will foster cardholders' emotional attachment towards the cards. All our debit cardholders can get their existing card converted to image debit card with their personalized image.

PNB To Block All Maestro Debit Cards Soon

- Punjab National Bank (PNB) Maestro debit cards holders will face a card blockage if they fail to replace it with a more secure EMV chip based card by the end of this month.
- The bank will not charge anything for the replacement and it will be provided free of cost.
- All Maestro cards issued by PNB will be blocked or hot listed on July 31, 2017 for security based reasons
- As per RBI advisory, existing magnetic stripe only cards need to be replaced with EMV chip and pin based cards by December 31, 2018, irrespective of the validity period of the cards.
- And from January 31, 2016 onwards, banks are directed to issue only EMV based debit and credit cards.

SBI launches 'SBI Realty' portal for home buyers

- India's largest commercial bank State Bank of India (SBI) has launched a dedicated portal 'SBI

Realty' that will help home buyers to choose flats from its 3,000 approved projects across the country, which are spread across 13 states and Union Territories covering 30 cities.

- At present, there are 9.5 lakh home units available on the website. Customers can compare current and past trends of prices for the properties in various localities in the city.
- The SBI Realty website has been developed by SBICAP Securities in association with PropEquity in terms of data support, project information

RBI has set up an Enforcement Department (EFD)

- RBI has set up an Enforcement Department (EFD) which would serve as a centralized department to speed up regulatory compliance; EFD has been entrusted with the responsibility of enforcement action on commercial banks
- Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has informed that they have set up an Enforcement Department (EFD). EFD would serve as a centralized department to speed up regulatory compliance. EFD has been set up to separate those who oversee the possible rule breaches and those who decide on punitive actions so that enforcement process operates fairly and is evidence based.
- The EFD has become functional with effect from April 03, 2017. The EFD has been entrusted with the responsibility of enforcement action on commercial banks.

ICICI Bank offers up to Rs. 15 lakh instant personal loan via ATMs

- ICICI Bank has launched a facility whereby its existing salaried customers can avail personal loans at ATMs. These customers can get pre-qualified personal loans up to 15 lakhs in their savings account instantly.
- In a statement, the country's largest private sector bank by consolidated assets, said the facility offers a bouquet of features - swift application in simple steps, multiple eligible loan amount options up to Rs. 15 lakh based on pre-checked CIBIL scores and instant transfer of the money to the customer's account.
- The facility also incorporates an additional level of authentication to make the security of the offering robust. Through this offering, a customer can get personal loans of up to Rs. 15 lakh for a fixed tenure of 60 months.
- On completion of a transaction for balance enquiry or cash withdrawal, customers will be shown the option of availing the loan (at ICICI Bank ATM).
- Customers can avail this loan at any ICICI Bank ATM in four steps -- select the required pre-approved loan offer; multiple amounts may be shown depending on the customer's eligibility; accept the auto populated interest rate, processing fee and EMI (Equated Monthly Installment) amount; confirm on the terms and conditions displayed. Lastly, enter debit card PIN.
- The money will get transferred to the customer's account instantly on completion of this

procedure. Customers can also avail personal loans from the Bank's website, iMobile – its mobile banking application as well as its branches.

ONGC gets Cabinet nod for buying 51% stake in HPCL

- The Cabinet approved sale of government's 51.11 percent stake in oil refiner HPCL to India's largest oil producer ONGC for a potential Rs 26,000 crore to Rs 30,000 crore, a top source said.
- While ONGC buying HPCL will help the government meet as much as 40 percent of its target for raising Rs 72,500 crore in the current fiscal through stake sales, more deals in the oil sector including one where refiner Indian Oil Corp (IOC) buys out explorer Oil India Ltd or Bharat Petroleum Corp Ltd (BPCL) merges with gas utility GAIL may be in the offing.
- HPCL will become a subsidiary of ONGC and will remain a listed company post the acquisition, he said adding the board of the refining and marketing company will continue to remain in place.

Cabinet nod for IWAI bond issue

- The Union Cabinet gave its nod to Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI) for raising Rs. 660 crore in bonds for extra budgetary resources in 2017-18.
- The proceeds from the bonds will be utilized by IWAI for development and maintenance of

National Waterways (NWs) under National Waterways Act, 2016 (effective from 12.4.2016)

- Funds received through issue of bonds will be used exclusively for capital expenditure to improve infrastructure funding.
- The IWAI may get Rs. 857 crore in loan from World Bank for its Jal Marg Vikas Project.

BoB signs MoU with DGS&D for services to govt's e-marketplace

- Bank of Baroda BSE -0.12 % has entered into an agreement with Directorate General of Supplies & Disposal (DGS&D) for extending various banking services to Government e-Marketplace (GeM).
- DGS&D has been mandated to set up GeM, an initiative intended to bring greater transparency and efficiency in public procurements, BoB said in a statement today.
- The relationship of the bank with GeM will immensely benefit all stakeholders and ensure a support system including a dedicated team for seamless functioning of the portal
- The GeM SPV has been established as National Public Procurement Portal to provide an end-to-end online marketplace for central and state government departments, their public sector undertakings, autonomous institutions and local bodies, for procurement of common goods and services in a transparent and efficient manner.

Sebi inks pact with ESMA for info exchange on CCPs

- Markets regulator Sebi has entered into a pact with the European Securities and Markets Authority (ESMA) for exchange of information concerning Central Counterparties (CCPs).
- Central counterparties are entities that help facilitate clearing and settlement activities.
- The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) has been signed between the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) and ESMA under the European Markets Infrastructure Regulation (EMIR).
- The MoU establishes cooperation arrangements, including the exchange of information regarding Central Counterparties (CCPs) which are established and authorized or recognized in India by Sebi, and which have applied for EU recognition under EMIR
- EMIR provides for signing of a cooperation arrangement between ESMA and the relevant non-EU authorities, whose legal and supervisory framework for CCPs have been deemed equivalent to EMIR by the European Commission.
- Signing of MoU is one of the conditions for recognition of third country CCPs by ESMA under EMIR

New payments bank launched in India, Fino Payments Bank

- India has seen the launch of its fourth payments bank, Fino Payments Bank.

- It joins Airtel Payments Bank, India Post Payments Bank and Paytm Payments Bank.
- For its core banking system, the bank uses Profile from FIS, delivered on a hosted basis. The same system and set-up is already used by a number of other Indian banks, including North East Small Finance Bank and Bharatiya Mahila Bank.
- Fino Payments Bank is backed by ICICI Group, Bharat Petroleum, Blackstone, International Finance Corporation (IFC), Corporation Bank, Union Bank of India, and Indian Bank.
- It also has a strategic partnership with ICICI Bank, whereas it sells ICICI Bank's products through its network.

Bill introduced to replace Banking regulation ordinance

- A bill to authorize the RBI to direct banking companies to resolve the problem of stressed assets was on Monday introduced in the Lok Sabha by Finance Minister Arun Jaitley.
- The Banking Regulation (Amendment) Bill, 2017, seeks to amend the Banking Regulation Act, 1949 and replace the Banking Regulation (Amendment) Ordinance, 2017, which was promulgated in May this year.
- The measure allows the RBI to initiate insolvency resolution process on specific stressed assets.
- The RBI would also be empowered to issue other directions for resolution, appoint or approve for appointment, authorities or committees to advise the banking companies for stressed asset resolution.

Stan Chart unveils forex card

- Standard Chartered Bank has launched a Multi-currency Forex Card for overseas travellers.
- The card will allow customers the convenience of loading up to 20 widely used currencies on one card with an online reload facility during overseas travel.
- The card will offer travellers protection against the frequent currency fluctuations by locking in the currency exchange rate they availed during the time of loading the card, and not pay different rates every time they use the card.

Bank of India banks on Project Connect to tackle bad loans

- Bank of India's new chief has launched Project Connect, an initiative to revive the bank that has suffered huge losses for two consecutive years due to a sharp rise in bad loans.
- The bank will have 115 area managers who would be stationed close to 30-35 branches and would be responsible for these branches; they would be on field and not have a formal office and would monitor and support the zonal offices.
- Further, the bank has opened a new vertical 'Premium Client Care' which will cater to the needs of the 1000 top customers identified from the top five centres of the country.

Cabinet approves revision of guidelines of Sovereign Gold Bonds Scheme

- The Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has given approval for revision of guidelines of Sovereign Gold Bonds (SGB) Scheme with a view to achieve its intended objectives.
- Two sets of changes have been made in the scheme:
- Specific changes have been made in the attributes of the scheme to make it more attractive, mobilize finances as per the target and reduce the economic strains caused by imports of gold and reduce the Current Account Deficit (CAD).
- Flexibility has been given to Ministry of Finance to design and introduce variants of SGBs with different interest rates and risk protection / pay-offs that would offer investment alternatives to different category of investors. Ministry of Finance (the issuer) has been delegated this power to amend / add to the features of the Scheme with approval of the Finance Minister to reduce the time lag between finalizing the attributes of a particular tranche and its notification. Such flexibility will be effective in addressing the elements of competition with new products of investment, to deal with very dynamic and sometimes volatile market, macro-economic and other conditions such as gold price.
- Following specific changes in the scheme have been approved:

- The investment limit per fiscal year has been increased to 4 kg for individuals, 4 Kg for Hindu Undivided Family (HUF) and 20 Kg for Trusts and similar entities notified by the Government from time to time.
- The ceiling will be counted on Financial year basis and will include the SGBs purchased during the trading in the secondary market.
- The ceiling on investment will not include the holdings as collateral by Banks and Financial institutions.
- SGBs will be available 'on tap'. Based on the consultation with NSE, BSE, Banks and Department of Post, features of product to emulate 'On Tap' sale would be finalised by Ministry of Finance.
- To improve liquidity and tradability of SGBs, appropriate market making initiatives will be devised. Market makers, could be commercial banks or any other public sector entity, such as MMTC or any other entity as decided by Gol. The Government may, if so felt necessary, allow higher commission to agents.

NPCI gets RBI nod to operate Bharat Bill Payment System

- National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI), the umbrella organization for all retail payment systems in the country, has received the final nod from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to function as the Bharat Bill Payment Central Unit and operate the Bharat Bill Payment System (BBPS)

- The final clearance from RBI comes almost a year after NPCI launched the BBPS pilot project to make payment of utility bills easier. The pilot started on 31 August with eight BBPS operating units that had received in-principle approval from RBI.
- The total number of Bharat Bill Payment Operating Units certified by NPCI now stands at 24. The certified units include three public sector banks (Bank of Baroda, Union Bank of India and Indian Overseas Bank), 10 private sector banks, five cooperative banks and six non-bank biller aggregators.
- As per the framework, a customer will be able to pay several bills such as electricity, telephone, water, gas, and direct-to-home television at a single location—physical or electronic—and receive instant confirmation once the payment is made.
- Payments through BBPS may be made using cash, transfer cheques and electronic modes. Bill aggregators and banks, who will function as operating units, will carry out these transactions for the customers.

RBI sets up Supervisory Colleges for six Scheduled Commercial Banks

- Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has informed that Supervisory Colleges have been setup for the following six Scheduled Commercial Banks which have sizeable international presence:-
- State Bank of India, ICICI Bank Ltd., Bank of India, Bank of Baroda, Axis Bank Ltd. and Punjab National Bank.

- The objectives of the colleges are to enhance information exchange and cooperation among supervisors, to improve understanding of the risk profile of the banking group and thereby facilitate more effective supervision of internationally active banks.

Canara Bank launches "CANDI"-its first digital branch in Bengaluru

- Public sector lender Canara Bank has launched its first 'Digital Banking Branch' at Spencer Towers in MG Road, Bengaluru.
- The branch is reportedly titled "CANDI" and it will aim to provide an end-to-end digital experience to customers.
- As a part of its digital campaign, the bank has unveiled several customer friendly mobile apps. These innovations will enable customers to get most of the information related to their accounts without visiting the branch.
- The most eye catching feature of the digital bank is the infusion of artificial intelligence. A humanoid has been introduced in the branch to addresses basic queries of customers on banking products and services. With this, the bank becomes the first in the public sector category to initiate artificial intelligence in banking.
- This is a first-of-its kind initiative by a public sector bank in the country.

Sports

Gurjar 2nd Indian to win gold at World Para Athletics C'ship

- Para-athlete Sundar Singh Gurjar became only the second Indian to win a gold at the World Para Athletics Championships, winning one in javelin at the 2017 edition in London.
- Gurjar, whose left hand is amputated, recorded a personal best of 60.36 metres to win in the F46 category. Rio gold medalist Devendra Jhajharia won a gold in 2013.

