India tops list of new tuberculosis cases in 2016: WHO

India topped the list of seven countries, accounting for 64 per cent of the 10.4 million new tuberculosis (TB) cases worldwide in 2016, according to a new report by the World Health Organisation.

- India was followed by Indonesia, China, Philippines, Pakistan, Nigeria and South Africa, according to a Global TB Report 2017 released by the WHO.
- An estimated 1.7 million people died from TB in 2016, including nearly 400,000 people who were co-infected with HIV, recording a drop by 4 per cent as compared to 2015, the report said.

Brunei named most improved economy in the world

Brunei Darussalam has been named the most improved economy in the world for the third year in a row in the World Bank’s Doing Business Report 2018.

- The report, which measures the efficiency and regulatory environment of domestic businesses of 190 economies, records Brunei jumping a significant 16 places to rank 56 worldwide.

India slips 21 slots on WEF Gender Gap index 2017

India slipped 21 places on the World Economic Forum’s (WEF) Global Gender Gap index to 108, behind neighbours China and Bangladesh, primarily due to less participation of women in the economy and low wages.

- At the top of the Global Gender Gap Index is Iceland.
- The country has closed nearly 88% of its gap. It has been the world’s most gender-equal country for nine years.

ICICI’s Chanda Kochhar makes it to Forbes’ 100 most powerful women list

Chanda Kochhar, CEO of ICICI Bank was named the most powerful woman in India as she ranked 32nd in World's 100 Most Powerful Women list by Forbes.

- Other Indian women in the list are CEO of HCL Enterprise Roshni Nadar Malhotra, Chairperson of Biocon Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw, Chairperson of Hindustan Times Group Shobhana Bhartia and actress Priyanka Chopra.
- German Chancellor Angela Merkel was ranked first in the list.

Kazakhstan to change its name by 2025

The central Asian country of Kazakhstan is changing its name to Qazaqstan in a challenge to Russian influence over the country.

- The former Soviet state announced that it will appoint a national committee to oversee the country's transition from Russian Cyrillic to a Latin-based alphabet by 2025.
- As a result, the name of the country will be changed to the Latin equivalent 'Qazaqstan.'

Lebanese prime minister resigns

Lebanese prime minister Saad al-Hariri resigned, saying in a televised broadcast he sensed a plot to target his life and criticising Iran and its Lebanese ally Hezbollah.

- Hariri became Lebanon's prime minister late last year after a political deal that also brought Hezbollah ally Michel Aoun to office as the country's president.

Col Rajyavardhan Rathore to attend World Youth Forum in Egypt
The Minister of State (Independent Charge) Youth Affairs and Sports Col. Rajyavardhan Rathore has left to attend World Youth Forum, scheduled to be held at Sharam El Shiekh, Egypt.

- Col Rathore has been deputed on behalf of the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi to represent the country at the Forum.
- The five-day forum will be inaugurated by the President of Egypt Mr Abdelfateh El Sisi tomorrow.
- The Summit segment is expected to be attended by the Heads of State/Government, Ministers of youth from 14 countries and Representatives of UN, Arab League and African Union.
- The Forum aims to provide a platform to the youth from all over the globe to engage with the key global policy makers.
- The forum will cover role of youth in business and innovation, challenges and making of future leaders, gender equity and women empowerment among other things.

**World Tsunami Awareness Day: November 5**

World Tsunami Awareness Day is observed on 5 November every year across the world.

- In December 2015, the UN General Assembly designated 5 November as World Tsunami Awareness Day.
- The first Tsunami Awareness Day was observed in 2016.
- The focus of World Tsunami Awareness Day 2017 will be at reducing the number of affected people globally by disasters.

**World Pneumonia Day: November 12**

World Pneumonia Day is observed on 12th November every year around the world.

- World Pneumonia Day was first observed in 2009 when over 100 organisations joined to form the Global Coalition against Child Pneumonia.
- World Pneumonia Day helps to highlight the severity of pneumonia and encourages more organisations to look at ways of fighting the disease.

In tune with India's growing engagements with Africa, External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj held a meeting with Guinea's Foreign Minister, Mamady Toure, during the course of which the latter handed over his country's instrument accession to the India-initiated International Solar Alliance (ISA).

- Toure invited the Indian government and Indian business to participate in the Investors Conference to be held at Paris in third week of November 2017.

**APEC 2017 summit to be held in Vietnam**

APEC 2017 is the year-long hosting of Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) meeting to be held in Vietnam.

- It will culminate with the APEC Economic Leaders' Meeting in Da Nang to be hosted at InterContinental Danang Sun Peninsula Resort.
- It marks the second time Vietnam will be playing host to the APEC, having hosted the event previously in 2006.
- It is scheduled on 10-11 November.

**Guinea becomes new member of International Solar Alliance**

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- Toure invited the Indian government and Indian business to participate in the Investors Conference to be held at Paris in third week of November 2017.
Extreme weather events: India 6th most vulnerable country
India is the sixth most vulnerable country in the world in terms of facing extreme weather events with Haiti, Zimbabwe, Fiji, Sri Lanka and Vietnam taking top five positions in the fresh list of nations facing climate risk.

- The ranking was released here by the German watch, an independent Berlin-based development and environmental organization, in its latest global climate risk index (CRI).
- The Index put the United States (US) at 10th position with Chinese Taipei, Macedonia and Bolivia being the other three vulnerable countries in the list of top ten.

Bangladesh's first Hindu Chief Justice resigns
Bangladesh's first Hindu Chief Justice Surendra Kumar Sinha has resigned after facing allegations of bribery and money laundering.

- A month ago he had gone abroad. Sinha became the country’s 21st Chief Justice on January 17, 2015.
- His tenure was going to be completed on January 31 next year.

31st ASEAN Summit started in Philippines
The Philippines will conclude its year-long ASEAN hosting duties with the 31st ASEAN Summit from 12-14 November.

- Around 20 world leaders are in the Philippines to attend the 31st Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean) Summit.

Points to Remember
- ASEAN's theme for 2017 is 'Partnering for Change, Engaging the World'.
- It was formed on 8 August 1967. It has 10 member countries.

- Rodrigo Duterte is the current Chairman of the organization.

World Diabetes Day: 14 November
World Diabetes Day is the primary global awareness campaign focusing on diabetes mellitus and is observed on November 14 each year.

- Led by the International Diabetes Federation (IDF), each World Diabetes Day focuses on a theme related to diabetes.
- Type 2 Diabetes is largely preventable and treatable non-communicable disease that is rapidly increasing in numbers worldwide.
- Type 1 Diabetes is not preventable but can be treated with insulin shots.
- This year’s theme is ‘Women and diabetes – our right to a healthy future’.

Rice Field laboratory in Manila named after PM Modi
While on his visit to Philippines, PM Narendra Modi visited the International Rice Research Institute (IRRI) in Los Banos, Philippines and inaugurated ‘Shri Narendra Modi Resilient Rice Field Laboratory’.

- He also presented two Indian rice seed varieties to the IRRI gene bank.
- IRRI is a premier research organisation dedicated to reducing poverty and hunger through rice science.

Saudi Arabia approves Yoga as a sports activity
Saudi Arabia has officially approved Yoga as a sporting activity under its Ministry of Trade and Industry.

- So, anyone who now wishes to practice or teach yoga can do so by applying for a licence.
• The Crown Prince known as MBS launched the new vision 2030 that focuses on development and investing in youth.

10th South Asia Economic Summit held in Nepal
10th South Asia Economic Summit (SAES) begun in Kathmandu, Nepal on November 14, 2017.
• Theme of this summit: “Deepening Economic Integration for Inclusive and Sustainable Development in South Asia”.
• 200 participants including ministers, government officials, researchers, eminent experts and thinkers will attend this three day long summit.
• South Asia Economic Summit (SAES) is being organized since in 2008.

Zimbabwe is under military control after army seizes power from Mugabe
Zimbabwe's military leaders have seized control of the impoverished southern African nation, placing longtime leader Robert Mugabe under house arrest and deploying armored vehicles to the streets of the capital, Harare.
• Mugabe, 93, the world's oldest living leader, was unable to leave his home, according to Jacob Zuma, the President of neighboring South Africa. Troops were reportedly stationed at Zimbabwe's Parliament and the presidential palace.
• A simmering succession battle in the ruling Zanu-PF party came to a head two weeks ago when Mugabe sacked his powerful vice president, Emmerson Mnangagwa.
• Mugabe’s decision fueled speculation he was preparing to anoint his wife, Grace, as his successor.

International Day for Tolerance: 16 November
The International Day for Tolerance is an annual observance declared by UNESCO in 1995 to generate public awareness of the dangers of intolerance. It is observed on 16 November.
• In 1996, the UN General Assembly (by resolution 51/95) invited UN Member States to observe the International Day for Tolerance on 16 November.
• This year’s theme is ‘Together’.

WHO Global Ministerial Conference on Ending TB in Sustainable Development Era
Shri J P Nadda, Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare, reaffirmed India’s commitment to eliminating TB by 2025 at 1st WHO Global Ministerial Conference on Ending TB in Sustainable Development Era’ at Moscow, Russia.
• The Ministerial and High-Level meetings offer participating nations the potential to strengthen and energize the discourse on TB and are perhaps the biggest window for global action on TB in the foreseeable future.
• Ministry of Health and Family Welfare is also organizing a side event at the conference on ‘Ending TB: Our Promise to Our People’ assisted by Global Coalition against TB to be attended by 7 MPs and other world leaders.

India’s global rank up for reducing greenhouse gas emissions
India is ranked 14th in this year’s Climate Change Performance Index (CCPI) 2018 out of 56 nations for reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions.
• The top three rankings are still unoccupied as the report says no country is on a Paris-compatible path.
• Sweden ranks fourth in this year's CCPI, following the empty top three.

**Founding Ceremony of International Solar Alliance Held in Germany**

A Curtain Raiser Event for the Founding Ceremony of the International Solar Alliance (ISA) was held in Bonn, Germany.

• Shri Anand Kumar, Secretary, Ministry of New and Renewable Energy was present at the event from the Indian side.
• The ISA was jointly launched on 30 November 2015 by Prime Minister of India, Narendra Modi, and then-President of France, Francois Hollande, on the sidelines of the UNFCCC Conference of Parties 21 (CoP21) at Paris, France.

**World Toilet Day: 19 November**

World Toilet Day (WTD) is an official United Nations international observance day, celebrated on 19 November, to raise awareness of the global sanitation crisis.

• This is done through public communications, campaigns, reports and events. Worldwide, 4.5 billion people live without safely managed sanitation.
• Theme for the year 2017 is ‘Wastewater.’

**13th Asia-Europe Foreign Ministers' Meeting begins in Nay Pyi Taw**

A total of 51 countries will participate in the 13th Asia-Europe Foreign Ministers' Meeting, started in Myanmar's capital city of Nay Pyi Taw.

• The host country's de facto leader Aung San Suu Kyi will inaugurate the Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM), in which the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean) and the European Union (EU) will participate.

**Modi govt 3rd most trusted in the world**

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government has ranked third in World Economic Forum's list of most trusted governments.

• The report reveals that almost three quarters (74 percent) of Indians say they have confidence in their national government.
• The list is topped by Switzerland, followed by Indonesia, while India grabs the third spot.

**India climbs 3 steps to 51 on IMD World Talent rankings**

India has improved its ranking by three notches to 51 globally in terms of ability to attract, develop and retain talent.

• Switzerland topped the list compiled by leading global business school IMD.
• Globally, Europe continues to dominate the rankings, with Switzerland, Denmark, and Belgium being the top three countries.
• The annual IMD World Talent Ranking covered 63 countries and assessed the methods the countries adopted to attract and retain talent.

**India sends proposal to UN for declaring 2018 as International Year of Millet**

Shri Radha Mohan Singh, the Union Minister for Agriculture & Farmers Welfare has sent a proposal to United Nations for declaring the year 2018 as ‘International Year of Millets’.

• The proposal, if agreed, will raise awareness about millets among consumers, policy makers, industry and R&D sector.
• Millet is a common term to categorize small-seeded grasses that are often termed nutri-cereals or dryland-cereals, and includes sorghum, pearl millet, ragi,
small millet, foxtail millet, proso millet, barnyard millet, kodo millet and other millets.

Rashtriya Ekta Diwas: October 31, 2017
Rashtriya Ekta Diwas (National Unity Day) is observed on 31 October every year in India.

- This day marks the birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, who played an instrumental role in integration of princely state with Indian Union post independence.
- Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel is also known as Iron man of India.
- Celebration of October 31 as ‘Rashtriya Ekta Diwas’ was announced by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in 2014.

Delhi to host 9th global green film fest
The ninth edition of CMS Vatavaran, an international film festival on environment and wildlife, will begin in New Delhi from 2 November.

- It will showcase 113 films, including four from Kashmir, one of the most ecologically sensitive zones facing the threat of global warming.
- The “Conservation 4 Water”-themed five-day gala at Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti will also have seminars, workshops, exhibitions and an award ceremony focusing on the environmental, social and economic aspects of water conservation.