Mithali Raj becomes first to score 6000 runs in women's ODI cricket

- Indian skipper Mithali Raj has become the first player in the history of women's ODI cricket to have crossed 6000 career runs. Mithali reached the milestone in India's ICC Women's World Cup 2017 match against Australia.
- She is now the all-time highest run-scorer in women's cricket, surpassing the record previously held by England's Charlotte Edwards.
- Edwards scored 5992 runs in 191 matches at an average of 38.16 including nine centuries and 46 half-centuries. On the other hand, Mithali has crossed 6000 runs in 182 ODIs. The Indian captain has a total of five centuries and 49 half-centuries to her name.
- She made her debut in 1999 against Ireland team scored an unbeaten hundred in the process.

Roger Federer makes 100th Wimbledon match special, reaches semi-final

- Playing his 100th Wimbledon match, he produced one of his best performances to make it special. Roger Federer played one of his best matches of Wimbledon to outclass Milos Raonic 6-4 6-2 7-6(4) on Wednesday and reach his 12th, a record, semi-final in London.
- The 35-year-old also avenged his loss from last year's semi-final where Raonic had defeated him to reach his first ever Grand Slam final.
- Federer has yet to drop a set in the tournament this year and with defending champion Andy Murray, Novak Djokovic and Rafa Nadal all out he is a huge favourite to become the first man to win the Wimbledon title eight times.
- He will play Czech Tomas Berdych, the 11th seed, in the last four.

India finishes fifth in u-18 rugby sevens

- The Indian girls' under-18 team finished fifth in the rugby sevens (7-a-side) event at the Paris World Games 2017, conducted at Stade Georges Carpenter stadium over two days.
- Captained by Sumitra Nayak and representing Rugby India, the squad recovered from three consecutive losses on the opening day to win both matches on the second and concluding day.
- Seven teams took part in the event held as part of France's bid to host the 2024 Summer Olympics.

Chess: Abhijeet completes hat-trick in style

- Abhijeet Gupta needed barely 25 minutes of thinking time to inflict a crushing 24-move defeat on Australia's veteran International Master Aleksandar Wohl in the ninth and final round as India virtually monopolised the medals in the Commonwealth chess championship here on Monday.
- The 27-year-old Grandmaster also completed a hat-trick of titles and fourth in all to become the most successful player in the history of the Commonwealth championship.
- Before this resounding triumph, Abhijeet shared the record of three titles with England's Nigel Short. For the record, Abhijeet scored 7.5 points from nine rounds.
- Vaibhav Suri and Tejas Bakre followed with seven points and finished in that order.

Valtteri Bottas wins Austrian Grand Prix

- Valtteri Bottas roared to the second victory of his career on Sunday when he won the Austrian Grand Prix for Mercedes ahead of championship leader Sebastian Vettel of Ferrari.
- The Finn, in his first season with Mercedes after replacing 2016 champion Nico Rosberg, came home 0.658 seconds clear of Vettel who increased his lead ahead of Lewis Hamilton in the drivers championship to 20 points.

Harinder wins South Australian Open title

- India's Harinder Pal Sandhu beat Rhys Dowling of Australia 11-8 12-10 11-4 in the final to win the South Australian Open squash title here today.
- After winning the first game comfortably, Sandhu was down 1-7 as the Australian fought back strongly.
- However, Sandhu mounted a comeback to win the game.
- The third game was a no-contest as the Indian, a former national champion, shut out Dowling's challenge to wrap up the title win in the PSA World Tour event.
- Sandhu had upset top seed Pedro Schweertman of the Netherlands 11-9 14-12 7-11 11-9 in the semifinal



Asian Athletics Championships: Sudha Singh wins gold in women's steeplechase

- Sudha Singh clinched a gold in women's 3000m steeplechase event to swell India's medal tally on the third and penultimate day at the 22nd Asian Athletics Championships
- The Uttar Pradesh athlete won the race in 9 minute 59.47 seconds to grab the first gold of the day for India in front of a packed crowd at the Kalinga Stadium.
- In men's 110m hurdles, India's Siddharth Thingalaya finished fifth in 13.72 seconds.

Kuwait won both the gold and silver with Abdulazia Al-Mandeel and Yaqoub Al-Youha clocking 13.50 and 13.59 respectively.

- With this gold, India have swelled their medal tally to 7 gold, 3 silver and 6 bronze.

Polo: India score thrilling win vs Pakistan, clinch World Cup spot

- India defeated Pakistan 8-7 in a crucial qualifying match of the Polo World Cup in Tehran
- Both teams fought well but India put pressure on Pakistan from the start and scored quick goals. Pakistan bounced back, and the score read 7-7 in the last chukker.
- However, in the dying minutes, India secured a penalty and Dhruvpal Godara converted it to seal the match.

14-year-old amateur becomes youngest LET winner

- Atthaya Thitikul, 14, became the youngest winner on the Ladies European Tour on Sunday when she beat Ana Menendez of Mexico by two strokes in the inaugural Ladies European Thailand championship at the Phoenix Gold Golf and Country Club in Chinburi
- At 14 years, four months and 19 days, Atthaya broke the previous record of the formerly top-

ranked Lydia Ko, who at 14 years and eight months won her first professional event at the New South Wales Open in 2012.

Manpreet Kaur, Govindan Laxmanan win gold in Asian Athletics Championships

- India's Manpreet Kaur claimed the gold medal in the women's shot put, while defending champion Vikas Gowda failed to retain his title in the men's discus throw event on the opening day of the Asian Athletics Championships 2017
- Laxmanan emerged triumphant in the men's 5,000 metres. He had to struggle hard for his gold medal after he was trailing the leading four runners towards the end of the second last lap but produced a stunning sprint finish over the final 300 metres to win by a handsome margin.

India rise to 96th in FIFA rankings, second highest ever

- As per the latest FIFA rankings updated on Thursday, India climbed four places to sit on the 96th position, the second highest ranking for the country ever.
- This is also India's highest FIFA ranking under coach Stephen Constantine. The result was updated following India's 2-0 win against Nepal

- They also emerged victorious against Kyrgyzstan in AFC Asian Cup 2019 qualifiers group match last month.
- India is currently on 341 points, seven behind 95th placed Cyprus. The team has progressed brilliantly under Constantine, who started coaching the team when it was ranked 171st in the world. This is his second stint with India after taking charge.

India beat SL to register 4th straight win in ICC Women's WC

- India's women's cricket team defeated Sri Lanka by 16 runs to claim its 4th straight win in the ICC Women's World Cup 2017.
- Mithali Raj and Co thus recorded their fourth win on the trot as they defended a respectable 232/8 by restricting Sri Lanka to 216 for 7.
- This was India's 14th win in 2017, setting a new record for most wins in a year for the national women's team. Notably, India have won 20 of their last 21 ODIs, including a 16-match winning streak.

Pankaj Advani-led India beat Pakistan to win Asian Snooker Championship

- India's leading cueist Pankaj Advani teamed up with Laxman Rawat to demolish Pakistan in the

final of the Asian Team Snooker Championship on Wednesday.

- Advani drew first blood by putting on a sterling performance against Mohammad Bilal.
- Advani remained the only player to not lose a single individual match in the team event. This title brings up Advani's second Asian title this season and 8th overall (6 Billiards, 1 6-red and 1 Team Snooker) while it is a first for Rawat and Singh.

Novak Djokovic wins Eastbourne Aegon Championship by defeating Gael Monfils



- Novak Djokovic has won the Aegon Championship in Eastbourne by beating Gael Monfils in Saturday's final.
- The world No 2's preparation for Wimbledon concluded with a 6-3 6-4 victory at Devonshire Park - just his second title of 2017 so far.
- Djokovic then confirmed that Mario Ancic, the former Croatian player, would join Andre Agassi as part of his new-look coaching staff before Wimbledon.

Donegal beat holders Monaghan to clinch Ulster Ladies Senior Football title

- Geraldine McLaughlin hit 2-6 as Donegal clinched a 4-11 to 0-15 win over Monaghan in the Ulster Senior Ladies Football Final at Clones.

- The victory over the holders gave Donegal their second title after their first triumph two years ago.
- Roisin Friel and Yvonne McMonagle hit early goals as Donegal took control.
- Donegal's winning margin would have been even bigger but for a final goalkeeping display by Linda Martin.

Jehan Daruvala becomes 1st Indian to win FIA Formula 3 European Championship race

- Jehan Daruvala became the first Indian driver to win in the FIA Formula 3 European Championship on Sunday, claiming victory in Race 3 at the Nuremberg circuit.
- The 18-year-old Mumbai driver's success at this junior level, assessed for the potential to go on to higher echelons, comes 18 years after Narain Karthikeyan, India's first Formula 1 driver, won in the British F3 Championship.
- The 2.3-km Norisring is an extremely fast and flowing layout for a street circuit and mistakes are punished by the concrete walls instead of tyre barriers.

Indian shuttlers win singles, doubles titles in Ivory Coast International tournament

- Ritika Thaker beat Simran Singhi in an all-Indian women's singles final before the duo combined


together to win the doubles title in the Ivory Coast International badminton tournament at Abidjan today.

- Ritika defeated Simran 21-13 21-19 in a 31-minute women's singles final to win the title.
- Later, Ritika and Simran paired together to beat the Nigerian duo of Zainab Momoh and Peace Orji 21-11 21-14 in the women's doubles final that lasted 20 minutes.

MS Dhoni Hits 200 Sixes in ODIs

- MS Dhoni who played an instrumental role in India's 93-run win over West Indies reached a career milestone by becoming the first Indian to hit 200 sixes in ODIs.
- Dhoni became the fifth batsman in international cricket to reach the elite 200 six hitting club. The list is topped by Pakistan's Shahid Afridi with 351 sixes, while Sri Lanka's hard-hitting opener Sanath Jayasuriya is placed second with 270 career sixes to his name.
- The 35-year-old Dhoni has now hit 322* sixes in his international career and is fifth on the list topped by former Pakistan skipper Shahid Afridi (476). Chris Gayle (434*), Brendon McCullum(398) and Sanath Jayasuriya (352) are the ones ahead of Dhoni.

Germany Defeat Chile to Win 2017 Confederations Cup Final

- Germany battled their way to the 2017 FIFA Confederations Cup title on Sunday, beating Chile 1-0 in a tight final in Russia.
 - Lars Stindl gave the Germans a first-half lead against the run of play, taking advantage of some dreadful defending.
 - Chile went close on several occasions after the break, but their top stars faltered in front of goal.
 - Jeff Horn stuns Manny Pacquiao to become the new WBO welterweight champion
 - Australia's Jeff Horn stunned Filipino Manny Pacquiao in a bloody Brisbane battle to claim a unanimous 12-round decision and win the WBO world welterweight title
 - The unheralded 29-year-old former schoolteacher, who improved his record to 17-0-1, was awarded the win over the eight-division world champion by scores of 117-111, 115-113 and 115-113.
- 

Roger Federer beats Marin Cilic to win record 8th Wimbledon, 19th Grand Slam

- Roger Federer won a record eighth Wimbledon title and became the tournament's oldest champion on Sunday with a straight-sets victory over injury-hit Marin Cilic who dramatically broke down in tears midway through the final.
- Federer claimed his 19th Grand Slam title 6-3, 6-1, 6-4 and at 35 is Wimbledon's oldest men's winner of the modern era, succeeding Arthur Ashe, who was almost 32 when he won in 1976.

Garbine Muguruza hammers Venus Williams to win first Wimbledon title

- Garbine Muguruza took just one hour and 17 minutes to beat five-time winner Venus Williams 7-5, 6-0 to clinch her maiden Wimbledon and second Grand Slam title.
- The Spaniard had also clinched the 2016 French Open. It was a sad end for Venus Williams' campaign, who reached the women's singles final for the first time in nine years.

President of India Inaugurates 7th Edition of KKM Memorial Gold Cup - Rural Football Tournament

- The President of India, Shri Pranab Mukherjee inaugurated the 7th Edition of Kamada Kinkar Mukherjee Rural Football Tournament at Mackenzie Park Football Ground in Murshidabad district of West Bengal today (July 14, 2017).
- The President witnessed an exhibition match between Mohun Bagan U-19 and Kingfisher East Bengal U-19. Mohun Bagan won the match by 1-0.
- The President greeted the players of both the teams and presented awards.

Harinder Pal Sandhu wins Victorian Open squash title

- India's Harinder Pal Sandhu continued his fine run by winning a second title in two weeks, beating top-seed Rex Hedrick of Australia 12-14, 11-3, 11-4, 11-7 in a 77-minute final of Victorian Open squash, a PSA Tour event, in Melbourne on Sunday.
- Sandhu, who had reached the final without dropping a game, ran into an opponent, who was ready for a long battle. The first game saw long rallies and Hedrick held his nerve to win it on extra points as the two mixed caution with aggression.

FIFA have lifted their ban on the Sudan Football Association

- FIFA have lifted their suspension of the Sudanese Football Association, but the move comes too late to save the season of the country's clubs competing in African club competition.
- Al Merriekh and Al Hilal have been disqualified from the Champions League and Al Hilal Obeid eliminated from the Confederation Cup after the ban meant they could not honour their final group stage fixtures.
- Confederation of African Football rules are clear that should a team fail to honour a fixture for any reason, there is no chance of it being replayed at a later stage under any circumstances.
- Sudan was suspended by FIFA for government interference in the country's football after they suspended the entire Sudanese Football

Association board of directors, but the sports ministry later backed down.

Manudev wins National Masters snooker title

- Karnataka's Manudev won the title in the first National Masters snooker tournament 2017.
- He defeated Alok Kumar to win the title
- Manudev, Alok Kumar, Chirag Ramakrishnan and Rafath Habib have qualified for the world 6 red and team championship snooker to be held in Egypt and also for the world snooker championship to be held in Malta later this year.

India's Amit Saroha clinches silver in World Para Athletics Championships

- Former national-level hockey player Amit Saroha clinched silver medal in the club throw event in the F-51 category --- below waist paraplegic category --- at the ongoing World Para Athletics Championships in London. The event is the equivalent of the hammer throw, only para athletes throw a wooden club.
- Amit Saroha has been wheelchair-bound, after a horrific a road accident in 2007 left him crippled.

Neel Joshi, Ananya Dabke win Dutch Open

- Mumbai youngsters Neel Joshi and Ananya Dabke bagged the under-15 boys and girls titles, respectively, in the Dutch Open Junior

Squash Championships, in Amsterdam, Netherlands.

- As per information received, top seed Joshi beat 5/8 seed Khalil Alhassan of England 9-11, 11-4, 11-5, 11-6 in the boys final, while Dabke, seeded down the order at 9/12, turned giant-killer with an exciting 11-7, 11-4, 12-10 win over second seed Serena Daniel of the USA in the girls championship round.

Bharat Arun appointed India bowling coach

- The three-member committee formed by the Committee of Administrators (CoA) has decided to retain the services of Sanjay Bangar and fielding coach R Sridhar while appointing Bharat Arun as the bowling coach of the Indian senior men's team.
- In addition to serving as batting coach, Bangar will also serve as Ravi Shastri's deputy.
- In addition to these appointments Patrick Farhart will continue as the physio of the team and Shankar Basu the trainer.

Indians win gold and bronze at first global robotics Olympiad

- A group of seven Indian students has bagged two awards at the first global robotics Olympiad in the US where 157 countries participated.

- The students, who hail from Mumbai, won gold for Zhang Heng Engineering Design Award and bronze for Global Challenge Match at the international robotics challenge organised by FIRST Global in Washington, according to a statement.
- The Indian team was led by 15-year-old Rahesh, the youngest member of the group. Others were Aadiv Shah, team spokesperson; Harsh Bhatt, alliance strategist; Vatsin, alliance analyst; Adhyyan, robot tactician; Tejas, robot controller and Raghav, robot driver.

India claim gold, bronze 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.

India Lost Women' World Cup Title 2017

- England clinched the ICC Women's World Cup in spectacular style by defeating India by nine runs in the final at Lord's on Sunday.
- This was the fourth time England had won the World Cup while for India, this was their second loss in the final.

Chennai Open Renamed to Maharashtra Open, to be Held in Pune

- India's only ATP World Tour event will now be known as Maharashtra Open with owners of the event IMG (Reliance) shifting the tournament to Pune by signing a five-year deal with the MSLTA.
- Tamil Nadu Tennis Association (TNTA) confirmed that IMG (R) have cancelled the contract which was extended till 2019 early this year.
- TNTA CEO Hiten Joshi explained that the sponsorship for the tournament indeed became an issue leading up to the cancellation of the ATP 250 event in Chennai.

HS Prannoy beats Parupalli Kashyap to win US Open title

- World No. 23 HS Prannoy beat fellow Indian Parupalli Kashyap in the final clash at the United States Open Grand Prix Gold in Anaheim to win his third Grand Prix Gold title.

- Prannoy defeated Kashyap 21-15, 22-20, 21-12 to claim the title in a match that lasted 65 minutes.

India End World Para Athletics Championship Campaign with 5 Medals

- India ended their World Para Athletics Championship campaign with five medals, including a gold medal in London.
- India won a silver and a bronze medal in the men's T-42 category high jump event through Sharad Kumar and Varun Singh Bhati respectively.
- Kumar cleared a personal best height of 1.84m to win the silver ahead of Bhati who had a best effort of 1.77m on Saturday.
- India collected five medals with a gold, two silver and two bronze medals to finish outside top-30 in the medal standings.

Boxer Sachin strikes gold at Commonwealth Youth Games

- World youth champion Sachin Siwach was the lone Indian boxer to clinch a gold medal at the Commonwealth Youth Games in Bahamas.
- Siwach, who won a world youth gold last year, defeated Welsh boxer James Nathan Probert 4-1 in the final to claim the gold in the light flyweight (49kg) category.

- Among the girls, Jony was the lone Indian to claim a medal after she settled for a silver in the lightweight (60kg) category.
- Jony lost 2-3 to Australian Ella Jade Boot in the summit clash.

Jordan Spieth Clinched British Open Title

- Jordan Spieth clinched his third major title of the year in the form of British Open by defeating fellow American Matt Kuchar by three strokes in an epic duel at Royal Birkdale on Sunday. It was one hell of a final round and Spieth somehow survived it.
- Spieth finished on 12-under for the tournament by carding a one-under-par final round of 69, however, after three days of consistent golf by the American, it was a remarkable day of highs and lows for the 23-year-old.

Mithali named captain of ICC Women's World Cup team

- India skipper Mithali Raj was chosen as the captain of the ICC Women's World Cup 2017 team by the International Cricket Council.
- Besides Mithali, Harmanpreet Kaur and Deepti Sharma were the other two Indians included in the ICC's team.
- The side includes four players from England -- player of the tournament Tamsin Beaumont,

player of the final Anya Shrubsole, wicketkeeper Sarah Taylor and left-arm spinner Alex Hartley --, three from South Africa that included opener Laura Wolvaardt and bowlers Marizanne Kapp and Dane van Niekerk, and Australia all-rounder Ellyse Perry.

Konsam wins gold in Asian Youth & Junior Weightlifting c'ship

- Indian weightlifter Konsam Ormila Devi has bagged a gold medal at the Asian Youth and Junior Weightlifting Championships in Kathmandu, Nepal.
- The weightlifter from Manipur lifted 56kg in snatch and 70kg in clean & jerk for a total effort of 126kg in the 44kg weight category to finish on the top of the podium, according to a release from the Indian Weightlifting Federation.

Srikanth Kidambi tops the list of highest earners in badminton for 2017

- Srikanth Kidambi has surpassed women's single player Tai Tzu Ying of Taiwan to top the chart of the highest earners in badminton for 2017, earning a total of over Rs. 95 lakhs(\$147,847.50).
- Sayaka Sato of Japan stands third overall followed by Malaysia's Lee Chong Wei in the fourth position.

- Srikanth Kidambi created history by becoming the first Indian to win two successive Superseries titles and by entering three consecutive finals at the Indonesian Open, Singapore Open, and the Australian Open.
- The dream run has not only boosted his confidence and morale for the upcoming World Championship but has also made him the highest earning badminton player of the year so far.

Ajay Singh strikes bronze in Asian Youth Weightlifting



- India's Ajay Singh has clinched the bronze medal in Asian Youth and Junior Weightlifting Championships to take his country's tally to three medals in Kathmandu last evening.
- The weightlifter finished at the third spot in 77 kg men's junior category after lifting 143 kg in snatch and 172 kg in clean and jerk.
- Earlier, S. Nirpupama Devi had bagged a bronze medal in 69 kg women youth category while Konsam Ormila Devi had won gold in 44kg weight category

Prannoy climbs to 17th spot in BWF rankings

- Courtesy his US Open Grand Prix Gold title triumph, Indian shuttler HS Prannoy has jumped six places to be at 17th position in the latest BWF world rankings.

- Parupalli Kashyap, who reached his first final at US Open in more than two years after recovering from multiple injuries, also gained 12 places to be at the 47th spot.
- Sameer Verma, who has qualified as the fourth Indian for the World Championship, jumped four spots to be 28th in the standings.
- With Prannoy improving his position, India have four men in the top-20. Kidambi Srikanth, who clinched back-to-back titles at Indonesia and Australia, is the highest ranked Indian at number 8.
- Ajay Jayaram is ranked 16th, while B Sai Praneeth is 19th spot after losing a place.
- In women's category, PV Sindhu remained 5th while Saina Nehwal dropped a spot to be world number 16. They are the only two Indians in the top-25.

EXAMS **Today**

Shiva, Manoj strike gold at Czech boxing tournament

- Indian boxers packed quite a heavy punch at the 48th Grand Prix Usti Nad Labem, clinching five gold, two silver and one bronze medal at the event in the Czech Republic.
- World Championships bronze-medalist Shiva Thapa (60kg), former Commonwealth Games gold-medalist Manoj Kumar(69kg), Amit Phangal (52kg), Gaurav Bidhuri (56kg) and Satish Kumar (+91kg) claimed gold medals after winning their respective summit clashes

- Kavinder Bisht (52kg) and Manish Panwar (81kg), on the other hand, settled for silver medals.

Sebastian Vettel wins Hungarian Grand Prix

- Lewis Hamilton let his heart rule his head in a remarkable moment of sportsmanship at Sunday's Hungarian Grand Prix that could ultimately cost him the Formula One championship.
- As Sebastian Vettel took the chequered flag at the Hungaroring to claim his fourth victory of the season, his chief title rival was selflessly surrendering the final spot on the podium to his Mercedes team-mate Valtteri Bottas.
- Bottas had earlier been ordered aside by Mercedes so Hamilton could take the challenge to Vettel and his Ferrari team-mate Kimi Raikkonen at a track where overtaking is notoriously difficult

Awards & Honours

Film Baahubali and ISRO honored at TIMES NOW ICICI Bank NRI of the Year Awards 2017

- TIMES NOW and ICICI Bank, India's largest private sector bank by consolidated assets, jointly hosted the fourth edition of 'TIMES NOW

List of Winners 2017

- Global Indian Impact Icon: Baahubali – Tamannaah Bhatia and V Vijayendra Prasad (writer of Baahubali), India
- India's Global Icon: Shri A. S. Kiran Kumar, India
- Special Jury Award: Vilanyur Ramachandran, USA
- Global Indian Award – Science: Dr. Mylswamy Annadurai, India; Dr Koppillil Radhakrishnan, India
- Global Indian Award – Sports: Pankaj Advani, India
- Academics: Suresh Bhargava, Asia Pacific; Shinjini Kundu, USA; Simran Vedvyas, Middle East; Abhinav Singla, Middle East
- Professional: Rhys Concessao, UK; Byrappa Venkatesh, Asia Pacific; YKS Vishwanath, UK; Kuppusamy Uthaman, Middle East; Sitharama Iyengar, USA
- Philanthropy: Ronald Colaco, Middle East
- Start-Up: Neil Parikh, USA
- Art & Culture: Dhanoday Srivastava, UK
- Entrepreneur: Sanjeev Tikam Mahtani, Asia Pacific; Shri Thanedar, USA; Sanjay Pitalia, UK; Birbal Dana, Middle East

Vijaya Bank MD gets Skoch Award

- Kishore Sansi, Managing Director and CEO of Vijaya Bank, has been conferred the 'Personality

of the Year' award by Skoch Consultancy Services.

- The award is part of the 'Skoch Banking and Financial Leadership' series. Past recipients of the award include C Rangarajan, Dilip Parekh and Nandan Nilekani.