Pradhan to attend 7th Asia Ministerial Energy Roundtable in Bangkok
The Minister of Petroleum & Natural Gas and Skill Development & Entrepreneurship, Shri Dharmendra Pradhan will be on an official visit to Bangkok, Thailand from 01-02nd November 2017 to participate in the IEF 7th Asian Ministerial Energy Roundtable (AMER).

- India is the current chair of International Energy Forum (IEF) which is promoting the AMER - a biennial event bringing together Energy Ministers and experts from Asian countries.
- At the 7th AMER, Minister will participate in the Ministerial Roundtable and speak on “Natural Gas: Overcoming Market and Policy Hurdles to the Golden Age of Gas” along with Energy Ministers from Ministers Qatar, Brunei and Senior Representatives from Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI) of Japan and Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia (ERIA).
- Energy Ministers from Saudi Arabia, Russia, UAE, Thailand, Iraq, Qatar, Kuwait, Bangladesh, Malaysia and Brunei are also participating in the AMER.
- India is the current Chair of IEF and will host the 16th Ministerial Conference of the IEF in India schedule during April 2018.

MoS HRD inaugurates KVS Rashtriya Ekta Shivir
Union Minister of State for HRD Shri Upendra Kushwaha inaugurated the three-day KVS Rashtriya Ekta Shivir-Ek Bharat Shresht Bharat in New Delhi.

- Speaking at the occasion Kushwaha said that KVS students are full of talent and capable of taking India to new heights.
IAF contingent leaves for Israel to Participate in ‘Ex Blue Flag-17’

A 45 member contingent of the Indian Air Force left for Israel today to participate in exercise ‘Blue Flag-17’.

- Blue Flag is a bi-annual multilateral exercise which aims to strengthen military cooperation amongst participating nations.
- Indian Air Force is participating with the C-130J special operations aircraft along with Garud commandos.
- The exercise is being conducted at Uvda Air Force Base in Israel from 02-16 Nov 17.

President of India inaugurates Global Clubfoot Conference

The President of India, Shri Ram Nath Kovind, inaugurated the Global Clubfoot Conference being organised by the CURE India in partnership with the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India, in New Delhi on November 1, 2017.

- Speaking on the occasion, the President said that clubfoot is one of the most common orthopaedic birth defects. It can cause permanent disability if not treated early.
- This affects the child’s mobility and confidence. Inevitably, education and schooling suffer – and the child cannot fulfil his or her potential.

Govt to promote Khichdi as ‘Brand India food’

Over 800 kg khichdi, a traditional Indian dish relished by both rich and poor, will be prepared live on November 4 at the World Food India event here in a bid to create world record and popularise it as brand India food globally.

- Khichdi has been selected as Brand India Food because it symbolises the country’s unity in diversity.
- A giant ‘kadhai’ (frying pan) of the capacity of 1,000 litres and 7 feet in diameter will be used for slow steam-cooking of more than 800 kg khichdi.

Allahabad to get India’s first black buck conservation reserve

Uttar Pradesh cabinet has decided to make India’s first conservation reserve for black buck in Allahabad’s Meja.

- Among the five major decisions taken in the cabinet meeting, the black buck conservation reserve in Meja Forest Division of Allahabad is seen as the most important one.
- It is believed that the decision taken for protection of black deer will also help in wooing tourists here.

Inter-State Council reconstituted with PM Modi as chairman

The Inter-State Council, which is mandated to investigate and advise on disputes between states, has been reconstituted with Prime Minister Narendra Modi as its chairman and six Union ministers and all chief ministers as members.

- According to a gazette notification, the Union ministers who will be members of the reconstituted council are Rajnath Singh (Home), Sushma Swaraj (External Affairs), Arun Jaitley (Finance), Nitin Gadkari (Road Transport), Thaawar Chand Gehlot (Social Justice and Empowerment) and Nirmala Sitharaman (Defence).
- Chief ministers of all states and Union territories having legislative assemblies will also be members of the council.
- The Article 263 of the Constitution provides for the establishment of an Inter-State Council which is
mandated to inquire into and advise upon disputes which may arise between states.

**Goa ranks top, Bihar at bottom of Gender Vulnerability Index**

Goa ranked top and Bihar featured at the lowest in Gender Vulnerability Index (GVI) released by Child development NGO Plan India.

- The composite index has been developed within research for the NGO’s Plan for Every Child campaign and launched by Women and child development Ministry.
- Goa has been ranked as safest place for women while Delhi is also ranked very low.

**President inaugurates 21st World Congress of mental health**

The President of India, Shri Ram Nath Kovind, inaugurated the 21st World Congress of Mental Health being organised by the World Federation for Mental Health in partnership with Caring Foundation and other institutions in New Delhi.

- Speaking on the occasion, the President said that the World Congress of Mental Health is taking place in India for the first time. And it has come here at an appropriate moment.
- Mental health issues are acquiring a serious magnitude in our country. Our National Mental Health Survey 2016 found that close to 14 per cent of India’s population required active mental health interventions.

**Indo – Kazakhstan Joint Exercise “PRABAL DOSTYK 2017” Begins**

A fourteen day joint training exercise “PRABAL DOSTYK – 2017” between the Indian Army and the Kazakhstan Army commenced with the Opening Ceremony at Bakloh, Himachal Pradesh.

- The joint exercise is aimed at enhancing the military ties between the two countries as also at achieving interoperability between the two armies.
- The training contingents comprise of platoon strength from the 11th Gorkha Rifles of the Indian Army and a similar strength of the Kazakhstan Army.

**PM to inaugurate World Food India 2017**

The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi, will inaugurate World Food India 2017 on 3rd November 2017 from Vigyan Bhavan New Delhi.

- WFI is the most anticipated international mega food event, as India welcomes to host biggest ever congregation of global investors and business leaders of major food companies from 3-5 November in New Delhi.
- Organized by Ministry of Food Processing Industries under leadership of Union Minister Smt Harsimrat Kaur Badal, World Food India aims to transform Food Economy and realize the vision of doubling of farmers’ income by establishing India as a preferred investment destination and sourcing hub for the global food processing industry.
- This is the first time that India is hosting such an event for the Food processing sector.
- World Food India platform will strengthen India’s position as a Global Food Factory and is a positive step towards making the Country Food Secure.

**Deen Dayal SPARSH Yojana launched to promote philately**
Minister of Communications Shri Manoj Sinha launched a Pan India scholarship program for school children called Deen Dayal SPARSH Yojana to increase the reach of Philately.

- Under the scheme of SPARSH (Scholarship for Promotion of Aptitude & Research in Stamps as a Hobby), it is proposed to award annual scholarships to children of Standard VI to IX having good academic record and also pursuing Philately as a hobby through a competitive selection process in all postal circles.
- Briefing the media after the launch of the scheme, Shri Sinha said that under the scheme, it is proposed to award 920 scholarships to students pursuing Philately as a hobby.
- Every Postal Circle will select a maximum of 40 scholarships representing 10 students each from Standard VI, VII, VIII & IX.
- The amount of Scholarship will be Rs. 6000/- per annum @ Rs. 500/- per month.

**Sonepur cattle fair, Asia’s largest, begins in Bihar**
The month-long Sonepur cattle fair, one of Bihar’s most prominent events, was inaugurated by Deputy Chief Minister Sushil Kumar Modi in the Saran district.

- Speaking on the occasion, Sushil Modi said the fair has been taking place since Mughal period with people thronging in large numbers at the famous Hariharnath temple here to offer their prayers.
- The traditional cattle fair, which is being held on the confluence of Ganga, Gandak and Mahi rivers, will witness various cultural and musical programmes before concluding on December 3.

**First Heli Expo India & International Civil Helicopter Conclave Inaugurated**

The 1st Heli Expo India and International Civil Helicopter Conclave-2017 is inaugurated in New Delhi by the Uttrakhand Tourism Minister Shri Satpal Maharaja.

- The first issue of Pawan Hans Magazine Aviation Today is also unveiled by the chief guests on this occasion.

**Cauvery Tribunal Gets Six Months Extension**
Union Ministry of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation has extended the term of Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal by six months upto May 02, 2018.

- Cauvery is an inter-State basin having its origin in Karnataka and flowing through Tamil Nadu and Puduchery before outfalling in Bay of Bengal.
- The sharing of waters of the Cauvery has been the source of a serious conflict between the states of Tamil Nadu and Karnataka.
- In this regard, Government of India on June 02, 1990 constituted the Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal (CWDT) to adjudicate the water dispute among Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Kerala and Puducherry.

**Government to build 100 airports in 15 years**
India plans to expand connectivity and meet potential demand by establishing about 100 airports — doubling the current number — in 15 years at an estimated investment of Rs 4 lakh crore, minister of state for aviation Jayant Sinha said.

- Of these, 70 will be locations that don’t have such a facility, while the rest will be second airports or the expansion of existing airfields to handle commercial flights.
- India has 100 operational airports and is the fastest-growing aviation market in terms of domestic passenger growth.
Goa to hold Nobel Prize Series-India 2018
The Goa government executed a trilateral Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Department of Bio-Technology, Ministry of Science and Technology and Nobel Media, Sweden to hold the ‘Nobel Prize Series — India 2018 to be held from February 1-28 next year.

- The Nobel series has earlier been organised in Gujarat.
- The event will consist of exhibition from the Nobel Museum and Nobel dialogues in which Nobel laureates will interact with school children and teachers.

India will be free from poverty, corruption, terrorism by 2022: Niti Aayog
The National Institution for Transforming India (NITI Aayog) in its document anticipated a New India by 2022 that will be free from poverty, dirt, corruption, terrorism, casteism and communalism.

- The document has also claimed that if India continues to grow at 8% until the year 2047, the country will be one of the top three economies in the world.

India, Bangladesh joint military combat exercise ‘Sampriti’ begins
‘SAMPRI 2017’, the seventh edition of Indo-Bangladesh joint military training exercise begun in Meghalaya.

- ‘SAMPRI 2017’ will be held from 6th – 18th November, 2017.
- Exercise ‘SAMPRI’ is held alternately in India and Bangladesh every year.
- Previous edition of ‘SAMPRI’ was held at Tangail in Dhaka, Bangladesh in 2016.

Two-day conference of States Power Ministers to be held in Rajgir, Bihar
A two-day conference of Ministers for Power and New & Renewable Energy of States & Union Territories will be held in Rajgir, Bihar, on 10th and 11th of November, 2017.

- The Conference will be inaugurated by Shri Raj Kumar Singh, Union Minister of State (IC) for Power and New & Renewable Energy.
- The aim of this two-day conference is to review the implementation of various ongoing Schemes/Programmes and deliberate on a host of issues pertaining to Power and Renewable Energy sectors.

Union HRD Minister Shri Prakash Javadekar inaugurates ‘Chintan Shivir’
Union HRD Minister Shri Prakash Javadekar inaugurated a two-day National Workshop ‘Chintan Shivir’ organized by Department of School Education and Literacy, Ministry of Human Resource Development in New Delhi.

- The main aim of the workshop is to provide holistic education relevant for 21st century India and to bring together key stakeholders from various NGOs, private sector and individuals to deliberate on key themes in the education sector.
- He informed that workshop mainly focuses on five themes i.e. Digital education, Life Skill education, Experimental learning, Physical Education and Value education.

Commissioning of new Instrument Landing System at Chennai Airport
Airports Authority of India has replaced the existing Instrument Landing System (ILS) for runway 07 at Chennai International airport at a cost of Rs. 5.0 Crores.

- ILS provides the necessary guidance to pilots as they approach for landing at the runway. The new ILS will facilitate smooth landing of the aircrafts at Chennai Airport even during rain, low clouds, smog etc. and provide an improved guidance to the Aircrafts.
- The new system uses a highly directional antenna system - “Wide Aperture Log Periodic Antenna Array (LPDA)” system. This antenna system has addressed the coverage restrictions of the old ILS, and will provide guidance to the aircraft to a much lower height and improved precision.
- This is turn will enhance the safety of the aircraft during landing.
- The state of the art equipment is manufactured by M/s Indra Navia AS, Norway.

**Manipur to host International Sangai fest from Nov 21**

Manipur is to host the 10-day Sangai International Festival beginning November 21, that will feature polo and a 21-km half marathon among other activities, with most countries confirming their participation.

- Most of the Southeast Asian countries are expected to participate in the colourful festival.

**SHe-Box Online Complaint Management System for working women**

WCD Minister Smt Maneka Sanjay Gandhi launched a comprehensive SHe-Box online complaint Management System for women working in both public and private organizations to lodge complaints of sexual harassment at workplace.

- The SHe-Box was launched in New Delhi to ensure the effective implementation of the Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act (the SH Act), 2013.
- The new SHe-Box portal offers the facility of making online complaints of sexual harassment at workplace to all women employees in the country including government and private employees.
- Those who have already filed a written complaint with the concerned Internal Complaint Committee (ICC) or Local Complaint Committee (LCC) constituted under the SH Act are also eligible to file their complaint through this portal.

**Coal India launched “Grahak Sadak Koyla Vitaran App”**

Shri Piyush Goyal, Union Minister of Railways & Coal has launched ‘Grahak Sadak Koyla Vitaran App’ benefitting customers of Coal India Limited (CIL) lifting coal through road mode.