FbStart Apps of the Year: Maya wins Asia Pacific App of the Year award

- Maya, a Bengaluru-based mobile app that helps women track their menstrual cycles, won the Asia Pacific App of the Year at FbStart Apps of the Year awards announced by Facebook COO Sheryl Sandberg on Tuesday.
- FbStart was launched in 2014 to help mobile startups grow. Each year startups get support from Facebook employees and discounts on services from companies like Amazon.com, Dropbox, and UserTesting that help them run their businesses.
- Women all around the world use Maya The App, this year's Asia-Pacific App of the Year. It's helped seven million women stay on top of their health by tracking their menstrual cycles, setting health reminders, monitoring pregnancies and getting in touch with doctors – all from their phones. Maya was founded in India in 2014. It's now available in 14 languages and has been downloaded across 190 countries

Danfoss India conferred with Golden Peacock Environment Management Award

- Climate and energy efficiency solutions company Danfoss India has been conferred with the 'Golden Peacock Award' for Environment Management.
- The award was presented here during the 19th World Congress on Environment Management' in the presence of Supreme Court Justice Kurien Joseph.
- Acknowledging its commitment towards the environment, the company has been recognised for its LEED Platinum rated constructed manufacturing facility in Chennai.
- Danfoss's commitment towards sustainable development via its energy-efficient products, green initiatives at the Oragadam campus and its ongoing pan India CSR Programmes driving Sustainability are some the key contributing factors for the award.
- Danfoss has been committed to developing energy efficient solutions to compliment the growing need for sustainable technology in the fields of infrastructure, food supply and climate friendly solutions.

Saint Teresa's blue-bordered sari an Intellectual Property now

- The famous blue-bordered sari of Mother Teresa, who has been canonised as Saint Teresa of

Calcutta by the Vatican, has been recognised as an Intellectual Property of the Missionaries of Charity.

- the diminutive nun of Albanian descent went around the streets of Kolkata since 1948 to be with the poor and the destitutes wearing a white sari with three blue borders, the outer border being wider than the two inner ones.

A R Rahman shortlisted for World Soundtrack Awards

- Double Academy Award-winning composer AR Rahman is delighted to have been shortlisted for the World Soundtrack Awards Public Choice Award for Viceroy's House.
- Set in 1947, Viceroy's House, directed by Gurinder Chadha, revolves around the story of Partition, and features Huma Qureshi, the late Om Puri, Hugh Bonneville, Gillian Anderson and Michael Gambon.

PV Sindhu Wins Sportsperson of the Year 2017

- India's renowned sports media brand, Sports Illustrated (SI) India Magazine concluded the sixth edition of 'Maruti Suzuki Sportsperson of the Year' Charity Gala Awards
- sportsperson of the Year is the most coveted Sports Awards franchise globally, acknowledging the performances and sporting excellence of athletes and teams for their outstanding achievements.

- Special award for service to sports: Jayant Rastogi, CEO - Magic Bus (presented by Ms Parineeta Sethi and Simon Clays)
- Team of the year: Jr. Hockey Team- Captain Harjeet Singh
- Coach of the year: Pullela Gopichand
- Editor's Award for excellence: Devendra Jhajharia
- Editor's Award for excellence: Mariyappan Thangavelu
- Editor's Award for excellence: Varun Bhati
- Outstanding Contribution to sports: K Arumugam
- Athlete of the year: Gaurav Gill
- Gamechanger of the year: K.L Rahul
- Extreme Performer of the year: Shiva Keshavan
- Lifetime Achievement Award: Abhinav Bindra
- Community Development through sports: Milind Soman
- Inspirational athlete of the year: Deepa Malik
- Living Legend: Milkha Singh
- Sportsperson Of The Year: PV Sindhu

Tata Steel bags PM's trophy for best integrated steel plant

- Tata Steel has won the Prime Minister's trophy for being the best performing integrated steel plant in the country during 2014-15 and 2015-16.
- "Tata Steel Ltd has been declared as the winner of Prime Minister's trophy for 'Best Performing Integrated Steel Plant' in the country for the performance years 2014-2015 and 2015- 16.

This makes it the third consecutive-year for the firm to be honoured with this coveted award

- Tata Steel Group is among the top 10 global steel companies with an annual crude steel capacity of 27.5 million tonnes per annum (MTPA) as on March 31, 2017.
- It is the world's second-most geographically diversified steel producer, with operations in 26 countries and a commercial presence in over 50 countries.

Indian-origin man awarded Australia's highest civilian award



- Guruswamy Jayraman, a 69-year-old Glenwood resident who migrated from Delhi to Australia in 1991, has been awarded Order of Australia for community work, the highest civilian award in Australia.
- He works as a senior accountant with Woollahra Municipal Council for a living and has been devoting most of his spare time in community work for the last 25 years.
- Jayraman has received a number of awards, such as Outstanding Services to Older Citizens Award from the Auburn Council (2011), Service to the Indian Community and Seniors by the India Independence & Australia Day Celebration Committee (2010) and Community Services award from GOPIO Sydney (2012).
- He was also awarded for his contributions for seniors in Western Sydney by the Minister for Ageing & Disability.

Pune NGO wins UN prize for sustainable farming model

- Swayam Shikshan Prayog, a city-based NGO, has been awarded the United Nations Development Programme's Equator Prize for devising an ecologically sustainable agriculture model to combat the adverse impacts of drought.
- It is the only Indian organisation to win the award, making the cut from more than 800 nominations across 120 countries.
- Fifteen projects from organisations across Africa, Asia and Latin America won the award in recognition of innovative solutions to tackle poverty, and environment and climate challenges. Initiatives from Pakistan and Kazakhstan won recognition for the first time.
- The prize-winning initiative is a women-led 'climate resilient agro-ecological farming model' for restoring land and soil.
- Prema Gopalan, executive director, SSP, said the project has helped empower more than 20,000 marginal women farmers and their families in Marathwada by helping them make informed decisions about agriculture and the environment.

Telangana IPS Officer Mahesh Muralidhar Bhagwat Gets Award From US State Department

- An IPS officer from Telangana has won an award from the US Department of State for his fight

against human trafficking in India. Mahesh Muralidhar Bhagwat, currently Rachakonda Police Commissioner, has been conferred with the 2017 Trafficking in Persons (TIP) Report Heroes Award by the US state department.

- Mr Bhagwat is the third IPS officer to get the honour.
- Mr Bhagwat was recognised for his vital role in elevating human trafficking as a government priority, and his innovative approach to investigating cases and dismantling trafficking operations.

2 Indian-Americans To Be Honoured With Great Immigrants Award

- Indian-Americans, Adobe chief Shantanu Narayen and former US Surgeon General Vivek Murthy, are among 38 immigrants to be honoured this year for their role in helping advance the country's society
- Shantanu Narayen and Vivek Murthy will be honoured with the prestigious 'Great Immigrants' annual award on US's Independence Day on July 4.
- 39-year-old Vivek Murthy was born in the UK and is a Harvard and Yale alumnus, he was appointed by former President Barack Obama in 2014, becoming the first-ever Indian-American to occupy the post and also the youngest ever surgeon general of the country.
- The Carnegie Corporation of New York was established in 1911 by Scottish immigrant

Andrew Carnegie to promote the advancement and diffusion of knowledge and understanding.

Writer Preeti Shenoy bags Indian of the Year award

- Writer Preeti Shenoy was honoured with the Indian of the Year award
- Shenoy, who is one of India's top five highest selling women authors, was awarded on Friday by Brands Academy, one of the most reputed branding companies in India to recognise the achievements of personalities who have contributed towards building up the reputation of the country.
- The award ceremony also focused on celebrating the achievements of leaders from all walks of life.
- Other prominent winners along with Shenoy included Deepa Malik (Paralympics Gold Winner), Kavita Krishnamurthy (Singer) and Ranveer Brar (Celebrity Chef and TV Host).

Health Ministry's mobile app eVIN wins GSMA Asia Mobile Award

- Indigenously developed mobile application for digitising vaccine logistics, eVIN, has won the prestigious GSMA Asia Mobile Award 2017 (AMO) for outstanding contribution to the UN's sustainable development goals in Asia.
- The Electronic Vaccine Intelligence Network (eVIN) is an online real-time vaccine logistics

management system developed and implemented by the Ministry of Health and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

- eVIN is presently being implemented across 12 states in the country and aims to support the government'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.

SIERRA ODC building in Coimbatore gets world's second highest green rating

- SIERRA ODC building looks like any other IT office building from the outside. No posh or massive structure, but if you enter the office complex of this Coimbatore-based IT solutions company, you will realise what the so-called "Green Building" means and is much talked about.
- The building incidentally has been recognised as the world's second highest ranking Green Building, with a score of 103 out of 110 under LEED certification.
- "The three-storeyed building has been designed and constructed with an emphasis on increasing the efficiency of resource use — be it energy, water or materials, while reducing its impact on human health and the environment through its entire lifecycle,

- To promote the benefits of green building, SIERRA ODC is in the process of establishing an on-site green learning centre where students, social enthusiasts, industry experts and the general public can learn the benefits and also consider applying certain strategies at home and work.

Lipstick Under My Burkha Will Be The Opening Film At The Indian Film Festival of Melbourne

- The Indian Film Festival of Melbourne 2017 has selected Lipstick Under My Burkha as its opening film for 2017.
- Though this film has won critical acclaim at various festivals across the globe, back home it has turned out to be the most controversial films of the year even before its theatrical release.
- The story is set in Bhopal, where four women who rebel and escape their tiresome lives. Ratna Pathak Shah plays a 55-year-old widow who rediscovers her sexuality through a romantic relationship over the phone.
- Konkona Sen Sharma is a mother of three kids and an oppressed housewife who tries to fulfill her desires, alongside performing her daily duties as a mother and a wife.
- Aahana Kumra plays a young beautician who is planning to elope with her lover and Plabita is a college girl and an aspiring pop singer who struggles with her cultural identity.

Indian-origin boy beats IQ score of Einstein, Hawking with zero preparation

- The India-origin teenager from UK has successfully secured the top possible score of 162 on a Mensa IQ test, two points higher than Albert Einstein and Stephen Hawking.
- Arnav, hailing from Reading town in southern England, passed the Mensa IQ test without any preparation and had never seen the pattern of the paper before appearing for it.
- Termed as one of the brainiest child in the country, Arnav's score puts him in top 1 per cent of the nation.
- Mensa is believed to be the largest and oldest high IQ society in the world. Membership is open to anyone who can demonstrate an IQ in the top 2 per cent of the population, measured by a recognised or approved IQ testing process.

IIFA Awards 2017: Complete List

The 18th edition of the International Indian Film Academy Awards was held in New York

Sonam Kapoor's film *Neerja* won the best film award. Actor Shahid Kapoor earned the Best Actor award for his role in *Udta Punjab*, while Alia Bhatt won the Best Actor (Female) award for the same film.

Here's the complete list of the IIFA 2017 winners:

- Best Film: *Neerja*
- Best Director: Anirudh Roy Chaudhary for *Pink*
- Best Actor (Male): Shahid Kapoor for *Udta Punjab*
- Best Actor (Female): Alia Bhatt for *Udta Punjab*

- Best Actor in Supporting Role (Female): Shabana Azmi for Neerja
- Best Actor in Supporting Role (Male): Anupam Kher for MS Dhoni: The Untold Story
- Best Debutant (Female): Disha Patani for M.S. Dhoni: The Untold Story
- Best Lyricist: Amitabh Bhattacharya for the song Channa Mere Ya
- Best Playback Singer (Male): Amit Mishra for Ae Dil Hai Mushkil
- Best Playback Singer (Female): Kanika Kapoor for Uda Punjab, Tulsi Kumar for Airlift
- Best Music Direction: Pritam for Ae Dil Hai Mushkil
- Best Actor In Comic Role: Varun Dhawan for Dishoom
- Myntra Style Icon Award: Alia Bhatt
- IIFA Woman Of The Year: Tapsee Pannu

Singapore Airlines rated best airline in the world

- Singapore Airlines has been rated the world's best airline in a survey by the Travel and Leisure magazine.
- It has been followed by Emirates and Qatar Airways at second and third place respectively, while Cathay Pacific Airways and Japan Airlines have completed the top five.
- Virgin Atlantic, Air New Zealand, and Korean Air have also made it to the list.

6 Indian hotels in World's Best Hotels list

- Six Indian hotels have made it to the World's 100 Best Hotels survey by the Travel + Leisure

magazine, with The Oberoi Vanyavilas in Ranthambhore ranking 16th.

- The Leela Palace in Udaipur was ranked 34th, while Taj Rambagh Palace in Jaipur was ranked 43rd. The list includes The Oberoi Rajvilas, Jaipur, The Oberoi Amarvilas, Agra, and The Oberoi Udaivilas, Udaipur.

Raipur Airport Ranked First in Customer Satisfaction Index Survey

- Raipur's Swami Vivekananda Airport was once again ranked first in Customer Satisfaction among 49 airports in the country.
- Raipur Airport achieved 4.84 score on a five point scale index in the latest CSI survey conducted by an independent agency for the period of January-June 2017, followed by Udaipur, Amritsar and Dehradun airports which have scored 4.75, 4.74 and 4.73 respectively.
- Airport Authority of India makes continuous efforts to improve the services and passenger facilities at its airports, and this has placed it amongst the best service providers in the world.
- Customer Satisfaction is one of the key performance objectives of AAI which is evaluated through Customer Satisfaction Survey conducted by an independent agency commissioned by AAI.
- The survey covers a wide range of parameters like transportation, parking, passenger facilities and cleanliness etc. T

- he integrated terminal building of Raipur was inaugurated in 2012. High level maintenance of infrastructure and passenger facilities, the green ambience, state-of -the- art technology and courteous staff ensuring passenger satisfaction has resulted in Raipur getting this recognition for the third consecutive time in the past two years.

J&K bags best award in adventure tourism destination

- The J&K Tourism Department has received the award in the category of 'Best Adventure Tourism Destination and Eco-Tourism Destination' at a 3-Day event organized by Indian International Travel Mart, Chennai Deputy Director Tourism (Publicity) Peerzada Zahoor who was representing the J&K State received the award.
- During the Travel Mart, J&K stall which was beautifully decorated attracted huge visitors mostly locals and travel agents.

Indian Oil bags WPC Excellence Award

- Leading oil marketing company Indian Oil has bagged the WPC Excellence Award for its innovative and ground-breaking INDMAX technology at 22nd edition of the World Petroleum Congress in Istanbul.
- Sanjiv Singh, Chairman, IndianOil and SSV Ramakumar, Director (R&D) received the award from Abdullah bin Hamad Al Attiyah, former

Deputy Prime Minister & Minister of Energy and Industry, Qatar.

- LPG as a clean and convenient cooking fuel, he added. Developed by Indian Oil's R&D Centre, the INDMAX technology is highly suitable for heavy crude oil feeds contaminated with metals.
- In addition to the WPC Excellence award for INDMAX technology, Indian Oil also won the top honours for the unsurpassed scale of implementation of Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY) it had spearheaded for distribution of deposit-free LPG connections to below-poverty-line families.

Divyanka Tripathi & Terence Lewis Emerged As Most Admired Leaders

- Yeh Hai Mohabbatein fame, Divyanka Tripathi has added another feather in her cap.
- Divyanka has been honoured with the Most Admired Leader in the field of entertainment by Herald Global and has also been listed in the 50 Most Inspirational Women list.
- Terrence has also received the honour of being listed in 50 admired leaders of the country for his work in dance education.

Advani gets Lifetime Achievement Award for contributions in Lok Sabha

- Veteran BJP leader L.K. Advani received the Lifetime Achievement Award for his contributions as a parliamentarian in the Lok Sabha.
- JD-U leader Sharad Yadav also received the Lifetime Achievement Award as a Rajya Sabha representative from Vice President Hamid Ansari at a function organised by the Lokmat Media Group to honour distinguished Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha members.
- The other awardees from the Lok Sabha included Revolutionary Socialist Party MP N.K. Premachandran (Best Parliamentarian), Congress leader Kumari Sushmita Dev (Best Woman Parliamentarian) and BJP leader Meenakshi Lekhi (Best Debut Woman Parliamentarian).
- The awardees from the Rajya Sabha included CPI-M leader Sitaram Yechury (Best Parliamentarian), Samajwadi Party MP Jaya Bachchan (Best Woman Parliamentarian) and Congress MP Rajni Patil (Best Debut Woman Parliamentarian).

7 Indian companies on Fortune's list

- Seven Indian companies have made it to the latest Fortune 500 list of the world's biggest corporations in terms of revenue, with the retail giant Walmart topping the global rankings.
- Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) is ranked highest at 161st among Indian firms, while another state-run firm Oil and Natural Gas Corporation

(ONGC) has moved out of the rankings for 2016. Private gems and jewellery major Rajesh Exports has made its debut at 423rd position.

- Among the seven Indian companies, four are from the public sector while Reliance Industries (RIL) is the top-ranked among private sector firms, followed by Tata Motors and Rajesh Exports.
- Among state-run majors, IOC is followed by banking behemoth State Bank of India, Bharat Petroleum and Hindustan Petroleum.
- The seven companies and their rankings are IOC: 161st, RIL: 215th, Tata Motors: 226th, SBI: 232nd, Bharat Petroleum: 358th, Hindustan Petroleum: 367th, Oil and Natural Gas, Corporation: 426th.
- The overall list was topped by Walmart with revenue of \$482,130 million, followed by State Grid (revenue of \$329,601 million) and China National Petroleum (\$299,271 million) at the second and third place respectively.

Aishwarya Rai Bachchan to be honoured at Indian Film Festival Of Melbourne

- The gorgeous Aishwarya Rai Bachchan, who is globally known for her beauty and talent, will be seen hoisting the Indian national flag at Melbourne's iconic pulse point, Federation Square as part of the festival 'India at 70!'.
 - Aish will be the first Indian woman to do so.
 - Also, on August 11, the government will felicitate Aishwarya for her contribution to global cinema.

She has worked not only in Bollywood but also in Hollywood movies.

Veteran actress Shakuntala Barua gets Mahanayak Samman 2017

- West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee conferred this years Mahanayak Samman 2017 to veteran actress Shakuntala Barua for her contribution to the world of cinema.
- Suparnokanti Karati for Bisarjan film and Shiboprasad Mukhopadhyay of Windows Productions for Praktan film were also among the awardees for Best Film and Best Producer categories,



Former Minister Ashwani Kumar named for Japanese honour

- Japan has named former Union Minister Ashwani Kumar for its prestigious 'Order of the Rising Sun' award for his contribution to fostering Japan-India ties,
- Kumar has been selected for the Grand Cordon of the Order of the Rising Sun, which is the highest category of decoration, in recognition of distinguished accomplishments of individuals. Ratan Tata was also conferred the decoration in the past

Big Zee Entertainment Awards 2017: List Of Winners

- The sixth edition of Big Zee Entertainment Awards 2017 was held in Mumbai
- Alia Bhatt and Shahid Kapoor won the Best Actor, Actress Award for their brilliant performance in Uda Punjab.
- Amitabh Bachchan bagged the award for Most Entertaining Actor in Drama - Male for his performance in Pink. Abhishek Bachchan won the award for Most Entertaining Actor in Comedy - Male for Housefull 3 while Aishwarya bagged the award for Most Entertaining Actor in Drama - Female for her role in Sarbjit.
- Tiger Shroff won two awards - Best Action Hero for Baaghi and Most Entertaining Dancer (Beat Pe Booty) for A Flying Jatt.
- Anupam Kher won an award for a category called 'Hit The, Hit Rahenge.'
- Swara Bhaskar won the award for Best Actress in a Comedy Film for Nil Battey Sannata.

Appointments

K K Venugopal is Appointed Attorney General of India

- Senior lawyer and constitutional expert KK Venugopal has been appointed as the next Attorney General of India.

- President Pranab Mukherjee has approved his appointment. The government will notify his appointment in a day or two. News18 was the first to report on June 27 that Venugopal was the frontrunner for the post.
- The 86-year-old succeeds Mukul Rohatgi, who stepped down after the first term.
- Venugopal, who started his practice in the apex court in early 1960s, had said that he has been informed by the PMO that a decision was likely after the PM's return from the US.

Shamma Jain appointed Indian envoy to Greece

- Senior diplomat Shamma Jain was appointed as India's ambassador to Greece.
- A 1983-batch Indian Foreign Service officer, Jain is currently serving as Indian envoy to Panama.
- She has also served in Indian missions in Italy, the Philippines, Washington DC, Turkey and Argentina.

Achal Kumar Jyoti is India's new Chief Election Commissioner

- The Narendra Modi govt appointed Election Commissioner Achal Kumar Jyoti as Chief Election Commissioner on Friday. Achal Kumar Jyoti will take charge of the office on July 6.
- 64-year-old Jyoti, former Chief Secretary of Gujarat, was appointed as the Election

Commissioner in the three-member body on May 7, 2015.

- Jyoti is a retired 1975-batch IAS Officer belonging to the Gujarat Cadre.
- He was retired in January 2013. Jyoti was the Chief Secretary of Gujarat during the tenure of Narendra Modi as Chief Minister.
- Jyoti will have a tenure of one year, when he will turn 65.
- An EC or a CEC has a tenure of six years in office or till he or she attains the age of 65 years

Senior IPS Officer RK Pachnanda Takes Over As ITBP DG

- Senior IPS officer R K Pachnanda took charge as the chief of the Indo-China border guarding force ITBP
- Mr Pachnanda, a 1983-batch police officer of the West Bengal cadre, was handed over the baton of the about 90,000-personnel strong, mountain warfare-trained force by outgoing Director General Krishna Chaudhary.
- Mr Pachnanda comes to the Indo Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) with the rare distinction of serving in all the major central paramilitary forces and organisations including the CRPF, the CISF, the BSF, the Special Protection Group (SPG), the CBI and the NDRF.

Vijay Keshav Gokhale appointed economic relations secy in MEA

- Senior diplomat Vijay Keshav Gokhale was tonight appointed as the economic relations secretary in the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA).
- Gokhale, a 1981-batch officer of Indian Foreign Service (IFS), is at present India's envoy to China.
- He was the High Commissioner of India to Malaysia from January 2010 to October 2013.
- From October 2013 to January 2016, Gokhale was the Ambassador of India to Germany.

Chandra appointed chairman of Tata Global

- Tata Global Beverages has appointed Tata Sons chairman N Chandrasekaran as chairman of its Board with immediate effect. Chandrasekaran also chairs the Boards of several group operating companies, including Tata Steel, Tata Motors, Tata Power, Indian Hotels and Tata Consultancy Services, of which he was CEO from 2009-17.
- In addition to his professional career at Tata, he was also appointed as a director on the Board of the Reserve Bank of India in 2016.
- Chandrasekaran has replaced Harish Bhat who has stepped down as chairman of the Board but will continue as a non-executive director of the company.
- In addition, Siraj Chaudhry has been appointed as the independent director on the Board of TGB. He is chairman of Cargill India.

Signature Global appoints Vidya Balan as brand ambassador

- Realty firm Signature Global, which is into development of affordable homes, has roped in Bollywood actress Vidya Balan as brand ambassador.
- Signature Global has launched 9 affordable housing projects, comprising about 9,300 units in a price range of Rs 15-25 lakh, in Gurgaon in the last three years of operations. All projects are under the Haryana Affordable Housing scheme.
- In May, Signature Global received Rs 200 crore funding from private equity player KKR, while it raised Rs 150 crore from ICICI Prudential last year.
- Vidya Balan has been associated with awareness programme related to sanitation and hygiene. She was brand ambassador for Nirmal Bharat Abhiyaan under the rural development ministry.
- Signature Global plans to expand business beyond Gurgaon and targets to launch 20,000 more affordable housing units by 2019.

Lieutenant General Mahesh Senanayake appointed as new Army Commander

- The President of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka and Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces His Excellency Maithripala Sirisena has appointed Major General Mahesh

Senanayake RWP RSP USP psc as the 22nd Commander of the Army after promoting him to the rank of Lieutenant General with effect from Tuesday (4th July 2017).

- Lieutenant General Senanayake enlisted to the army on 16th October 1981 as an Officer Cadet in 16th intake and commenced his training at Sri Lanka Military Academy (SLMA), Diyatalawa.
- He has held many key appointments during his carrier including his previous appointment as the Chief of Staff of the Army.

Himachal Pradesh DGP Sanjay Kumar appointed new NDRF chief

- Himachal Pradesh director general of police (DGP) Sanjay Kumar has been appointed as the new chief of the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF).
- The Union home ministry on Monday issued an order appointing Kumar, a 1985-batch Indian Police Service (IPS) officer, to the top NDRF post.
- The post of NDRF director general (DG) fell vacant after incumbent R K Pachnanda was appointed as the chief of the Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP), the Sino-Indian border guarding force.
- Kumar, who is the director general of police in Himachal Pradesh, is set to retire in December next year.