- The customer friendly app, launched recently in Kolkata on CIL’s Foundation Day, helps achieve transparency in despatch operations, as a tool to monitor, whether the despatches are made on the fair principle of ‘First in First Out’ and keeps track of all the activities from issuance of Sale Order to physical delivery of coal by road.

**DRDO Conducts Successful Flight Trial of ‘NIRBHAY’**

Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) achieved yet another feat with the successful test flight of ‘NIRBHAY’ - India’s first indigenously designed and
developed Long Range Sub-Sonic Cruise Missile which can be deployed from multiple platforms.

- It was successfully test fired from the Integrated Test Range (ITR), Chandipur, Odisha.
- The missile has the capability to loiter and cruise at 0.7 Mach, at altitudes as low as 100 m.
- The flight test achieved all the mission objectives completely from lift-off till the final splash, boosting the confidence of all scientists associated with the trial.

**Rajnath Singh chairs second meeting of Island Development Agency**

The Union Home Minister Shri Rajnath Singh chaired the second meeting of Island Development Agency (IDA).

- The Island Development Agency reviewed the concept development plans and detailed master plans for holistic development of 09 islands (four in A&N Islands i.e. Smith, Ross, Long, Avis) and (five in Lakshadweep i.e. Minicoy, Bangaram, Thinnakara, Cheriyam, Suheli).
- The project being steered by NITI Aayog aims at promoting and implementing development based on sustainable approach to building a thriving maritime economy of the project islands.
- The IDA was set up on June 01, 2017 following the Prime Minister’s review meeting for the holistic development of islands.

**Radha Mohan Singh to inaugurate Organic World Congress – 2017**

Union Agriculture and Farmers’ Welfare Minister, Shri Radha Mohan Singh will inaugurate the three-day Organic World Congress – 2017 being organized at India Expo Centre in Greater Noida.

- It will see the participation of 1,400 representatives from 110 countries, and 2000 delegates from India.
- The Organic World Congress (OWC) is organized once every three years in a different country and this time it is being organised in India.
- The last edition of the Organic World Congress took place in Istanbul, Turkey, in 2014.
- The International Federation of Organic Farming Movements (IFOAM) and OAFI are organizing the event where 55 seeds group from 15 Indian states will showcase 4,000 varieties of seeds.
- The goal is to move from organic India to the organic world. Shri Singh said it is important to understand that India is one of the oldest organic agricultural nations of the world.

**Kerala rolls out ‘She Pad’ scheme**

In order to ensure menstrual hygiene among girls, the Kerala government rolled out the ‘She Pad’ scheme.

- The scheme will benefit female students from classes 6 to 12.
- The scheme will facilitate free sanitary napkins, storage spaces for napkins and environment-friendly incinerators at all government and aided schools in the state.

**India’s Second TISC Established at Anna University, Chennai**

The Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion (DIPP), Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Government of India, has signed an Institutional agreement with Anna University to...
establish India’s second Technology and Innovation Support Center (TISC) at the Centre for Intellectual Property Rights (CIPR), Anna University, Chennai, under the World Intellectual Property Organization’s (WIPO) TISC program.

- 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).
- CIPR has an experience of filing more than 185 Patents, 29 Trademarks, 39 Copyrights, 25 Industrial Design.

India slips to 7th position in business optimism ranking
India has slipped in ‘business optimism’ index to the 7th position in the September quarter, from the 2nd slot in the previous three months, showing clear signs of lag in the economy, says a survey.

- Indonesia is at the top, followed by Finland (2nd), the Netherlands (3rd), Philippines (4th), Austria (5th) and Nigeria (6th), as per Grant Thornton’s International Business Report (IBR).

Kiren Rijiju inaugurates the ‘India Disaster Response Summit’
The Union Minister of State for Home Affairs, Shri Kiren Rijiju has said that India need to prepare itself for moving towards Disaster Risk Management (DRM) and Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) from an approach of traditional Disaster Management.

- Shri Rijiju was inaugurating the ‘India Disaster Response Summit’, organised jointly by the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) and Facebook, on how best to leverage social media platforms to ‘prepare, respond and recover’ for, during and after a disaster.
- He emphasised that Disaster Mitigation Strategy should be areas of priority for addressing Disaster Risk Management.

Short Film Competition on Divyangjan Shashaktikaran-2017
Shri Thaawarchand Gehlot, Minister for Social Justice and Empowerment presented the Awards to the winners of ‘Short Film Competition on Divyangjan Shashaktikaran-2017’ at a felicitation event organised by Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (Divyangja) under M/o Social Justice and Empowerment in collaboration with Directorate of Film Festival.

- The award for Best Short Film was given to Suyash Shinde for Azan, Abhay Punjabi for Achala, Amit Sonkar for Tum Main aur Hum Sab and B.D. Banshkar for I know Sign Language.
- Narendra Joshi’s Sugamaya Bharat and Jyotsna Puthran’s Zebra Crossing bagged the first position in the categories of Documentary and T.V. Spot, respectively.

Modi, Hasina, Mamata flag-off Kolkata-Khulna train service
A new passenger train service between Kolkata and Bangladesh's southwestern industrial city of Khulna was flagged off by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, his Bangladesh counterpart Sheikh Hasina and the West Bengal chief minister.
• A fully air-conditioned weekly passenger train service ‘Bandhan Express’ will run every Thursday from both Kolkata and Khulna.
• On the occasion, Modi said the ties of friendship between India and Bangladesh have further strengthened.

Cabinet approves appointment of Second National Judicial Pay Commission
The Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has approved appointment of Second National Judicial Pay Commission (SNJPC) for Subordinate Judiciary in the country.
• The Commission is to be headed by Shri Justice (Retd.) P. Venkatrama Reddi, former Judge of Supreme Court of India. Shri R. Basant, a former Judge of the Kerala High Court is the Member of the Commission.
• The Commission will make its recommendations to the State Governments preferably within a period of 18 months.

Cabinet approves Creation of National Testing Agency
The Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has approved creation of National Testing Agency (NTA) as a Society registered under the Indian Societies Registration Act, 1860, and as an autonomous and self-sustained premier testing organization to conduct entrance examinations for higher educational institutions.
• The NTA would initially conduct those entrance examinations which are currently being conducted by the CBSE.
• Other examinations will be taken up gradually after NTA is fully geared up.
• The entrance examinations will be conducted in online mode at least twice a year, thereby giving adequate opportunity to candidates to bring out their best.
• In order to serve the requirements of the rural students, it would locate the centres at sub-district/district level and as far as possible would undertake hands-on training to the students.

24. India's first Military Literature Festival in Chandigarh
India’s first Military Literature Festival (MLF) will be held in Chandigarh in December as a tribute to the armed forces.
• The MLF will be held here from December 7 to 9.
• Top thinkers, authors, historians, curators and experts related to defence matters will participate in the event.

Environment ministry forms 7-member panel to monitor Delhi pollution
The environment ministry has reportedly taken action and ordered the forming of a 7-member committee to tackle the Delhi air pollution.
• The committee formed by the environment ministry will look to formulate short-term and long-term plans.
• The committee will be headed by environment secretary CK Mishra.

WCD Ministry to celebrate CCI Festival “Hausala 2017”
The Ministry of Women and Child Development will celebrate the Child Rights Week (Hausla 2017) from 16th to 20th November, 2017.
• The country celebrates the Children’s Day on 14th November and the International Child Rights Day is celebrated on 20th November every year.
• The period between the two important events will be celebrated as Child Rights Week by WCD Ministry.
by hosting an Inter CCI Festival for the children who reside in Child Care Institutions (CCIs).

**Butterfly conservatory park to come up in Gurugram**
North India's biggest Butterfly Conservatory Park will be set up in Haryana's Gurugram district to save species under threat from rapid urbanisation from going extinct.
- Butterflies thrive on flowering plants. The park will be of scientific importance and be a green area in Gurugram.

**Varanasi Tops The List of Country’s Most Polluted City**
At a time when National Capital is hitting the headlines over alarming levels of pollution, a report by the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) has found that the air quality of holy city Varanasi is most polluted among the 42 cities monitored recently.
- Varanasi’s Air Quality Index (AQI) at 4 PM was at an alarming 491, followed by Gurugram at 480, Delhi at 468, Lucknow at 462 and Kanpur at 461.
- Notably, pollution level is categorised as ‘severe’ when the AQI ranges between 401 and 500, which affects healthy people and seriously impacts those with existing diseases.

**Northeast to get India's first ever 'Air Dispensary'**
Northeast is all set to get India’s first-ever "Air Dispensary" based in a helicopter and the Union Ministry of Development of Northeast (DONER) has already contributed Rs. 25 crore as part of the initial funding for this initiative.
- As per the envisaged plan, Dr Jitendra Singh said, to begin with, helicopter will be based at two locations, namely Imphal in Manipur and Meghalaya in Shillong.
- Both of these cities have premier postgraduate medical institutes from where specialist doctors, along with the necessary equipment and paramedical staff, would be able to move into the helicopter and hold a dispensary/OPD in different locations across the eight States of North Eastern Region.
- On its way back, he said, the same helicopter can also transport a sick patient, requiring admission, to a city hospital.
- Giving an account of other new helicopter service plans for Northeast, Dr Jitendra Singh said, three twin-engine helicopters are planned to be placed for initial operation on six routes in the region around Imphal, Guwahati and Dibrugarh.
This is a pioneering attempt made by the Institute in 2010 which it followed up with the India Youth Development Index in 2017.

4th Annual India-Canada Ministerial Dialogue on Trade Held in New Delhi
The 4th India-Canada Ministerial Dialogue on Trade and Investment was held in New Delhi.

- The Indian Delegation was led by the Minister for Commerce and Industry, Shri Suresh Prabhu while the Canadian side was headed by the Minister for International Trade, Mr. François-Philippe Champagne.
- The talks were held in a friendly and encouraging atmosphere covering a host of trade and investment issues.
- Both sides recognized that the current bilateral trade is much below the potential between the two world’s robust economies, despite the huge untapped potential for two-way trade and investment.

Army Organised Youth Fest at Kishtwar
Army organised a mega event Youth Fest : 2017 on 13 Nov 2017 at the historic Chowgan ground of Kishtwar.

- The Fest was an amalgamation of varied programmes highlighting the rich culture of different regions of India and stalls of food, entertainment and games for people of all the age groups to rejoice & cherish.
- The event also encompassed display of various ethnic specialities from across the country.

Government launches BharatNet Phase II
The government launched Phase II of BharatNet project through which it aims to provide high-speed broadband connections to all panchayats by the end of 2019.

- Jio has given over Rs 13.19 crore, Airtel Rs 5 crore, Idea Cellular Rs 5 lakh and Vodafone Rs 11 lakh to take connectivity to villages in rural India.
- The government is starting the Phase II with an outlay of Rs 34,000 crore.
- Telecom secretary Aruna Sundararajan said BharatNet Phase I is 90 per cent completed. It will be fully completed by December 2017.
- Under Phase I, 1 lakh panchayats or 3 lakh villages were connected. Phase II of BharatNet is expected to connect 1.5 lakh panchayats.

Biggest Asean-India business summit in Delhi in January
Prime Minister Narendra Modi has announced that the largest so far Asean-India business and investment summit is slated to be held in New Delhi in January next year.

- Addressing the ASEAN Business and Investment Summit here, Modi also said that a conference to discuss increasing connectivity between both regions is also due to take place next month in New Delhi.
- The Prime Minister also said that work is in progress to conclude a maritime transport agreement with the Asean.
- Modi arrived on a three-day visit to the Philippines during which he will attend the 15th India-ASEAN Summit and the 12th East Asia Summit.

Dantewada holds India’s 1st Tribal Entrepreneurship Summit
India’s first Tribal Entrepreneurship Summit has been organised in Dantewada, Chhattisgarh, aiming to inspire,
nurture and promote the spirit of entrepreneurship among the tribal youth.

- Union MoS Science and Technology YS Chowdhary inaugurated the event, organized by NITI Aayog in partnership with Government of United States of America.
- The event is a part of 8th Global Entrepreneurship Summit being held in India.

West Bengal Gets GI Tag for Rosogolla
West Bengal has won a long-drawn-out battle over rasgulla when Chennai-based Geographical Indications (GI) Registry announced that one of India’s signature sweets originated in the state and not Odisha.

- Bengal and Odisha have been locked in this fight over the GI registration of rasgulla since 2015.
- West Bengal CM Mamta Benerjee expressed her happiness as Bengal has been granted GI (Geographical Indication) status for Rosogolla.

President of India inaugurates 37th India International Trade Fair-2017
The President of India, Shri Ram Nath Kovind, inaugurated the 37th India International Trade Fair (IITF) -2017 on November 14, 2017 in New Delhi.

- Speaking on the occasion, the President said that IITF is more than just a trade fair or exhibition.
- Commencing every year on November 14, it is a showcase of India on the global stage. It is also a symbol of India’s ancient and enduring commitment to international trade.
- 3,000 exhibitors, including 222 companies from abroad, are participating at IITF 2017.

Government of India launched BHARAT-22 Exchange Traded Fund
The Government of India launched has the BHARAT-22 Exchange Traded Fund (ETF) managed by ICICI Prudential Mutual Fund targeting an initial amount of about Rs.8,000 crore.

- This New Fund Offer is open till November 17, 2017. The Units of the Scheme will be allotted 25% to each category of investors.
- In this ETF, the Retirement Fund has been made separate category of Investors. In case of spill-over, additional portion will be allocated giving preference to retail and retirement funds. There is a 3% discount across the board.
- The strength of this ETF lies in the specially created Index S&P BSE BHARAT-22 INDEX.
- This Index is a unique blend of shares of key CPSEs, Public Sector Banks (PSBs) and also the Government owned shares in blue chip private companies like Larsen & Tubro (L&T), Axis Bank and ITC.

Bihar government to set up ‘State Ayush Society’
Bihar State Government gave approval for setting up a ‘State Ayush Society’ with an aim to promote the usage of alternative medicine in the state.

- Approval for setting up a ‘State Ayush Society’ was given at a State cabinet meeting chaired by Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar.
- Bihar’s ‘State Ayush Society’ will be set up as part of Central Government’s “National Ayush Mission”.

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• It will be registered under the Society Registration Act.

**India becomes world's top sulphur dioxide emitter**

INDIA is overtaking China as the world’s largest emitter of human-caused sulphur dioxide (SO2), a toxic air pollutant that causes haze and acid rain, a new study based on satellite data showed last week.

- Emissions in China have declined by 75 percent since 2007 while those in India have increased by 50 percent, according to a study published in the latest edition of journal Scientific Reports.

**Railway Minister gives directions for “comprehensive training programme”**

Under the direction of Minister of Railways & Coal, Shri Piyush Goyal, a comprehensive plan for imparting training to all employees of Indian Railways is being prepared with a view to upgrade skill & knowledge.

- This comprehensive training programme named as “Project Saksham” will help boost productivity and efficiency.
- Under this plan, all employees in each zone will be put through a week’s training in skills and knowledge relevant to their work area over next one year.
- A communication to this effect from Chairman Railway Board, Shri Ashwani Lohani, has been sent to all General Managers of zonal railways and railways production unit.

**Vice President to inaugurate Aadi Mahotsav**

The Vice President, Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu will inaugurate ‘Aadi Mahotsav’ - a fortnight long Tribal Festival with the theme of ‘A Celebration of the Spirit of Tribal Culture, Cuisine and Commerce’ on 16 Nov 2017 at Dilli Haat, INA, New Delhi.

- The inaugural function will be presided over by Minister of Tribal Affairs Shri Jual Oram.
- Ministers of State for Tribal Affairs Shri Jaswant Singh Sumanbhai Bhabhor and Shri Sudarshan Bhagat will be specially present to grace the occasion.
- Secretary, Ministry of Tribal Affairs Ms. Leena Nair, Managing Director, TRIFED Shri Pravir Krishna and other senior officials will also be present on the occasion.
- Over 750 tribal artisans from over 25 States will be participating in the festival. Aadi Mahotsav is scheduled to be organized at four venues throughout Delhi.

**Cabinet approves the establishment of the National Anti-profiteering Authority**

The Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi has given its approval for the creation of the posts of Chairman and Technical Members of the National Anti-profiteering Authority (NAA) under GST, following up immediately on sharp reduction in the GST rates of a large number of items of mass consumption.

- This paves the way for the immediate establishment of this apex body, which is mandated to ensure that the benefits of the reduction in GST rates on goods or services are passed on to the ultimate consumers by way of a reduction in prices.
- The establishment of the NAA, to be headed by a senior officer of the level of Secretary to the Government of India with four Technical Members
from the Centre and/or the States, is one more measure aimed at reassuring consumers that Government is fully committed to take all possible steps to ensure the benefits of implementation of GST in terms of lower prices of the goods and services reach them.

12th North East Business Summit inaugurated in New Delhi
The Two-day “12th North-East Business Summit” was inaugurated in New Delhi.

- The summit aims to explore the scope for business opportunities in the North-Eastern region of India.
- Focus areas are Infrastructure and Connectivity with Public Private Partnerships, Skill Development, Financial Inclusion, Services Sector Development Particularly in Tourism, Hospitality & Food Processing.
- The Summit is being organised by the Indian Chamber of Commerce (ICC), with Manipur being the state partner for the event.

India to Host Global Conference on Cyber Space 2017
India, for the first time ever, is going to host the Global Conference on Cyber Space (GCCS), one of the world’s largest conferences in the field of Cyber Space and related issues, on 23 & 24 November 2017, at Aerocity, New Delhi.

- The Hon’ble Prime Minister of India Shri Narendra Modi will inaugurate the mega event, while Smt. Sushma Swaraj, Hon’ble Minister of External Affairs will deliver the keynote address in the Valedictory function.
- Incepted in 2011 in London, second GCCS was held in 2012 in Budapest with focus on relationship between internet rights and internet security, which was attended by 700 delegates from nearly 60 countries.
- Themed on Cyber4All: A Secure and Inclusive Cyberspace for Sustainable Development, this is the fifth edition of GCCS wherein international leaders, policymakers, industry experts, think tanks and cyber experts will gather to deliberate on issues and challenges for optimally using cyber space.

R.K. Singh launches ‘Saubhagya’ Web-Portal
Shri R.K. Singh, Minister of State (IC) for Power and New & Renewable Energy, launched the Pradhan Mantri Sahaj Bijli Har Ghar Yojana – ‘Saubhagya’ Web Portal.

- The portal can be accessed at http://saubhagya.gov.in.
- Addressing the media during the event, Shri Singh said that the Saubhagya Dashboard is a platform for monitoring household electrification progress, which would disseminate information on Household Electrification Status (State, District, village-wise), Household Progress on live basis, State-wise Target vs Achievement, Monthly Electrification Progress, etc.

National Press Day: November 16
The first Press Commission had conceived a Press Council with the aim of establishing high standard in the preservation of freedom of the press and journalism in India.
As a result, the Press Council was established in India on July 4, 1966, which started its duties from November 16, 1966.

Since then, every year on November 16, it is celebrated as National Press Day.

Today there are press councils or media councils in almost 50 countries in the world. In India, the Press is called watchdog while Press Council of India is called moral watchdog.

National Press Day draws our attention to the pressures and responsibilities of the press.

President launches schemes worth Rs 3,455 cr in Jharkhand

President Ram Nath Kovind laid the foundation stones of various schemes entailing total expenditure of Rs 3,455 crore in Jharkhand to coincide with the state's 17th Foundation Day.

- Kovind launched the Rs 636-crore 'Mukhyamantri Health Insurance Scheme' under which 57 lakh of the 68 lakh families in the state will benefit. Beneficiaries will get treatment costing Rs 2 lakh under the scheme.
- The President also kicked off the Rs 290-crore '108 Ambulance' service in the state.
- Kovind launched JOHAR (Jharkhand's Opportunities for Harnessing Rural Development) schemes entailing expenditure of Rs 1,500 crore to help tribal and Dalit families double their incomes in four years.
- He also laid the foundation stones of two flyovers at Harmu and Kantatoli, which will cost Rs 490 crore.
- Jharkhand was created on November 15, the birthday of Birsa Munda who fought against the British.

Cabinet approves Rs 3,320 cr plan to boost judicial infrastructure

The Union Cabinet has approved the continuation of a centrally-sponsored scheme for the development of infrastructural facilities for the judiciary beyond the 12th Five-Year Plan till March 31, 2020.

- The scheme, with an estimated outlay of Rs 3,320 crore for the development of such infrastructure will be implemented in a mission mode through the National Mission for Justice Delivery and Legal Reforms.
- The scheme, which will continue from April 1, 2017, to March 31, 2020, will increase the number of courtrooms and residential accommodation for judges and also judicial officers of the district and subordinate courts all over the country.

Gadkari lays foundation stone for Cochin Shipyard’s Rs 970-crore Ship Repair Facility

The Minister of Shipping, Road Transport & Highways and Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation Shri Nitin Gadkari has said that Cochin is all set to become a global ship repair hub.

- He was speaking at Cochin, after laying the foundation stone for a Rs 970-crore International Ship Repair Facility (ISRF) for Cochin Shipyard Limited.
- The facility is being built at Cochin Port Trust where CSL has leased out a 40-acre plot for the project.
- Shri Gadkari also inaugurated the conference Build The Ship – 2017 organized by the Ministry of Shipping in Cochin.

Qaumi Ekta Week will be observed from November 19-25, 2017

With a view to foster and reinforce the spirit of Communal Harmony, National Integration and pride in vibrant, composite
culture and nationhood, the “Qaumi Ekta Week” (National Integration Week) will be observed all over the country, from the 19th to 25th November, 2017. The week long programmes to be observed during Qaumi Ekta Week will be as under:

- November 19, 2017 will be observed as National Integration Day and programmes like meetings, symposia and seminars will be organized to emphasize the themes of secularism, anti-communalism and non-violence.
- November 20, 2017 will be observed as Welfare of Minorities Day and Items of the 15 Point Programme are emphasized on this day. In riot prone towns, special fraternal processions are taken out.

**Maharashtra Bans Plastic Bottles at Government Offices, Hotels**
The Maharashtra government, in a bid to become plastic-free state from March 2018, has banned packaged water bottles in Mantralaya and other government offices.

- Plastic bottles of mineral water have also been banned at hotels and the regulation will soon be imposed on restaurants.

**Assam CM inaugurates Namami Barak festival**
Assam Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal inaugurated the Namami Barak festival and said that Barak and Brahmaputra rivers have the same language, that is of brotherhood, unity and harmony.

- Sonowal said the Namami Barak is not only a festival but it is a new journey to explore these parts of Assam.

- Saying this festival is organised to revive humanistic values, to discover resources and possibilities of the land.

**Indian Army to conduct joint exercise with Myanmar**
Indian and Myanmar armies will conduct their maiden joint exercise in India’s northeastern state of Meghalaya.

- Exercise “IMBAX-2017” is the first-ever military training exercise on United Nations Peacekeeping Operations (UNPKO) between the two nations, being conducted on the Indian soil.
- The five-day exercise slated to start on November 20 will be held at the newly-inaugurated state-of-the-art Joint Training Node at Umroi Cantonment, about 25 km from Shillong, the state capital of Meghalaya.

**Military medicine conference begins in Delhi**
A six-day conference on military medicine, being attended by delegates from 80 countries, began in New Delhi and will deliberate on a host of issues, including terrain specific military medical support.

- The 42nd World Congress of the International Committee of Military Medicine (ICMM) is taking place in India for the first time.
- The ICMM is an international inter-governmental organisation set up in 1921 with its secretariat at Brussels and currently has 112 nations as members.
- The theme of this 42nd World Congress is ‘Military Medicine in Transition: Looking Ahead’.

**International Seminar on Indian Space Programme inaugurated in New Delhi**
The International Seminar on Indian Space Programme: ‘Trends and Opportunities for Industry’ was inaugurated in New Delhi.
The seminar is being organised by Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), Antrix Corporation Limited (the commercial arm of ISRO), in coordination with Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI).

The objective of this two-day conference is to deliberate on the best practices, pursue the ongoing discussion process to support further work of India's Space Sector and facilitate arriving at coherent framework, where in India's Space Sector can start expanding the domestic and global opportunities through enhanced partnerships and collaborations.

Commissioning of New Electronic Interlocking at Kharagpur Junction

India’s largest state of the art, Electronic Interlocking (EI) system of 800 routes has been commissioned at Kharagpur station in West Bengal on 19th Nov 2017.

- This EI system, also one of the largest in the World, replaces the old Route Relay Interlocking system with 423 routes.
- Kharagpur Junction in West Bengal, a gateway to the Eastern Metropolis of Kolkata from the South and the West, is one of the most important Railway stations of Eastern India.
- Everyday this station deals around 116 pairs of Mail/Express, goods and suburban trains with thousands of passengers.

President inaugurated the 8th Manipur Sangai Festival

The Honourable President of India, Ram Nath Kovind has inaugurated the 8th Manipur Sangai Festival 2017.

- The goal of the festival is to double the number of attendees compared to previous festivals held since inception.

The President also inaugurated the North East Development Summit to develop the North East Region.

India becomes second largest fish producing country in the world

21st November is celebrated as a World of Fisheries Day worldwide every year.

- In India, which is the second largest fish producing country, the World Fisheries Day is being celebrated from 21st November, 2014 and it is being celebrated for the fourth consecutive year.
- The theme of this year is "2022 ka hai sapnaa...... kisan ki aay ho duguna – Sankalp se siddhi".

World Conference on Access to Medical Products and International Laws for Trade and Health


- The Health Minister further stated that there is a need for promoting industry and academia collaboration for developing affordable medical products such that innovations and advances in medical sector reach a vast population.

Cabinet approves setting up of the 15th Finance Commission
The Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi has approved the setting up of the 15th Finance Commission.

- Under Article 280 (1) of the Constitution, it is a Constitutional obligation.
- The Terms of Reference for the 15th Finance Commission will be notified in due course of time.
- Fourteen (14) Finance Commissions have been constituted in the past.
- The 14th Finance Commission was set up on 02.01.2013 to make recommendations covering the period of five years commencing on 1st April, 2015.

Cabinet approves a new scheme 'Pradhan Mantri Mahila Shakti Kendra'

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has given its approval for expansion of the schemes of Ministry of Women and Child Development under Umbrella Scheme "Mission for Protection and Empowerment for Women" for a period 2017-18 to 2019-20.