MFIN appoints Rakesh Dubey as new President

- Microfinance Institutions Network (MFIN), the premier industry association and Self-Regulatory Organization (SRO) for the microfinance industry in India has announced Rakesh Dubey, CEO of SV Creditline Pvt Ltd. as its new President of the Board.
- He was earlier the Vice President and has replaced R Baskar Babu as the President now. Mr Anand Rao, MD of Chaitanya India Fin Credit was also elected as the new Vice President.
- The newly appointed President Rakesh Dubey has 20 years of experience in the Microfinance domain and has an expertise in setting up MFIs - domestic as well as internationally.
- Prior to joining the SVCL team, Dubey had also been involved in the inception of SONATA Finance Pvt. Limited and Cashpor Micro Credit. Anand Rao is MD and one of the founders of Chaitanya.
- His earlier work experience has been in International Development at World Resources Institute, Washington DC and in the Indian Corporate Sector at PepsiCo India and Bosch India.

Pradeep Kumar Rawat appointed as Ambassador to Indonesia

- Mr. Pradeep Kumar Rawat, presently Joint Secretary in the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) here, has been appointed as the next Ambassador of India to Indonesia.

- Mr. Rawat, an Indian Foreign Service (IFS) officer of the 1990 batch, is expected to take up his assignment shortly.

Indian Ambassador to Peru appointed New York Consul General

- India's Ambassador to Peru Sandeep Chakravorty has been appointed as the head of the Indian consulate in New York.
- The 1996 Indian Foreign Service (IFS) officer will replace Riva Ganguly Das as Consul General in one of the busiest Indian diplomatic missions overseas.
- Chakravorty (47) was India's Deputy High Commissioner in Dhaka, before being appointed as Ambassador to Peru and Bolivia.
- He also served in India's missions in Madrid and Bogota. In the Ministry of External Affairs of India, he served on several desks including working as Press Relations Officer and to the minister of state for external affairs.

Kewal Handa appointed non-executive chairman of Union Bank

- Kewal Handa was today appointed as non-executive chairman of Union Bank of India.
- The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet has approved Handa's appointment as non-official director/non-executive chairman of the bank, an order issued by the Department of Personnel

and Training (DoPT) said, without citing any details about him.

- Handa will hold the post for a period of three years.

Sanjiv Goenka picked again as IIT-Kharagpur chairman

- RP Sanjiv Goenka Group Chairman, Sanjiv Goenka, has been selected as the Chairman of the Board of Governors at IIT-Kharagpur. He will be Chairman for three years.
- Goenka's name was nominated by the President, Pranab Mukherjee, in his capacity as Visitor of the Institute.
- This will be his second stint as the Chairman of Board of Governors. His previous stint, being between 2002 and 2007.
- The RP SG group chairman has also been a member of the Prime Minister's Council on Trade & Industry; and has been associated with several academic institutions as member and chair of its Governing bodies.

Pradeep Kumar Rawat appointed as the next Ambassador of India to Indonesia

- Pradeep Kumar Rawat has presently a Joint Secretary in the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) appointed as the next Ambassador of India to Indonesia.
- Rawat, an Indian Foreign Service (IFS) officer of the 1990 batch, is expected to take up his assignment.

John Joseph to take charge as chief of GST intelligence agency

- A key intelligence agency tasked with checking evasion of Goods and Services Tax (GST) has got its new chief.
- Senior bureaucrat John Joseph has been appointed Director General of Goods and Services Tax Intelligence (DG GSTI),
- He is at present posted in Mumbai and expected to take the new charge soon.
- Joseph, a 1983 batch officer of Indian Revenue Service (Customs and Central Excise), has worked in the Finance Ministry's important departments, including the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI).
- The DG GSTI is the new name given to the Directorate General of Central Excise Intelligence (DGCEI), mandated to check service tax and central excise duty evasion.

Raninder Singh re-elected NRAI president

- Raninder Singh was re-elected as president of the National Rifle Association of India (NRAI) for another four-year term.
- In the elections conducted on the PCA stadium premises here, Singh defeated Shyam Singh Yadav, president of Uttar Pradesh Rifle Association, with an overwhelming 89-1 margin.
- Raninder is the son of Punjab Chief Minister Capt Amarinder Singh.

WHO appoints Saima Wazed as Goodwill Ambassador

- Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's daughter Saima Wazed Hossain has been appointed as the Goodwill Ambassador for World Health Organisation (WHO) for Autism in South-East Asia region for a two-year period
- As WHO Goodwill Ambassador, Saima will be promoting the Thimphu Declaration which also emphasises integrating the needs of autism-affected people into national health and socioeconomic development plans
- The declaration calls for a whole-of-society and whole-of-government approach, with a focus on strengthening national capacities in health, education and social care sectors to provide effective services and support to people with autism and other neurodevelopmental disorders.
- Earlier, in recognition of Saima Wazed's work for advancing autism in Bangladesh, WHO South-East Asia Regional Office honoured her with the Excellence in Public Health Award in September 2014.

Ravi Shastri appointed as Team India's head coach; Zaheer Khan named bowling coach

- BCCI confirmed the Ravi Shastri as the new coach of the Indian cricket team, while also naming Zaheer Khan as the bowling coach. Shastri, in the process, won five-way battle to grab the post until 2019 Cricket World Cup.

- The decision was taken by the three-member Cricket Advisory Committee (CAC) comprising Sourav Ganguly, Sachin Tendulkar and VVS Laxman, who interviewed several candidates for the high-profile job in Mumbai.
- Shastri replaced Anil Kumble, who exited after a much publicised difference of opinion with captain Virat Kohli.

Rajeev Dubey elected to Governing Board of ILO

- Rajeev Dubey, Member Executive Board, FICCI and Group President (HR & Corporate Services), Mahindra & Mahindra Ltd, got elected to the International Labour Organisation (ILO) Governing Board on June 12 at Geneva.
- The ILO Governing Body is an apex level policy making and oversight body with 56 members comprising 14 members from the Employers, 14 from the Trade Unions and 28 from the Government.
- ILO is a part of UN family having 184 member countries with head office at Geneva. Rajeev has been elected against the seat for South Asia.
- Mr Dubey joined Mahindra & Mahindra Ltd in January 2004 after a career spanning 29 years in the Tata Group, which he joined in 1975 as a member of the TAS, the central managerial cadre of the Tata Group.

Debi Prasad Dash takes over as DRI chief

- Debi Prasad Dash, a 1985-batch Indian Revenue Service (customs) officer, has taken over as director-general of the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence, the premier agency that tackles smuggling and black money.
- Mr. Dash was the acting DRI chief for the past five months. He has earlier worked in the UN Security Council, Commonwealth Secretariat and the CBI.

Twitter names former Goldman Sachs banker Ned Segal as CFO

- Ned Segal, a longtime Goldman Sachs banker and the former Senior Vice President of Finance at Silicon Valley's financial software company Intuit, has been appointed as the new Chief Financial Officer at Twitter.
- Segal will take over the CFO role from Anthony Noto, who was promoted to COO post last November.
- Segal will report directly to Twitter CEO Jack Dorsey.

Vistara names Leslie Thng as CEO

- Full service carrier Vistara today named Singapore Airlines veteran Leslie Thng as its new chief executive officer who will take charge in October.

- Leslie Thng would replace Phee Teik Yeoh, who has been steering Vistara since its establishment more than two years ago.
- Vistara -- a joint venture between Tata Sons and Singapore Airlines -- began operations in January 2015.
- The board of Vistara and the airline's two promoters -- Tata Sons and Singapore Airlines -- as part of the plan, named Leslie Thng to succeed Phee Teik Yeoh as chief executive officer effective October 2017, a release said.
- The appointment is subject to government approval.

Justice Vikramajit Sen appointed new BCCC chairperson

- The Board of Directors of Indian Broadcasting Foundation (IBF) appointed former Supreme Court judge, Justice Vikramajit Sen, as the new chairperson of Broadcasting Content Complaints Council (BCCC), the independent self-regulatory body set up by the Foundation in June 2011 to examine content-related complaints relating to all non-news general entertainment channels in India.
- Justice Sen succeeds former Punjab and Haryana high court Chief Justice, Justice Mukul Mudgal, whose three-year term as BCCC Chairperson came to an end.

Tata Sons appoints Aarthi Subramanian as Chief Digital Officer

- Tata Sons, the holding company of salt-to-software Tata Group, today said it has appointed Aarthi Subramanian as the group's Chief Digital Officer.
- Subramanian, who is currently the Executive Director at Tata Consultancy Services will report to Chairman of Tata Sons N Chandrasekaran and will take up her new role in August this year.

Subhash Garg takes charge as economic affairs secretary

- Senior bureaucrat Subhash Chandra Garg today assumed charge as secretary of the Department of Economic Affairs (DEA) in the finance ministry.
- A 1983 batch IAS officer, from the Rajasthan cadre, Garg was World Bank executive director for Bangladesh, Bhutan, India and Sri Lanka prior to this appointment.
- He succeeds Shaktikanta Das, who retired after an extended tenure on May 31. Corporate Affairs Secretary Tapan Ray was given additional charge of DEA secretary after Das' exit.
- Garg has widespread administrative experience with more than 30 years of service during which he handled key assignments, including administrative postings in his home state Rajasthan

Sandeep Patil named brand ambassador of indoor cricket team

- Former Indian batsman Sandeep Patil was today named as the brand ambassador of the Indian Indoor Cricket Team.
- Patil, a member of the 1983 World Cup-winning squad, will be the face of the team in the lead-up to the 10th edition of the World Indoor Cricket Federation (WICF) World Cup, to be held from September 16-23 at the Insportz Club in Dubai,

Mukesh Kumar Jain appointed MD & CEO of Oriental Bank

- Mukesh Kumar Jain was appointed as the managing director and chief executive officer of Oriental Bank of Commerce.
- He is at present the executive director in Punjab and Sind Bank.
- The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet has approved Jain's appointment to the post for a period of three years

4 new members appointed in CBEC

- Senior bureaucrat John Joseph and three other officials have been appointed as members in the Central Board of Excise and Customs (CBEC).
- The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet has approved appointment of Sushant Kumar

Panda, Ameeta Suri, Pranab Kumar Das and Joseph as the new members

- All of them are officers of Indian Revenue Service (Customs and Central Excise). They are working in different departments of the CBEC, the apex policy-making body for indirect taxes. Joseph was recently appointed as chief of Directorate General of Goods and Services Tax Intelligence.
- The CBEC is headed by a chairperson and can have a maximum of six members.
- The board and its officials are key stakeholders in the implementation of the Goods and Services Tax

IIT Madras Distinguished Alumnus, Professor Subra Suresh, named President of NTU Singapore

- Professor Subra Suresh, a distinguished alumnus of Indian Institute of Technology Madras and a native of Chennai, has been chosen as the fourth President of Nanyang Technological University (NTU), Singapore.
- Prof. Suresh will begin his presidency on 1 January 2018, when the current President Prof. Andersson retires.
- NTU Singapore is one of the world's leading universities. In its QS World University Rankings this year, the Quacquarelli Symonds group placed NTU 11th in the world and the best in Asia.
- NTU has also been placed the world's top young university for the last four consecutive years.

Superwoman Lilly Singh Appointed Unicef Goodwill Ambassador

- Indian-origin Canadian YouTube sensation, comedian and author, Lilly Singh was appointed Unicef's Goodwill Ambassador at a special event here.
- On the digital platform, the 28-year-old is known as Superwoman. Lilly travelled with Unicef to Madhya Pradesh, where she met children and adolescents growing up in challenging circumstances such as extreme poverty, but have been able to bring positive changes to their lives.
- In her role as a Goodwill Ambassador, Lilly will use her unique digital presence to engage children and youth and empower them to speak out about the challenges they face



UK's first woman Sikh MP Preet Kaur Gill elected to key Parliament panel

- Britain's first woman Sikh MP Preet Kaur Gill has been elected to an influential cross-party panel in the UK Parliament that examines the workings of the Home Office.
- Gill, who won the Edgbaston seat for the Labour party in the June 8 snap general election, was elected to the Home Affairs Select Committee in the UK Parliament.
- The House of Commons Home Affairs Select Committee was chaired by Keith Vaz, Britain's longest-serving Indian-origin MP, until he

stepped down from the post last year. Its newly-elected chair is Labour party MP Yvette Cooper, elected unopposed to the post last week.