- CCEA has also given approval to the new scheme called 'Pradhan Mantri Mahila Shakti Kendra', which will empower rural women through community participation to create an environment in which they realize their full potential.
- Expansion under Beti Bachao Beti Padhao has also been approved based on the successful implementation in 161 districts.
- The financial outlay during 2017-18 to 2019-20 will be Rs.3,636.85 crore with a Central Share of approximately Rs.3,084.96 crore.

Rajasthan govt launches free learning app ‘Dishari’

Rajasthan’s Higher and Technical Education minister Kiran Maheshwari has launched ‘Dishari’ -- an educational mobile application that provides free study materials for youths preparing for competitive examinations.

- The app features interactive quizzes with questions related to mathematics, general knowledge, current affairs, computers, reasoning, and economics.

Anupriya Patel inaugurates the National Biomaterial Centre

Smt. Anupriya Patel, Minister of State (HFW) has inaugurated the National Biomaterial Centre (National Tissue Bank) at the National Organ and Tissue Transplant Organization (NOTTO).

- The main thrust & objective of this centre is to fill up the gap between ‘demand’ and ‘supply’ as well as ‘quality assurance’ in the availability of various tissues.

Exclusive 'Rural Livelihood' scheme for Northeast

The Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Development of North-Eastern Region (DoNER), MoS PMO, Personnel, Public Grievances, Pensions, Atomic Energy and Space, Dr Jitendra Singh spoke about an exclusive "Rural Livelihood" scheme for the Northeast.

- The unique scheme under the title “North East Rural Livelihood Project” is being supported by the World Bank and will primarily benefit the tribals and the lower socioeconomic groups, including women, in the North-Eastern Region (NER).
- To begin with, four states, - Mizoram, Nagaland, Sikkim and Tripura, will be taken up for helping the
tribal and even the non-tribal lower groups living in remote areas.

- The project is aimed at assisting over 10,000 Self Help Groups (SHGs) and benefit about three lakh poor households.

Prime Minister Inaugurates 5th Global Conference On Cyberspace, 2017
Shri Narendra Modi, Hon’ble Prime Minister of India inaugurated the Global Conference on Cyberspace 2017 in the Capital.

- Themed on Cyber4All: A Secure and Inclusive Cyberspace for Sustainable Development, this is the fifth edition of GCCS wherein international leaders, policymakers, industry experts, think tanks and cyber experts will gather to deliberate on issues and challenges for optimally using cyber space.
- The overall goals of GCCS 2017 are to promote the importance of inclusiveness and human rights in global cyber policy.

Government unveils Umang app for citizen services
Prime Minister Narendra Modi has launched a new mobile app -- UMANG (Unified Mobile Application for New-age Governance) which will allow citizens to access government services on a single platform.

- The services live on the app include Aadhaar, DigiLocker, Bharat Bill Payment System (BBPS) among others.
- It supports 13 Indian languages and caters to on-demand scalability. It will also soon support feature phones without internet through USSD.

TN has highest number of women entrepreneurs: Report
Tamil Nadu has the highest number of women entrepreneurs in India, followed by Kerala and West Bengal, reveals a new report.

- Nearly 80 per cent of women entrepreneurs in India are self-financing their businesses, with little utilisation of the various government schemes.
- Goa, Jammu and Kashmir, Karnataka, Rajasthan, and West Bengal have emerged as top five states offering the maximum number of schemes for women entrepreneurs, it said.

President of India to inaugurate International Gita Mahotsava-2017
The President of India, Shri Ram Nath Kovind, will inaugurate the International Gita Mahotsava-2017 on November 25, 2017 in Kurukshetra, Haryana.

- Earlier in the day, the President will visit Brahma Sarovar.
- He will also lay the foundation stone of the Gita Research Centre at Gita Gyan Sansthanam.

Punjab govt to give Rs. 75,000 aid for SC, inter-caste marriages
The Punjab government will give an assistance of Rs. 75,000 for marriages of couples belonging to the Scheduled Caste (SC) as well as the inter-caste marriages in the state.

- Under the new scheme the non-governmental organisations (NGOs), Trusts and other social welfare institutions arranging more than 10 marriages of SC and inter-caste couples will be given financial assistance to the tune of Rs 75,000 per couple.
- A sum of Rs. 60,000 would be given for purchasing household items such as utensils, furniture and gold and Rs 15,000 per couple to the organiser or
concerned organisation as consolation prize, the spokesperson added.

Multi State Mega Mock Tsunami Exercise 2017 held
The Ministry of Home Affairs through National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) and the Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS) conducted a first-of-its-kind multi-State mega mock exercise on tsunami preparedness covering the entire eastern coastline of the country.

- Simulation exercises were conducted simultaneously in 35 coastal districts across four States of West Bengal, Odisha, Andhra Pradesh & Tamil Nadu and Union Territory of Puducherry along the entire East Coast.
- It was aimed to assess and improve the early warning and response mechanism to mitigate the impact of a high-intensity tsunami.

National Law Day to be celebrated jointly by Law Commission and NITI Aayog
The National Law Day-2017 will be celebrated jointly by the Law Commission of India and NITI Aayog on 25th-26th November at Vigyan Bhawan in the capital.

- President Shri Ram Nath Kovind will inaugurate the event on 25th November while the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi will deliver the Valedictory Address on 26th November.
- The significance of the event lies in the fact that the Constitution of India was adopted by the Constituent Assembly on 26th November, 1949.

Govt to set up Pradhan Mantri Mahila Shakti Kendras in 115 districts
The Centre has approved setting up of 'Pradhan Mantri Mahila Shakti Kendras' across 115 most backward districts of the country through a new scheme for reaching out to rural women and facilitating skill development, employment, digital literacy, health and nutrition.

- The government also approved expanding the Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao scheme from 161 districts to 640 districts in the country.
- The financial outlay for these schemes from 2017 to 2020 will be Rs 3,636.85 crore.

Odisha to launch new irrigation scheme
Odisha government has decided to launch a new scheme worth Rs 635 crore to provide irrigation facility to about 55,000 hectare of agricultural land across the state.

- The scheme, “Nabakrushna Choudhury Seccha Unnayan Yojana”, has been named after former chief minister and freedom fighter Nabakrushna Choudhury.
- The scheme would be implemented with an outlay of Rs 635 crore over a period of three years.
- Under the scheme, 46,296 hectare command area of 14 major and medium irrigations and 284 minor irrigation projects will be revived.

Ajeya Warrior: India-UK to conduct third joint military exercise
The third India-United Kingdom joint army training exercise 'Ajeya Warrior' will be conducted in Rajasthan next month.

- The first exercise was conducted in 2013 at Belgaum, Karnataka, whereas for the second exercise in 2015,
an Indian Army contingent had visited the United Kingdom.

- Approximately 120 personnel from the 20th Battalion of Rajputana Rifles and the 1st Battalion of Royal Anglican Regiment of the Royal British Army will participate in the exercise.

**12th meeting of Standing Committee of Inter-State Council**
The Union Home Minister Shri Rajnath Singh chaired the 12th meeting of the Standing Committee of Inter-State Council (ISC) in New Delhi.

- He said that the meeting of the Inter State Council, which was held in July, 2016, happened after a gap of 10 years.
- Subsequent to that, meetings of the Standing Committee of the Inter-State Council are being periodically convened to lend speed and purpose to the process of harmonizing Center State relations, he said.

**Brahmos Flight test from IAF’s Su-30MKI fighter aircraft**
Brahmos, the world’s fastest supersonic cruise missile created history on 22nd Nov 2017 after it was successfully flight-tested first time from the Indian Air Force’s (IAF) frontline fighter aircraft Sukhoi-30MKI against a sea based target in the Bay of Bengal.

- Brahmos, the world-class weapon with multi-platform, multi-mission role is now capable of being launched from Land, Sea and Air.
- Brahmos is a joint venture between DRDO of India and NPOM of Russia.

**Constitution Day: 26 November**
Constitution Day, also known as Samvidhan Divas, is celebrated in India on 26 November every year to commemorate the adoption of Constitution of India.

- On this day in 1949, the Constituent Assembly of India adopted the Constitution of India, and it came into effect on 26 January 1950.
- The Government of India declared 26 November as Constitution Day on 19 November 2015 by a gazette notification.

**Defence of Andaman & Nicobar Islands Exercise (DANX-17)**
Defence of Andaman and Nicobar Islands Exercise (DANX) was conducted under the aegis of Andaman & Nicobar Command.

- The five day exercise started on 20 Nov 2017 and culminated on 24 Nov 2017.
- Main objective of the exercise was to practice & validate procedures and drills of all the Command forces aimed at defending Andaman & Nicobar Islands.

**National Milk Day: 26 November**
India celebrates National Milk Day on November 26, the birthday of Verghese Kurien, the Father of White Revolution in India.

- India credits Kurien for his billion-litre idea that made the country among the large-scale producers of milk in the world.
- The Father of Milk Revolution is also the founder of the popular dairy brand in India, Amul.
India to host International Geological Congress in 2020
India will host the 36th International Geological Congress in New Delhi in March 2020.

- Union Cabinet has approved setting up of a society which will also strive to promote geoscience in the Indian subcontinent.
- A budgetary outlay worth Rs 52 crore has already been approved by the Cabinet to carry out preparatory activities up to 2018-19.
- The Congress will be hosted jointly by the Ministry of Mines and Ministry of Earth Sciences with active support from science academies of India and co-host neighbouring countries.

Prime Minister to inaugurate Global Entrepreneurship Summit
The Global Entrepreneurship Summit is being held for the first time in South Asia in Hyderabad, India, from November 28-30.

- Co-hosted by the Governments of the United States and India, Prime Minister of India Narendra Modi will inaugurates the summit and Advisor to the President Ivanka Trump will lead the U.S. contingent to GES.
- This is the eighth edition of the Global Entrepreneurship Summit, the preeminent gathering of entrepreneurs, investors, and supporters from around the world.
- With the theme of “Women First, Prosperity for All,” this will be the first GES in which women are the majority, over 52.5 per cent, of the participants.

Odisha launches Rs 96-cr scheme to increase fish production
Odisha government has launched a scheme to boost fish production in the state with a budgetary provision of Rs 96 crore.

- The 'Fish Pond Yojana' scheme was launched by Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik, while inaugurating a workshop on 'Doubling of Farmer Income through Dairy and Allied Farming Practices' in Bhubaneswar.
- The chief minister said annual fish production in Odisha has increased from 2.60 lakh tonne to more than 6 lakh tonne in the last 17 years.

Skill India partners with Airbnb to Upskill Hospitality Entrepreneurs
A tripartite Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) and Tourism and Hospitality Sector Skill Council (THSC) with Airbnb, the world’s leading community-driven hospitality company.

- The MoU will provide hospitality skills training to hospitality micro-entrepreneurs in India.
- The signing of MoU is in line with the Government’s endeavor to promote entrepreneurship under the Government’s Skill India Programme.
- NSDC is the implementation arm of Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship.

Three day India-Afghan Cultural Festival inaugurated in New Delhi
The Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Culture, Dr. Mahesh Sharma and Minister of Culture and Information of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, His Excellency Prof. Moh. Rasool Bawari inaugurated the India-Afghan Cultural Festival in New Delhi.
The Festival has been jointly organized by the Government and Embassy of Afghanistan along with the Government of India and ICCR.

The three day festival includes cultural performances, handicrafts, exhibitions, cuisine and cultural shows from Afghanistan as well as India.

World Bank Ease of Doing Business: India ranks 100th

For the first time, India jumped 30 places to rank 100th in the World Bank ease of doing business rankings 2018.

• The 190-country index is an influential barometer of competitiveness among countries that likely also helps businesses make investment decisions.
• India, with an score of 60.76, was also among the 10 economies to have improved the most, alongside El Salvador, Malawi, Nigeria and Thailand.
• Last year the report had ranked India at 130.
• The report ranks New Zealand, Singapore and Denmark as the easiest countries in the world to do business.

Assam, Singapore sign MoU for skilling youths

The Assam government signed MoUs with its Singapore counterpart for skilling over 78,000 rural youths in the state by 2019 and greening Guwahati.

• The skill development training will be imparted to 78,500 poor rural youths during 2016-19 under the Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Grameen Kaushalya Yojana.
• Tata is most valuable brand in India

The Tata Group is India's most valuable brand, followed by Reliance and Airtel.

• Interbrand India said the Tata’s brand value is estimated at 73,944 crore. It has held on to the top position for the fifth year in a row.
• Jio’s launch has pushed Reliance to the second position (38,212 crore) and Airtel occupies the third (36,927 crore).

AIIB grants Rs. 13,000 cr loan to Andhra Pradesh

China-sponsored Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) has approved USD 2 million loan (Rs. 13,000 crores) for five project in Andhra Pradesh.

• Months ago, the state government had sent proposals to the Union Government seeking aid for five projects which includes two roads and buildings department, one each for rural safe drinking water department, municipal and urban development department and Panchayat Raj department.
• The Union Government then recommended those proposals to Asia Infra and Investment Bank for further help and clearance.

Yes Bank signs MoU with government for Rs 1,000 crore financing

Private sector lender Yes Bank has signed an agreement with the government to provide Rs 1,000 crore financing for food processing projects.

• The funding will be provided to around 100 food processing projects with an average ticket size of Rs 10 crore each, the bank said in a statement.
• The memorandum of understanding (MoU) was signed amid the ongoing three-day World Food India being organised by the Food Processing Ministry.
ONGC gets government nod for acquiring HPCL
ONGC has received the Information Memorandum from the Department of Investment and Public Asset Management for acquiring majority stake in fellow public sector undertaking HPCL.
- ONGC’s acquisition of 51.11 per cent stake in HPCL is in line with the government’s plan to create an integrated energy major with businesses spread across the hydrocarbon value chain.

ICICI Bank launches voice-based international remittance service
ICICI Bank, the country’s largest private sector bank by consolidated assets, has launched voice-based international remittance service on its Money2India application.
- This would enable a Non-Resident Indian (NRI) customer of ICICI Bank to send money to any bank in India via just a simple voice command on his/her Apple iPhone/iPad.
- ICICI Bank is the first bank in the country to leverage on Apple’s virtual voice assistant to enable cross border remittances.

Investments worth $11 bn committed during World Food India: Harsimrat Kaur
Food Processing Minister Harsimrat Kaur Badal said $11.25 billion investments were committed in the country's food processing sector during the World Food India event, and with government funds put together the total investments signed have reached $18.84 billion.
- Badal announced that a dedicated cell has been put in place to ensure each of the 50 memoranda of understandings (MoUs) signed materialise on the ground level and help boost food processing levels from the current 10 per cent.
- She also said that Maharashtra and Telangana governments announced their own food processing policy at the event and called upon other states to do so.
- The three-day World Food India saw participation from 60 countries and over 50 global CEOs.
- A Guinness World Records was also created by cooking 918 kg of Khichdi at the event.

India Post’s payments bank to open 650 branches by April-May
The government is gearing to open 650 branches of India Post Payments Bank (IPPB) by April-May next year as it looks to facilitate financial inclusion across the country, primarily in rural areas.
- As per Communications Minister Manoj Sinha, the branches are likely to be functional in all the 650 districts of the country by April-May next year and all the rural post offices will be connected to these branches.
- India has 154,000 post offices, of which 139,000 are rural post offices.

HDFC Bank makes RTGS, NEFT online transactions free
Private lender HDFC Bank has made online transactions through RTGS and NEFT free of cost, with an aim to promote a digital economy.
- However, any NEFT or RTGS transaction carried out at the bank branch will be payable.
- On the other hand, various charges for cheque-related transactions as well as request for additional leaves will get costly from early next month for non-managed savings and salary accounts.
India Signs Loan Agreement with World Bank for US$ 119 Million

A Financing Agreement for IBRD loan of US$ 119 million (equivalent) for the “Odisha Higher Education Programme for Excellence & Equity (OHEPEE) Project” was signed with the World Bank.

- The Objective of the project is to improve the quality of students equitable access to selected institutions and enhance governance of the higher education system in Odisha.
- The closing date for the project is 30th November, 2022.

HDFC Bank to set up SmartUp zones in 30 cities

HDFC Bank today announced its decision to launch SmartUp Zones in over 65 branches in 30 cities across the country where specially trained bank staff will offer tailor-made banking and advisory solutions to entrepreneurs.

- A SmartUp Zone was inaugurated in one of the bank branches in Lucknow to act as an exclusive area inside the branch to cater to the needs of start-ups and encourage entrepreneurship in the state.

IDFC Bank partners MobiKwik

On the first anniversary of demonetisation, IDFC Bank has entered into a “strategic alliance” with mobile wallet major MobiKwik to launch a co-branded virtual Visa prepaid card for customers of MobiKwik.

- One need not be a customer of IDFC Bank to use the co-branded pre-paid card.
- MobiKwik had a user base of 65 million. In the last one year, MobiKwik’s reach has increased from 1 lakh to 20 lakh merchants.

'Suno RBI Kya Kehta Hai' campaign against fake offers soon

The Reserve Bank will soon launch an awareness campaign - 'Suno RBI Kya Kehta Hai' - through SMSes to warn the public against falling prey to unsolicited and fictitious offers from fraudsters.

- The drive comes amid rising instances of fraudsters trying to dupe gullible customers by promising them lucrative financial gains and prize money through e-mails and SMSes, and even through phone calls.
- The cautionary messages will be sent from ‘RBISAY’ sender ID.

Dubai bank Emirates NBD begins operations in India

Emirates NBD, the UAE’s second-largest lender, has started operations in India.

- The Mumbai branch marks the bank’s fifth international branch outside of its UAE network.
- The bank plans to invest USD 100 million capital into its Indian operations, Emirates NBD said.

GST Council cuts tax slab for 178 items from 28% to 18%

Finance Minister Arun Jaitley that out of 228 items in the 28% tax bracket, 178 have been put into the lower tax category of 18%. It will be applicable from 15th of this month.

- Tax rate will be 5% uniform for all AC or non-AC restaurants, except those in hotels with tariffs of more than Rs. 7,500, which will continue to be taxed at 18%. Outdoor catering will be taxed at 18% with ITC.
- 23rd meeting of GST council, chaired by Union Finance Minister Arun Jaitley, was held in Guwahati.
Mumbai to host Asian Bankers Association summit
For the first time, the nation’s financial capital will host the 34th annual conference of the Asian Bankers Association (ABA).

- The two-day conference will be held in the megapolis from November 16 and will be hosted by State Bank, with the theme of ‘Asia’s turn to transform’.

YES Bank’s fintech survey to study ecosystem worldwide
YES Bank is all set to launch a first-of-its-kind fintech survey. Called India Fintech Opportunities Review, the study will cover India and a few major fintech markets in the world.

- A research initiative of YES FINTECH, which is the bank’s innovation programme to accelerate fintech start-ups, the survey will cover more than 1,000 firms globally.

UP tops in mobilising Jan Dhan a/cs
Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY), which was launched in 2014 to further the financial-inclusion process in the country, seems to have gathered momentum in some northern States post demonetisation.

- With its area and size of population, Uttar Pradesh tops in opening new PMJDY accounts after demonetisation.
- In fact, one-fifth of the more than five crore new PMJDY accounts in the Indian banking system came from Uttar Pradesh alone.

International solar alliance to support setting up 1000 GW of solar energy capacity
The International Solar Alliance announces a target to support setting up 1000GW of solar energy capacity by 2030 across its member countries.

- This initiative by India to harness the untapped resource of sunshine-rich countries between the Tropics of Cancer and Capricorn was backed by the France, and was launched at the Paris climate talks in 2015.
- Sixteen countries have ratified the framework agreement of the International Solar Alliance (ISA) and it will come into force on December 6, when it will recognized as a UN treaty body.

Centre lifts restrictions on export of all types of pulses
The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs gave its approval for removing the prohibition on the export of all types of pulses to give the farmers greater choice in marketing their produce for improved incomes.

- The CCEA also empowered the committee chaired by Secretary, Department of Food and Public Distribution, to review the export or import policy on pulses.

Toyota Kirloskar signs MoU with AP govt
Andhra Pradesh government and Toyota Kirloskar Motor Private Limited signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) to undertake a feasibility study on the introduction of electric vehicles and the necessary systems and infrastructure required for the move.

- Toyota Kirloskar managing director Akito Tachibana said the collaboration with the state government is intended to find out the suitable types of electric vehicles (EVs) and systems that are required to create an ecosystem for the Electric Vehicles in the state and the country.
RBL Bank opens all women branch in Chennai
Private sector RBL Bank has set up an all women branch in Chennai.
- The branch at R A Puram, would be managed by eight women and offer all products and services across liability and assets.

Reliance Capital arm, YES Bank in bancassurance pact
Reliance General Insurance, a subsidiary of Reliance Capital, has signed a comprehensive bancassurance-corporate agency agreement with YES Bank.
- YES Bank with its network of 1,040 branches across all 29 States and seven Union Territories will enable Reliance General Insurance to reach a large base of retail and MSME clients.
- This is the first partnership signed by YES Bank since the open-architecture norms under the corporate agency regulations were introduced by the IRDAI in April 2016.

Moody's ups ratings of SBI, HDFC Bank, Exim India, IRFC
Moody’s Investors Service upped the long-term ratings of four Indian financial institutions including SBI and HDFC Bank by a notch to Baa2 following the upgrade of the country’s sovereign rating to the same level.
- The four institutions with revised rating are Export-Import Bank of India (EXIM India), HDFC Bank, Indian Railway Finance Corporation Limited (IRFC) and State Bank of India (SBI), Moody’s said in a statement.
- In the case of HDFC Bank, the rating agency has also upgraded the bank’s baseline credit assessment (BCA) and adjusted it to Baa2 from Baa3.

PNB, ACE tie-up for farm machinery financing
Punjab National Bank (PNB) and Action Construction Equipment Ltd (ACE) have tied up for augmenting tractors/agricultural implements financing to the farmers across the country through PNB’s branch network.
- This tie-up will enable PNB to facilitate the availability of quality farm machinery equipment to its farmer base at an interest rate of 9.2 percent per annum.
- For ACE, the tie-up will enable to tap into P

'India moves up one notch to 126 in GDP per capita terms'
India has moved up one position to 126th in terms of GDP per capita of countries, still ranked lower than all its BRICS peers.
- The data ranks over 200 countries in terms of per capita GDP based on purchasing power parity (PPP).
- Qatar remains top-ranked with per capita GDP of USD 1,24,930.

Indian Oil sets up India's first electric vehicle charging station in Nagpur
State-owned Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) announced launch of nation’s first electric vehicle charging in Nagpur.
- IOC, in collaboration with Ola, launched the country’s first electric charging station at one of its petrol-diesel stations in Nagpur.
- Nagpur is the first city to introduce Electric Public Transportation Model in India.

India Signs Loan Agreement with World Bank for USD 100 Million
A Guarantee Agreement for IBRD/CTF loan of USD 98 million and Grant Agreement for USD 2 million for the “Shared Infrastructure for Solar Parks Project” was signed with the World Bank.
The project consists of two components viz. (i) Shared Infrastructure for Solar Parks (estimated total project cost of USD 100 million, including USD 75 million in IBRD loan and USD 23 million in CTF Loan) and (ii) Technical Assistance (USD 2 million in CTF Grant).

The objective of the project is to increase solar generation capacity through establishment of large-scale parks in the country.

**Andhra Bank launches scheme to push entrepreneurship**

Andhra Bank has launched a new scheme for self-help groups (SHGs) to encourage entrepreneurship.

- The scheme, Pattabhi Sitaramayya — Self Business Group (PS-SBG), has been introduced to commemorate the 138th birth anniversary of its founder Bhogaraju Pattabhi Sitaramayya, and the Silver Jubilee of the SHG-Bank linkage programme in the country.
- Under the scheme, SHGs having five years of association with Andhra Bank with good repayment record will be eligible for a loan.

**SBI biggest bank by volume of SMSes: Report**

The State Bank of India (SBI) is the biggest bank by volume of SMSes, with 30 per cent of Truecaller users using it, followed by HDFC at 14 per cent and ICICI at 13 percent, a new report claimed.

- According to the Truecaller Insights’ report, Axis Bank at 9 per cent and ING Vysya at 8 per cent are at fourth and fifth places respectively.
- Global banks such as Citi Bank and Standard Chartered have only about one per cent of the total transaction volume, the report said.

**Cabinet approves India’s Membership for EBRD**

The Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi has approved India's Membership for European Bank for Reconstruction & Development (EBRD)

- Necessary steps will be initiated by the Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance to acquire the membership of the EBRD.
- Membership of EBRD would enhance India's international profile and promote its economic interests.

**Government sets up a panel to draft new direct tax law**

The government has constituted a task force for redrafting the 50-year old income tax law in sync with the economic needs of the country.

- The six-member task force will have Arbind Modi, CBDT Member (Legislation) as the Convener and other members, including Girish Ahuja (chartered accountant), Rajiv Memani (Chairman and Regional Managing Partner of EY) and Mansi Kedia (Consultant, ICRIER).
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi, during the annual conference of tax officers in September, had observed that the Income-tax Act, 1961 was drafted more than 50 years ago and it needs to be redrafted.
- Chief Economic Adviser Arvind Subramanian will be a permanent special invitee in the task force.

**BRICS bank approves $400 million loans for India, Russia**

The Shanghai-based BRICS New Development Bank (NDB) has approved two infrastructure and sustainable development projects in India and Russia with loans of $400 million.

- The loans will be used to rehabilitate the Indira Gandhi canal system in India and to build a toll
transport corridor connecting Ufa city centre to the M-5 federal highway in Russia.

**Points to Remember**
- The NDB was set up with an initial authorized capital of $100 billion after leaders of Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa (BRICS) agreed on its establishment during the 6th BRICS Summit in Fortaleza, Brazil, in 2014.
- The bank officially opened in 2015.

**Axis Bank and Mumbai Police Launch new Campaign #MuhPeTaala**

During the International Fraud Awareness week, Axis Bank in association with Mumbai Police has launched its latest campaign #MuhPeTaala to promote safe banking.