- The Committee chooses its own subjects of inquiry and seeks written and oral evidence from a wide range of relevant groups and individuals. At the end of an inquiry, the committee often produces a report setting out its findings and making recommendations to the UK government.

Smriti Irani gets I&B, Narendra Tomar Urban Ministry

- With Union Minister Venkaiah Naidu resigning from Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Cabinet, Smriti Irani was given additional charge of the Information & Broadcast Ministry and Narendra Tomar was made the Minister for Urban Development.
- Tomar is currently the Union Minister for Rural Development and Panchayati Raj and Irani is the incumbent Minister for Textiles. In a Cabinet reshuffle in 2016, both the Union Ministers lost their portfolios. Irani was replaced by Prakash Javedekar as the HRD Minister and Piyush Goyal replaced Tomar and was given additional charge of Minister of Mines.
- On Monday, Naidu was picked as the NDA nominee for the vice presidential election in August.

Lord Davies Appointed Chair Of The UK India Business Council

- Lord Davies is set to replace The Rt Hon Patricia Hewitt as Chair of the UK India Business Council (UKIBC). He will take up this role from 1st September 2017, initially to serve a three-year term. Patricia Hewitt will be stepping down after 8 years in the role.
- The UK India Business Council (UKIBC) is a membership-based, non-profit organisation founded in 2007 to foster trade and business relations between the United Kingdom and India
- The organisation works with businesses in both countries, as well as the UK and Indian governments, to promote and increase bilateral trade.
- The UK India Business Council supports UK businesses with the insights, networks, policy advocacy, services, and facilities needed to succeed in India.
- They help UK companies achieve success whether they are well-established in India or in the early stages of their engagement.

Kamal Haasan to be brand ambassador of Tamil Thalaivas

- Tamil film actor Kamal Haasan has been appointed brand icon of Pro Kabaddi League franchise Tamil Thalaivas, co-owned by India batting legend Sachin Tendulkar.

- The multi-faceted film personality, who has recently run into a controversy over the Tamil version of "Bigg Boss" he is hosting, said he was honoured to be associated with the sport as the team makes its debut in season five of PKL

Adobe names Shanmugh Natarajan as MD of India operation

- Adobe Systems Inc. on Friday said it has appointed Shanmugh Natarajan as the managing director (MD) for Adobe Systems in India.
- Natarajan, who was formerly the executive director, will continue to lead Adobe operations in India, in addition to his ongoing responsibility as vice president (engineering and digital media) at Adobe
- Natarajan will continue to lead R&D and operations for Adobe India while Kulmeet Bawa, MD, South Asia will continue to lead Adobe's field operations.

Brenda Hale appointed as UK supreme court's first female president

- Brenda Hale has been appointed as the first female president of the UK supreme court.
- Lady Hale is a longstanding champion of diversity in the judiciary.
- She has previously said the court should be ashamed if it does not improve its record on the issue.

- She will take up the role on 2 October, when she will be sworn in as president.
- Hale's appointment was announced alongside that of Jill Black, who, after promotion from the court of appeal, becomes the second female justice in the UK's highest court. Two other court of appeal judges, David Lloyd Jones and Michael Briggs, were also appointed to the supreme court on Friday.
- A family law expert, Hale joined the supreme court in 2009 and is among the last of the judges who can serve to 75 as she became a judge before rules were changed in 1995 to make retiring at 70 mandatory.

Cabinet appoints former journalist Ashok Malik as Press Secretary to President

- Senior Indian analyst and a fellow of Observer's Research Foundation (ORF) Ashok Malik has been appointed as the Press Secretary to President by the Union Cabinet.
- The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet approved his appointment on Friday for a period of two years.
- A journalist for 20 years, Malik is a columnist for several leading Indian and international publications including Times of India, Hindustan Times and YaleGlobal Online. Previously, he served as a consulting editor to the Pioneer and Tehelka.

Uber appoints Sanjay Gupta as Head of Marketing for India operations

- Global ridesharing app Uber has appointed Sanjay Gupta as the Head of Marketing for its India operations.
- Gupta, who has over 15 years of experience, comes from online furniture portal Urban Ladder, where he was the chief marketing officer.
- He has also worked with Marico in the past, where he was responsible for the growth of its edible oils brand Saffola.

Walmart India appoints Devendra Chawla as COO

- Walmart India has roped in former CEO of Future Consumer Devendra Chawla as its Chief Operating Officer, according to a source close to the company.
- Chawla, who had last week quit from Future Consumer -- a part of Kishore Biyani-led Future Group, will join as COO Merchandising, Marketing and Omni-channel function at Walmart India. He will report to Walmart India CEO Krish Iyer.
- Walmart India owns and operates 21 best price modern wholesale stores in nine states across India.

GoDaddy appoints Nikhil Arora as VP and MD of India operations

- GoDaddy has announced the appointment of Nikhil Arora as Vice President and Managing Director for its India operations.
- In this role, Arora will lead corporate strategy, business development and customer experience for GoDaddy in the country.
- With its focus on digitisation India is a key market for the cloud platform as more and more small to medium businesses (SMBs) are choosing to go online to grow their ventures.
- GoDaddy helps SMBs build and grow their businesses online, offering an integrated suite of online products and services and is currently top the market share in India, according to the National Internet Exchange of India (NIXI).

Subhash Garg appointed on ADB Board of Governors

- Economic Affairs Secretary Subhash Chandra Garg has been appointed as Indias Alternate Governor on the Board of Governors of the Asian Development Bank (ADB), the Finance Ministry announced on Wednesday.
- Garg has been appointed in place of former DEA Secretary Shaktikanta Das. The appointment came into effect from July 12, the Ministry said in a statement here.
- ADB is headquartered in Manila, in the Philippines.

Andhra appoints P.V. Sindhu as Deputy Collector

- Olympics badminton silver medallist P.V. Sindhu was on Thursday appointed a Deputy Collector by the Andhra Pradesh government.
- Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu handed over the appointment letter to her at the state secretariat in the presence of her parents.
- The state government has asked Sindhu to join duty as deputy collector within 30 days.
- In May, the state legislature had passed a Bill amending the State Public Services Act to appoint Sindhu as a Group-I officer in the government.
- As any recruitment in public services has to be only through the State Public Service Commission, selection committee or employment exchange, the government had to amend the Andhra Pradesh (Regulation of Appointments to Public Services and Rationalisation of Staff Pattern and Pay Structure) Act, 1994.

Axis Bank extends Shikha Sharma's term by three years

- Shikha Sharma has been re-appointed as MD&CEO of Axis Bank for three-year term from June 2018, putting to rest rumours about her being sounded out to head Tata's financial services vertical.
- Axis Bank informed Bombay Stock Exchange that board of directors has approved the re-appointment.

- She joined Axis from ICICI Prudential Life where she was the managing director and chief executive and replaced the first chairman and chief executive of the bank P J Nayak.

Ravi Mittal appointed part-time member on Irdai board

- Ravi Mittal, who has joined as additional secretary in the Finance Ministry in place of Anil Khachi, is now a part-time member on the board of Irdai, a ministry source said.
- Mittal has replaced N S Rao at Irdai, who is a joint secretary level officer.
- Former finance secretary Sushma Nath is another part-time member on the Irdai board
- Mamta Suri, who has been working as chief general manager (CGM) at Irdai, has now been promoted as executive director and appointed in the same position at the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India,

Science & Technology

Reliance Jio launches AAE-1, world's longest 100Gbps submarine cable system

- Reliance Jio has launched the Asia-Africa-Europe (AAE-1) submarine cable system.
- The company claims that it is the world's longest 100Gbps technology-based submarine system

and will stretch for over 25,000km from Marseille, France to Hong Kong.

- It will have 21 cable landings across Asia and Europe.
- The project is a combination of leading telecom service providers from Europe, the Middle East and Asia. It will feature diversified Points of Presence (PoP) in Asia (Hong Kong and Singapore), with three onward connectivity options in Europe (France, Italy and Greece)
- AAE-1 will pass through critical hubs, serving the demand for video centric data bandwidth that supports all types of communications, applications and content within India and beyond.
- Jio says that the system will link seamlessly with other cable systems and fibre networks to deliver direct access to all global markets.

EXAMS Today

NASA Rocket Launch Creates Colorful Clouds Seen Across the East Coast

- NASA deployed a rocket early morning that created colorful clouds out of vapor in the Earth's upper atmosphere over the East Coast.
- Completed at 4:25 a.m. from the Wallops location on Chincoteague Island, NASA successfully launched its Terrier-Improved Malemute sounding rocket — after 11 recent unsuccessful attempts.
- The launch tested a new multi-canister ejection system used for deploying vapors, according to NASA.

- The colorful vapors could be seen from New York to North Carolina.
- The blue-green and red artificial clouds, deployed between four and six minutes after take-off, are used to track particle motions in space.
- The launch tested a new system that helps studies of the ionosphere and aurora.
- The total flight took eight minutes.

World's sharpest laser developed

- Scientists have developed the world's sharpest laser with a record-breaking precision that can help make optical atomic clocks more precise as well as test Einstein's theory of relativity.
- Theoretically, laser light has only one colour, frequency or wavelength. In reality, however, there is always a certain linewidth.
- Ideally, laser light has only one fixed wavelength or frequency. In practice, the spectrum of most types of lasers can, however, reach from a few kHz to a few MHz in width, which is not good enough for numerous experiments requiring high precision.
- Research has therefore focused on developing ever better lasers with greater frequency stability and a narrower linewidth.
- Within the scope of a nearly 10-year-long joint project with researchers from JILA, a joint institute of the National Institute of Standards and Technology and the University of Colorado Boulder in the US a laser has now been developed at PTB whose line width is only 10

mHz (0.01 Hz), hereby establishing a new world record.

NASA developing first asteroid deflection mission

- NASA is developing the first-ever mission that will deflect a near-Earth asteroid, and help test the systems that will allow mankind to protect the planet from potential cosmic body impacts in the future.
- The Double Asteroid Redirection Test (DART) — which is being designed and would be built and managed by the John Hopkins Applied Physics Laboratory — is moving from concept development to preliminary design phase
- DART would be NASA's first mission to demonstrate what's known as the kinetic impactor technique — striking the asteroid to shift its orbit — to defend against a potential future asteroid impact,
- The asteroid is called Didymos — Greek for "twin" — because it is an asteroid binary system that consists of two bodies: Didymos A, about 780 metres in size, and a smaller asteroid orbiting it called Didymos B, about 160 metres in size.
- DART would impact only the smaller of the two bodies, Didymos B.
- The Didymos system has been closely studied since 2003.

SpaceX Dragon Returns From ISS With Chinese Experiment

- SpaceX's Dragon cargo spacecraft returned to Earth from the International Space Station (ISS), bringing back the first Chinese experiment ever to visit the orbiting laboratory.
- The unmanned spacecraft splashed down in the Pacific Ocean at 8:12am EDT (5:42pm IST) - about five hours after leaving the space station. It wrapped up SpaceX's 11th contracted cargo re-supply mission for the US space agency NASA
- Dragon is returning more than 1,860kg of cargo, including science samples from human and animal research, biotechnology studies, physical science investigations and education activities.
- One of the science samples was the first-ever Chinese experiment brought to the space station, which is fully commercial, under an agreement with Houston-based NanoRacks, which offers services for the commercial utilisation of the orbiting laboratory.
- The experiment from the Beijing Institute of Technology was aimed at studying the effects of the space radiation environment on DNA and the changes in mutation rate.

SpaceX delivers for Intelsat on heavyweight Falcon 9 mission

A SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket rumbled into the sky Wednesday from NASA's Kennedy Space Center in Florida, flexing the rocket's muscles and lofting a massive Intelsat satellite to orbit supporting wireless communications, television broadcasting and trans-

Atlantic data relays

Recovering from back-to-back countdown aborts earlier in the week, the two-stage, 229-foot-tall (70-meter) launcher lit nine Merlin 1D main engines and rocketed away from pad 39A at the Florida spaceport. The nine-engine first stage shut down less than three minutes after liftoff, and the booster dropped away with the help of pneumatic pushers for a destructive plunge into the Atlantic Ocean.