- The aim of campaign is to raise awareness about how to keep oneself safe from falling prey to fraudulent calls asking information such as pin code, CVV, OTP etc.
- #MuhPeTaala is the mantra that needs to be followed to prevent cyber banking crimes.

**SBI launches omni digital channel for all banking transactions**

State Bank of India (SBI) has launched comprehensive digital service platform ‘You Only Need One’ which is an omni digital platform that offers everything related to financial services and lifestyle products or services.

- The bank spends close to Rs 3000 crore on information technology and if the cost of setting up ATM is taken into account the cost is over RS 6000 crore.

**India to help Mauritius on digital locker**

The Government of India will assist Mauritius to develop and set up digital locker services, a top official said.

- The government will offer technical support and advisory services to Mauritius.
- Besides, in similar separate meetings with Iran and Denmark, it had been decided to collaborate on issues related to IT.

**Points to Remember**
- Mauritius is an island nation in the Indian Ocean.
- Port Louis is the capital of Mauritius while rupee is the currency.
- Ameenah Gurib is the President of Mauritius while Pravind Jugnauth is the Prime Minister.

**Asian Development Bank to provide $20 billion loan to India over five years**

Asian Development Bank (ADB) said it will raise annual funding to India to up to $4 billion from existing $2.7 billion, from next year.

- As part of ADB’s Country Partnership Strategy 2018-22, annual sovereign funding will increase from $2 billion to $3 billion while private sector funding would be doubled to $1 billion.

**India pledges $2.87m to strengthen public transport in Afghanistan**

India has pledged to contribute about USD 2.87 million to Afghanistan in its latest financial assistance to the neighbouring country.

- The assistance will be used to repair around 350 public buses in the country.
- India has helped Afghanistan time and again in its reconstruction since the fall of the Taliban regime.
L&T bags EPC order for 400 mw power plant in Bangladesh

Industrial conglomerate Larsen and Toubro (L&T) said it has bagged an engineering, procurement, construction (EPC) order for a 400 megawatt (MW) gas-based power plant in Bangladesh.

- Bangladesh Power Development Board (BPDB) has awarded the contract for setting up Bibiyana South 400 mw combined cycle power plant project to a consortium of L&T and Samsung C&T Corp of South Korea.

Karnataka Bank ties up with BCG for transformation initiatives

Karnataka Bank Ltd has partnered with the Boston Consulting Group (India) Pvt Ltd for its transformation initiatives.

- The transformation project -- ‘KBL Vikaas’ -- was launched in Mangaluru.
- A press release said that the project is aimed at total transformation of the bank by re-positioning it as a ‘relevant and significant bank’ by focusing on technology and by keeping intact its core values and identity.

Arun Jaitley launches Paytm Payments Bank

A new Payments Bank 'Paytm Payments Bank' was formally launched at the hands of the Union Finance Minister Arun Jaitley.

- Currently, India has four Payments Bank including Paytm Payments Bank. The other three operational ones are Airtel Payments Bank, India Post Payments Bank and Fino Payments Bank.
- A payments bank is a differentiated bank. A customer can open a savings bank account in them and have deposits of upto Rs 1 lakh. These banks cannot however lend money to their customers.

Competition Commission slaps Rs 52-crore penalty on BCCI

The Competition Commission has imposed a fine of Rs 52.24 crore on the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) for anti-competitive practices with respect to IPL media rights.

- Earlier in 2013 also, the watchdog had penalised the cricket board.
- In its 44-page order, the Competition Commission of India (CCI) said the penalty of Rs 52.24 crore comes to nearly 4.48 per cent of the average of the BCCI’s relevant turnover during the last three financial years.
- In February 2013, the watchdog had slapped a fine of Rs 52.24 crore on the BCCI.

Shinzo Abe re-elected as Japanese PM

Following snap polls, Japan’s Lower House of Parliament has re-elected Shinzo Abe of the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) as the Prime Minister.

- Abe’s party won the snap elections held on October 22.
- The 63-year-old leader, received 312 votes in favour, out of 465 in the House of Representatives.
- Abe, as leader of the LDP, has now been re-elected for a third consecutive term after he took office in December 2012.

Suresh Chukkapalli appointed as Consul General of Korea
Suresh Chukkapalli, Chairman of Phoenix Group of Hyderabad, has been appointed as Honorary Consul General in Hyderabad by the Republic of Korea, with consular jurisdiction over the state of Telangana.

- The Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, notified the same recently.
- Suresh Chukkapalli will be given charge formally on November 1 at a ceremony in New Delhi.

**Appointment of Shri Nasir Kamal as Additional Director General, BSF**

The competent authority has appointed Shri Nasir Kamal, IPS (UP:86) as Additional Director General, Border Security Force.

- He has been appointed for a period of four years from the date of assumption of charge of the post or until further orders, whichever is earlier.

**Mary Kom named Youth World Championships ambassador**

Five-time world champion MC Mary Kom was named ambassador of the AIBA Women’s Youth World Championships to be held in Guwahati from November 19 to 26.

- Besides five world titles, Mary Kom also has an Olympic bronze medal to her credit.

**Revenue Secretary Hasmukh Adhia designated Finance Secretary**

Revenue Secretary Hasmukh Adhia has been designated as the new Finance Secretary.

- Adhia is a 1981 batch IAS officer of Gujarat cadre.
- The vacancy was caused following the superannuation of Ashok Lavasa last month.

- There are five departments under the Finance Ministry — Expenditure, Economic Affairs, Financial Services, Revenue and Department of Investment and Public Asset management (DIPAM).
- IAS officer Rajiv Kumar of 1984 batch is the Financial Services Secretary. Ajay Narayan Jha is Expenditure Secretary and Neeraj Kumar Gupta Secretary, DIPAM. Both are 1982 batch IAS officers.
- Subhash Chandra Garg, a 1983 batch IAS officer, is Economic Affairs Secretary.

**Govt sets up panel to probe NTPC blast**

The Union power ministry set up a high-level committee to investigate the 1 November blast at state-run NTPC Ltd’s Unchahar power plant in Raebareli and suggest measures to prevent such incidents.

- The committee, headed by P.D. Siwal, member-thermal at the Central Electricity Authority (CEA), will submit its report within a month.
- The blast occurred in the boiler area of the recently commissioned 500 megawatts (MW) unit of the 1,550MW coal-fuelled plant.

**Union minister Alphans elected unopposed to Rajya Sabha**

Union Minister of State for Tourism and BJP leader Alphans Kannathanam was elected unopposed to the Rajya Sabha from Rajasthan.

- The seat fell vacant after M Venkaiah Naidu’s election as the country’s vice president on August 5.
- Secretary of the legislative assembly Prithvi Raj said Kannathanam was elected unopposed as no other nomination was filed for the seat.
Debjani Ghosh is next Nasscom President
The National Association of Software and Service Companies (Nasscom) has appointed Debjani Ghosh, former MD, Intel South Asia, as its President-Designate.

- Ghosh will be succeeding R Chandrashekhar whose tenure will come to an end in March.
- Ghosh has held other posts at Nasscom in the past. She has been a member of company’s executive council and a trustee of Nasscom Foundation.

Tulsi Gabbard named chairperson of World Hindu Congress 2018
Tulsi Gabbard, the first Hindu lawmaker in the US Congress, has been named as the chairperson of the World Hindu Congress to be held in Chicago next year.

- Held once every four years, World Hindu Congress (WHC) is a global platform for Hindus to connect, share ideas, inspire one another and impact the common good.
- Organised by the World Hindu Foundation, the first Congress was held in New Delhi in 2014. The second WHC will take place in Illinois in Chicago from September 7 to 9 next year.

Ravi Bangar is the next Ambassador of India to Ecuador
Shri Ravi Bangar, (IFS: 1982) has been concurrently accredited as the next Ambassador of India to Ecuador, with residence in Bogota.

- He is expected to take up the assignment shortly. He is presently Ambassador of India to Colombia.

BSE appoints S Ravi as its new chairman
Eminent chartered accountant Sethurathnam Ravi has been appointed as the chairman of the leading stock exchange BSE.

- Ravi, who was a public interest director at the BSE, replaces Dhirendra Swarup.
- Presently, Ravi serves as a director on boards of various companies such as UTI Trustee Company.

RBI governor Urjit Patel appointed on BIS advisory board
RBI Governor Urjit Patel was appointed to the Financial Stability Institute Advisory Board of the Bank of International Settlement (BIS), a global financial organisation owned by major central banks from across the world.

- The Financial Stability Institute (FSI) of the BIS assists financial sector authorities worldwide in strengthening their financial systems.
- Since the beginning of 2017, the FSI has been implementing a new strategy that includes achieving closer interaction with central banks and financial supervisory agencies, which are its main stakeholders.

Slovenia’s President Pahor wins second term in close race
Slovenian President Borut Pahor was re-elected for a second term in a runoff vote, beating his challenger in a tight race.

- Pahor had won about 53 percent of the vote, with 99.9 percent of the votes counted, while his opponent, ex-comedian Marjan Sarec, had 47 percent.

India’s nominee Dalveer Bhandari re-elected to ICJ
India’s nominee to the International Court of Justice (ICJ) Dalveer Bhandari was re-elected to the fifth and the last seat of the world court after Britain withdrew its candidate from the election.

- Mr. Bhandari received 183-193 votes in the General Assembly and secured all the 15 votes in the Security
Council after separate and simultaneous elections were held at the UN headquarters in New York.

**Rahul Rawail appointed as IFFI acting chairperson**
Six days after Sujoy Ghosh quit as chairperson of IFFI Indian Panorama section following the controversy over the removal of two films from the final selection, veteran director Rahul Rawail has been appointed as the acting chairperson.

- Ghosh stepped down as the jury chief of Indian Panorama section after Malayalam movie S Durga and Marathi film Nude were removed from the festival.

**South African Indian-origin appointed UNAIDS Special Ambassador**
Acclaimed South African Indian-origin AIDS researcher Professor Quarraisha Abdool Karim has been appointed as a UNAIDS Special Ambassador for Adolescents and HIV.

- Professor Abdool Karim is one of the world's leading AIDS researchers and has made pioneering contributions to understanding the HIV epidemic among young people, especially among young women.
- She is a strong advocate for the rights of people living with and affected by HIV.

**Shubhangi Swaroop becomes Indian Navy’s first woman pilot**
In a first, a woman has been inducted as a pilot in the Indian Navy.

- Shubhangi Swaroop, who hails from Uttar Pradesh, will soon be flying Maritime Reconnaissance aircraft.

- Three other women cadets, Astha Segal from New Delhi, Roopa A from Puducherry and Sakthi Maya S from Kerala, also created history by becoming the country's first women officers at the Naval Armament Inspectorate (NAI) branch of the Navy.

**Emmerson Mnangagwa sworn in as the president of Zimbabwe**
Emmerson Mnangagwa has been sworn in as the third president of Zimbabwe since the country gained independence in 1980, taking the oath of office in front of 70,000 people in Harare.

- The 75-year-old former spy chief was fired by Robert Mugabe as vice-president nearly three weeks ago, a tactical error by the ageing autocrat that triggered a military takeover, his impeachment by parliament, and finally his resignation.

**Nirmala Sitharaman elected IDSA President**
Defence Minister Nirmala Sitharaman has been elected President of the Institute for Defence Studies and Analysis (IDSA).

- Sitharaman's election, held November 23, was unanimous.

**Points to Remember**
- IDSA was set up in 1965 by the Ministry of Defence as an autonomous think tank, and it is customary to have the Defence Minister as its President.
- The Minister chairs the Executive Council which governs the Institute.

**NK Singh appointed chairman of 15th Finance Commission**
The government has announced that former revenue secretary NK Singh will be the chairman of the 15th Finance
Commission (FC) that will recommend distribution of taxes between the Centre and the states.

- Other members of the Commission are former economic affairs secretary Shaktikanta Das, former chief economic adviser Ashok Lahiri, Niti Aayog member Ramesh Chand and Georgetown University Adjunct Professor Anoop Singh.
- Finance Commission is a body set up under Article 280(1) of the Constitution.
- The recommendations of the previous 14th Finance Commission, chaired by former Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Governor Y V Reddy, are valid from 2015 to 2020.
- The recommendations of the 15th Finance Commission will be implemented for the period starting 1 April 2020 to 31 March 2025.

Snehlata appointed first woman Lok Sabha Secretary General
Snehlata Shrivastava has been appointed as the new Secretary General of the Lok Sabha, a notification issued by the secretariat of the lower house said.
- She will be the first woman secretary general of the Lok Sabha and will assume charge on December 1.
- Her tenure will end on November 30, 2018.
- She will take over a day after current incumbent Anup Mishra relinquishes charge.
- Rama Devi holds the distinction of the being the first woman secretary general of the Rajya Sabha.

Shaktikanta Das named India’s G20 Sherpa
The Ministry of Finance has appointed former economic affairs secretary Shaktikanta Das as India’s G20 Sherpa till December 31, 2018 for the Development Track of the grouping.

- There are two tracks in G-20 — Finance Track and Development Track.
- Finance Track is managed by the economic affairs secretary as India’s Deputy to G-20 and the Development Track is coordinated by the Sherpa.