NASA's Hubble spots 'Hidden Galaxy'

- NASA's Hubble Space Telescope has captured a hidden galaxy IC 342, which is a challenging cosmic target.
- Although it is bright, the galaxy sits near the equator of the Milky Way's galactic disk, where the sky is thick with glowing cosmic gas, bright stars, and dark, obscuring dust. In order for astronomers to see the intricate spiral structure of IC 342, they must gaze through a large amount of material contained within our own galaxy.
- As a result IC 342 is relatively difficult to spot and image, giving rise to its intriguing nickname: the "Hidden Galaxy."
- Located very close (in astronomical terms) to the Milky Way, this sweeping spiral galaxy would be among the brightest in the sky were it not for its dust-obscured location.
- The galaxy is very active, as indicated by the range of colours visible in this NASA/ESA

HubbleSpace Telescope image, depicting the very central region of the galaxy.

- A beautiful mixture of hot, blue star-forming regions, redder, cooler regions of gas, and dark lanes of opaque dust can be seen, all swirling together around a bright core.

Scientists create mini Saturn planets using charged liquid droplets

- By electrifying tiny droplets of fluids, scientists have created miniature versions of Saturn, complete with rings.
- The achievement may pave the way for generating microscopic and uniform particles and capsules which are often used in products such as drugs, inks, cosmetics and paints
- When a drop of electrically conductive liquid is exposed to an electric field, the droplet responds by forming two electrically charged poles.
- Previous research has shown that these poles can get pulled towards the sources of the electric field, taking on cone shapes.
- If the pull is strong enough, the tips of the cones can spray jets of droplets.

First vaccine shows gonorrhoea protection

- A vaccine has for the first time been shown to protect against the sexually transmitted infection gonorrhoea, scientists in New Zealand say.

- There are fears gonorrhoea is becoming untreatable as antibiotics fail.
- The World Health Organization sees developing a vaccine as vital in stopping the global spread of "super-gonorrhoea".
- The study of 15,000 young people, published in the Lancet, showed infections were cut by about a third.
- About 78 million people pick up the sexually transmitted infection each year, and it can cause infertility.
- But the body does not build up resistance no matter how many times someone is infected.
- The vaccine, originally developed to stop an outbreak of meningitis B, was given to about a million adolescents in New Zealand between 2004 and 2006.
- Researchers at the University of Auckland analysed data from sexual health clinics and found gonorrhoea cases had fallen 31% in those vaccinated.

Astronomers discover smallest star known in our galaxy

- A team of international astronomers has found the smallest star known in our galaxy.
- The star — which only has the scientific designation of EBLM J0555-57Ab — is located about 600 light-years from Earth and can be seen from the Southern Hemisphere — if you look through a large telescope.
- Astronomers searching for exoplanets, which orbit other stars, came across the star in one of

their surveys. This is part of the team that discovered the TRAPPIST-1 system, another small and dim star that has seven planets, three of which hold the best chance for finding life outside our solar system, something that Triaud, who is a senior researcher at the University of Cambridge's Institute of Astronomy, still believes to be true.

- The star is 2,000 to 3,000 times fainter than our own sun.

Juno completes Jupiter's Great Red Spot flyby

- 9 years since the Juno spacecraft started its journey, it has completed a close flyby directly over Jupiter's Great Red Spot, NASA has confirmed.
- This was humanity's first up-close and personal view of the gigantic feature, the US National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) confirmed.
- Jupiter's Great Spot is a 16,000-km wide storm monitored since 1830 and possibly existing for more than 350 years
- According to NASA, at the time of perijove, Juno was about 3,500 km above the planet's cloud tops.

IMD sets up Doppler Radar in Kochi

- Union minister for earth sciences Dr Harsh Vardhan inaugurated Kerala's first doppler radar in Kochi

- this was among the 27 radars being installed in the country and all of them are 100 percent indigenous developed with support of ISRO scientists and Bharat Electronics.
- The last five Chirapunji, Bhuj, Mumbai, Thiruvananthapuram and Kochi are examples of Make in India products. The next in the series are Gopalpur and Sriharikota
- The IMD as part of modernising its observational network is replacing its old and conventional radar by the state of art S-band Doppler Weather Radar (DWR) in a phased manner at different locations all over the country.
- In this connection, the S-band weather radar at Kochi has been replaced by dual polarized Doppler Weather Radar provided by ISRO and manufactured by Bharat Electronics Limited, Bangalore.
- As part of the modernisation of the weather information network, a series of radars are being installed in the country and they will be completed by 2019.

Indian astronomers discover supercluster of galaxies, name it 'Saraswati'

- In a significant discovery, a team of Indian astronomers have identified a previously unknown, extremely large supercluster of galaxies located in the direction of constellation Pisces.
- The supercluster of 43 galaxies, which they named "Saraswati", is one of the largest known structures in the nearby universe, and is 4 billion

light years away from us and may contain the mass equivalent of over 20 million billion suns

- A supercluster is a chain of galaxies and galaxy clusters, bound by gravity, often stretching to several hundred times the size of clusters of galaxies, consisting of tens of thousands of galaxies. The Saraswati supercluster, for instance, extends over a scale of 600 million light years.
- The Milky Way, the galaxy we are in, is part of a supercluster called the Laniakea Supercluster, announced in 2014 by Brent Tully at the University of Hawaii and collaborators.

Google launches job applicant management tool 'Hire'

- Google officially released a new tool named 'Hire' to help small and medium sized businesses recruit talent, on Wednesday.
- The service is built on G Suite and will allow employers to track candidates' contact information, resume details and calendar invites.
- It will allow business partners to share feedback within the candidate's profile.
- Hire has been rolled out only for US-based business with less than 1,000 employees.
- Google had unveiled Hire during its annual Google I/O developer conference in San Francisco, in May.

Microsoft launches 'Made for India' Kaizala app

- Technology giant Microsoft has officially launched 'Kaizala', a productivity app that has been designed to enhance the collaboration and communication experience for Indian enterprises.
- The 'Made for India' app is designed for large group communications and work management, and works even on 2G networks.
- The product will make it possible for organisations to interact with people within the organisation as well as outside like partners and vendors in a seamless manner
- Microsoft Kaizala has been optimised to work on 2G networks to enable connectivity in remote locations and offers features with offline support

Breakthrough Starshot successfully launch world's smallest spacecraft

- The smallest spacecraft ever launched are successfully travelling in low Earth orbit and communicating with systems on Earth
- Known as "Sprites", the miniature satellites are just 3.5cm x 3.5cm and carry radios, sensors and computers, with each device powered by sunlight and weighing just four grams.
- While Nano satellites known as CubeSats have previously been sent into space, such systems have a mass thousands of times that of the Sprites, weighing more than 1kg.
- U.S. conducts "successful" test of THAAD anti-missile system
- The U.S. successfully conducted a missile defense test Sunday using a Terminal High

Altitude Area Defense (THAAD) anti-missile system in Alaska,

- The THAAD test follows North Korea's second test-launch of an intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM)
- The THAAD weapons system is strictly for defensive measures and uses "hit-to-kill technology

Books & Authors

President of India receives first copy of book PRESIDENT Pranab Mukherjee A Statesman"

- The President of India, Shri Pranab Mukherjee received the first copy of a book "President Pranab Mukherjee A Statesman" from Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi who formally released it at a function held at Rashtrapati Bhavan.
- The book "President Pranab Mukherjee A Statesman" has been published by The Statesman, one of India's oldest English-language newspapers.
- This book, a comprehensive photographic record of India's 13th President, covers Shri Mukherjee's Presidency and documents his various roles including those as a humane first citizen, as a thought-leader, as a patron of educational

institutions & the arts and as the Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces etc.

Cryptocurrency Guru Amit Bhardwaj launches e-book 'Cryptocurrency for Beginners'

- Amit Bhardwaj, the founder of Amaze Mining & Research Limited, today announced the launch of his pioneering e-book, 'Cryptocurrency for Beginners'. The book seeks to provide context and clarity on the relatively unexplored and technology-dense world of cryptocurrencies, in a beginner friendly way. This is his third book in the series, after 'Cryptocurrency Trading for Beginners' & 'Cryptocurrency Mining for Beginners'.
- This e-book explains the most critical aspects of cryptocurrencies. It delves into how cryptocurrencies work, the future of cryptocurrency, how secure they are, the practical use of bitcoin and other cryptocurrencies around the world, regulations governing them and basics of cryptocurrency mining and trading.

Amit Shah, Mohan Bhagwat releases coffee table book on PM Modi's life

BJP President Amit Shah and RSS Chief Mohan Bhagwat today released a coffee table book on Prime Minister Narendra Modi's life in New Delhi. The book – Making of A Legend, has been compiled by Sulabh International Founder Bindeshwar Pathak.

Speaking on the occasion, the BJP President hailed the steps taken by Mr Modi in Gujarat for resolving water problem.

President Pranab Mukherjee receives first copy of book on his late wife

- President Pranab Mukherjee on Thursday received the first copy of a book on his late wife, Suvra Mukherjee.
- The book, 'President's Lady' (Pranaber Preyosi), was released by vice president Hamid Ansari during a function at Rashtrapati Bhavan on a day that marked the President's wedding anniversary.
- The book has been written by Sangeeta Ghosh.

Katie Price unveils new novel

- Former glamour model Katie Price has unveiled the cover for her next novel "Playing With Fire", which will be available later this year.
- The 39-year-old television personality took to social media to share a first glimpse of the artwork for her 11th novel, which she announced would hit shelves on October 19, reported Contactmusic.
- Sharing an image of the artwork - which features the figure of a woman in a sequined dress with long brunette tresses looking out over a city skyline - on both Instagram and Twitter, Katie wrote, "Excited to reveal the cover of my

new novel, **PLAYING WITH FIRE**, out on October 19. You can pre- order now."

- The novel follows the story of a 27-year-old events manager named Indigo, who falls for restaurant entrepreneur Connor after she is tasked with planning the opening of his new Shoreditch nightclub.

Jaitley releases book on swim expedition Ganga Avahan

- Defence Minister Arun Jaitley today released a coffee table book on Ganga Avahan, a 2,800 km exploratory open-water swim expedition on the Ganga river.
- The book - "Ganga Avahan: The Epic Tale of a Historic Swim", is on the first-ever human effort to swim down the entire stretch of the river
It is also the longest ever social campaign undertaken through an adventure sporting activity for the Swachh Bharat Mission, Clean Ganga project and Beti Bachao Beti Padhao initiative.
- A nine-member team of three swimmers and the rest rafters from the three services of the Indian Armed Forces, led by acclaimed international open-water swimmer Wing Commander Paramvir Singh was flagged-off here by Information and Broadcasting Minister M Venkaiah Naidu on the first anniversary of Swachh Bharat Mission on October 1, 2015.

Obituary

Maryam Mirzakhani died at 40

- Maryam Mirzakhani, an Iranian mathematician who was the only woman ever to win a Fields Medal, the most prestigious honor in mathematics, died on Saturday. She was 40.
- The cause was breast cancer, said Stanford University, where she was a professor.
- The Fields Medal, established in 1936, is often described as the Nobel Prize of mathematics. But unlike the Nobels, the Fields are bestowed only on people aged 40 or younger, not just to honor their accomplishments but also to predict future mathematical triumphs.
- The Fields are awarded every four years, with up to four mathematicians chosen at a time.

Former ISRO Chairman U R Rao passes away at 85

- Former Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) Chairman and internationally renowned space scientist Professor U R Rao passed away
- Professor Rao, who served as ISRO Chairman for 10 years during 1984-1994, was inducted into International Aeronautical Federation (IAF) Hall of Fame last year during the closing ceremony of IAF Congress 2016 in Guadalajara, Mexico.
- Under the 2017 Padma Vibhushan award winning scientist, India carried out at least 20

satellites project including the country's first, Aryabhata.

- Rao was serving as the Chairman of the Governing Council of the Physical Laboratory at Ahmedabad and was the Chancellor of the Indian Institute of Science and Technology at Thiruvananthapuram, according to ISRO.
- He had also worked as a faculty member at MIT and held the position of Assistant Professor at University of Texas at Dallas. He was inducted into the prestigious "Satellite Hall of Fame" at Washington DC in 2013.

Ranking & Index

Forbes list of world's billionaires

- Forbes world's billionaires' list was announced on Friday with oil to telecom business owner, Mukesh Ambani still the richest Indian on the list.
- Gates has topped Forbes list of the world's billionaires for 18 out of the past 23 years,

Top 10 Richest Indians are: Mukesh Ambani, Dilip Shanghvi, Hinduja family, Azim Premji , Pallonji Mistry , Lakshmi Mittal, Godrej family, Shiv Nadar, Kumar Birla, Cyrus Poonawalla