Pradeep Singh Kharola appointed as Air India CMD
Senior IAS officer Pradeep Singh Kharola has been appointed as the Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) of Air India.
- Mr. Kharola, a Karnataka cadre officer, would replace Rajiv Bansal, who has been serving as the interim CMD for a little over three months.

B.N. Sharma apointed Chairman of the National Anti-profiteering Authority
In an immediate follow up action of last week's Cabinet approval for creation of the posts of Chairman and Technical Members of the National Anti-profiteering Authority under GST, the Government has issued orders appointing senior IAS officer Shri B.N. Sharma, as the first Chairman of this apex Authority in the rank of Secretary to Government of India.
- Shri B.N. Sharma, an IAS officer of 1985 batch belonging to Rajasthan cadre, is currently posted as Additional Secretary in the Department of Revenue, Ministry of Finance.
- Shri B.N. Sharma has been closely associated with the formulation of GST and its implementation.

Uhuru Kenyatta sworn in as Kenyan president for second term
Uhuru Kenyatta was sworn in as president of Kenya following two disputed polls and waves of deadly protests.
- The official results, published on 11 August, give Kenyatta 54.27 percent to Odinga's 44.74 percent.
A fresh election is held on 26 October after protest, with Kenyatta winning 98 percent of the vote as Odinga's call for a boycott is held.

Mumbai’s Royal Opera House bags UNESCO heritage award
Almost a year after it reopened, Charni Road’s Royal Opera House has been awarded the UNESCO Asia-Pacific Award for Cultural Heritage Conservation.

- The building was closed to the public in 1993, and sat crumbling for years, before a restoration project was undertaken eight years ago to replicate the heritage structure.
- It was originally inaugurated by Britain’s King George V in 1911 and completed in 1916.

Hindi writer Krishna Sobti chosen for Jnanpith Award
Renowned Hindi littérateur Krishna Sobti has been chosen for this year’s Jnanpith Award, the Jnanpith Selection Board announced.

- She was born in 1925 in Gujrat in Pakistan’s Punjab Province
- Some of her celebrated works include Daar Se Bichhudi, Mitro Marjani, Zindaginama, Dil-o-Danish, Badalom ke Ghere, Ai Ladki and Gujarat Pakistan Se Gujrat Hindustan.

Tata Power Solar bags Dun & Bradstreet award
Tata Power Solar has won ‘Dun & Bradstreet - Everest Infra Awards 2017’ under Infrastructure Project category for commissioning India's largest solar project under Domestic Content Requirement for NTPC at Anantapur in Andhra Pradesh.

- The 100-MW project is expected to generate nearly 160 million units (kWh) of energy per year and help offset approximately 110,000 tonnes of CO2 in the first year.

Air New Zealand named airline of the year
Air New Zealand has been named Airline of the Year for 2018.

- AirlineRatings.com has honoured the airline with its most prestigious award for the fifth consecutive year.
- The Airline Excellence Awards judge airlines on 12 key criteria, including fleet age, passenger reviews, profitability, investment rating, product offerings and staff relations.

Sri Ranganathaswamy Temple Honoured With UNESCO Award
Tamil Nadu’s historic Sri Ranganathaswamy Temple in Srirangam became a national symbol of conserving cultural heritage after bagging an Award of Merit from UNESCO.

- Tamil Nadu’s historic Sri Ranganathaswamy Temple in Srirangam became a national symbol of conserving cultural heritage after bagging an Award of Merit from UNESCO.
Conservation, the Sri Ranganathaswamy Temple is the only religious centre in the whole of South India to bag the award in 2017.

- On a side note, the famous Christ Church in Mumbai and Royal Bombay Opera House are the other historic Indian monuments that received the Award of Merit this year, in addition to the temple.

**Surat gets Best City Bus Services Award of Government of India**

Surat Municipal Corporation has been chosen for the ‘Best City Bus Services Award’ by the Union Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs for succeeding in attracting 87% of the private vehicle and auto rickshaw users to use city buses.

- Mysuru’s Public Bicycle Sharing has won the ‘Best Non-Motorised Transport’ Award while Kochi (Kerala) has been chosen for the ‘Best Urban Transport Initiative’ Award for completing its Metro Rail Project in a quick time besides integrating the metro with other modes of transport.
- H-TRIMS of Hyderabad, the Traffic Integrated Management initiative has been chosen for the ‘Commendable Initiative Award’ under ‘Best Intelligent Transport Project’ category.
- Chittor has been chosen for the ‘Commendable Initiative Award’ for the city police’s initiative for improving road safety.

**AMHI wins ‘General Insurance Company of the Year’**

Apollo Munich Health Insurance Company, a joint venture between integrated healthcare provider, Apollo Hospitals Group, and the Munich Re Group was conferred with the 21st Asia Insurance Industry Awards in the "General Insurance Company of the Year" category.

- The award recognises Apollo Munich's contribution in demonstrating market leadership during the qualifying period via innovation in products, services, practices etcetera.

**Israel honors Natalie Portman with ‘Jewish Nobel Prize’**

Natalie Portman has been awarded Israel’s 2018 Genesis Prize in recognition of her commitment to social causes and deep connection to her Jewish and Israeli roots.

- The $1 million award, known as “the Jewish Nobel Prize,” is granted each year to a person recognised as an inspiration to the next generation of Jews through professional achievement and commitment to Jewish values.
- The Genesis Prize noted Ms. Portman’s social activism in areas such as gender equality, combatting poverty, microfinance and animal rights.

**Maya Swaminathan Sinha awarded Entrepreneur of the Year**

ASSOCHAM (Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India) on 31st October 2017 bestowed CMC Skills’ Founder Ms. Maya Swaminathan Sinha with the ‘Entrepreneur of the Year Award 2017’ in Ranchi.

- The award was presented by Hon'ble Governor of Jharkhand, Smt. Draupadi Murmu.
- ASSOCHAM the apex body of industry & commerce of India had organized “One Day National Summit on Leadership Cum Awards 2017” on 31st October 2017 at Hotel BNR Chanakya, Ranchi.

**Chennai gets UNESCO recognition for music**
Chennai, often called as cultural capital of South India, joined the elite club of world cities when it was included in Creative Cities Network (CCN) of Unesco for its contributions to music.

- The city joins two other cities in India - Jaipur and Varanasi - to have figured in the prestigious list for their contributions to music and folk arts.
- CCN currently has 116 member cities from 54 countries, covering various fields.

Girija Devi to get posthumous Lifetime Achievement award
Eminent classical singer late Girija Devi will be honoured with the prestigious Sumitra Charat Ram Award for Lifetime Achievement.

- The award will be presented by Hardeep Singh Puri, Minister of State (Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs) to the thumri maestro's daughter, Sudha Datta, at Kamani Auditorium.

National Entrepreneurship Award 2017 under Mentor Category
Dr. Renu Swarup, Senior Adviser in the Department of Biotechnology, Ministry of Science & Technology has been awarded with National Entrepreneurship Award, 2017 under Mentor (Government) category in the Recognition Track.

- Union Finance Minister Shri Arun Jaitley presented the awards at the National Entrepreneurship Award Ceremony, 2017 in New Delhi.
- Dr Renu Swarup is presently Senior Adviser for Department of Biotechnology (DBT), Ministry of Science & Technology.

- She also holds position of Managing Director, Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council (BIRAC), a Public Sector Company.

UNHCR to get Mother Teresa Award 2017 for social justice
The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) has been named as the recipient of the Mother Teresa Memorial Award for Social Justice, 2017 as an acknowledgement of its exceptional work worldwide.

- The UNHCR provides humanitarian aid to innumerable people internally displaced by conflicts and helping stateless people all over the world,
- Harmony Foundation has instituted the only official award in memory of Mother Teresa, who attained sainthood in September 2016.

NINL gets prestigious Kalinga Safety Award
Neelachal Ispat Nigam Limited (NINL) received the prestigious "Kalinga Safety Award" in the 8th Odisha State Safety Conclave.

- The Odisha-based NINL got the award in gold category for best safety performer of the year 2016.
- The Odisha State Safety Conclave was organised by Institute of Quality and Environment Management Services (IQEMS) and institute of Public Enterprises.

Dipa Karmakar honoured with D.Litt. by NIT Agartala
India's star gymnast Dipa Karmakar has been conferred a D.Litt. degree from the National Institute of Technology (NIT) Agartala.

- The 24-year-old Tripura girl is the first Indian woman gymnast to have qualified for the Olympics.
• She finished fourth in the final round of the women's vault event at the Rio Olympics Games in Brazil last year.

Indonesia's Kevin Lilliana Crowned as Miss International 2017
Indonesia's Kevin Lilliana was crowned Miss International 2017 on November 14.
• The coronation night was held at the Tokyo Dome City Hall in Japan.
• This is the first Miss International title for Indonesia.

Canada Has Been Declared The World's Best Travel Destination For 2017
Major travel publication Travel+Leisure has named Canada 'the destination of the year' in their recent feature.
• The selection was based on data from polls conducted on travel agents, arrival statistics and cultural relevance.

Rashtriya Bal Kalyan Award presented to Super-30 founder
President Ram Nath Kovind awarded this year’s “Rashtriya Bal Kalyan Award” to Super 30 founder Anand Kumar for his contributions in the field of teaching and education.
• Mr. Kumar’s Super 30 coaching institute has been providing free education, accommodation and food to students coming from the underprivileged section of society to crack the prestigious IIT entrance examination.

Kamal Haasan and Rajinikanth win NTR National Film Award
Veteran actors Kamal Haasan, Rajinikanth and film director K. Raghvendra Rao have bagged the NTR National Film Awards for 2014, 2015 and 2016 respectively.
• The government had not announced the awards since 2014, due to the split of Andhra Pradesh into two and the formation of Telangana.

India's Manushi Chhillar Wins Miss World 2017
India's Manushi Chhillar won the Miss World beauty pageant for the year 2017.
• The win comes 17 years after Priyanka Chopra brought home the coveted title in the year 2000.
• Stephanie Hill, who is Miss England was the first runner up and Miss Mexico Andrea Meza was second runner up.

Former PM Manmohan Singh to get Indira Gandhi peace prize
Former prime minister Manmohan Singh will receive the Indira Gandhi Prize for Peace, Disarmament and Development this year for his leadership of the country between 2004 and 2014.
• Singh was unanimously chosen for the award by an international jury chaired by ex-president Pranab Mukherjee.
• Singh, who as the governor of the Reserve Bank of India and the finance minister in the government headed by P V Narasimha Rao, played a pivotal role in ushering economic reforms
• The international award named after former prime minister Indira Gandhi was instituted in 1986.
International Film Festival of India (IFFI) inaugurated in Goa
The 48th edition of International Film Festival of India (IFFI 2017) was inaugurated by Shah Rukh Khan on 20 November at the Dr Shyama Prasad Mukherjee stadium in Bambolim, Goa.

- Megastar Amitabh Bachchan will be honoured with the Indian Film Personality of the Year Award at the event, while Canadian director Atom Egoyan will receive Lifetime Achievement Award.
- Union Information and Broadcasting Minister Smriti Irani and Goa Chief Minister Manohar Parrikar among others, were present at the event.
- The International Film Festival of India (IFFI), founded in 1952, is one of the most significant film festivals in Asia.

‘Newton’ wins 2 honours at Asia Pacific Screen Awards
India’s Oscar entry “Newton” secured two wins at the Asia Pacific Screen Awards in Brisbane, with Rajkummar Rao winning the best actor and Mayank Tewari and Amit V Masurkar claiming the best screenplay honour.

- Manipuri movie “Lady of the Lake” won a special mention.
- Indian director Sanal Kumar Sasidharan was nominated in the achievement in directing category for his Malayalam movie “S Durga”, which is in the news for being excluded from the Indian Panorama section of the ongoing 48th International Film Festival in Goa.

Nayantara Sahgal gets Lifetime Achievement Award
Acclaimed writer Nayantara Sahgal was presented a Lifetime Achievement Award at Times Lit Fest 2017.

- The writer of the immensely popular novel Rich Like Us, is the winner of the Sahitya Akademi Award in 1986.

Golden Temple awarded ‘most visited place of the world’
The Golden Temple has been awarded the ‘most visited place of the world’ by ‘World Book of Records’ (WBR), a London-based organisation that catalogues and verifies world records.

- General secretary of India chapter, Surbhi Kaul, and president of Punjab chapter, Randeep Singh Kohli, gave this award to SGPC chief secretary Roop Singh and other senior officials at Teja Singh Samundari Hall.

Demi-Leigh Nel-Peters is crowned Miss Universe 2017
Miss South Africa Demi-Leigh Nel-Peters has been crowned Miss Universe 2017.

- Nel-Peters beat out first runner-up Miss Colombia Laura González and second runner-up Miss Jamaica Davina Bennett for the crown in Las Vegas.
- Nel-Peters, 22, recently earned her degree in business management at North-West University.

Health Ministry wins Bronze Medal at the India International Trade Fair 2017
Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has been awarded the Bronze Medal for its creative and informative display at the
37th India International Trade Fair 2017 being held at Pragati Maidan.

- The Health Ministry pavilion highlighted programmes and initiatives of the Health Ministry such as Mission Indradhanush for expanding full immunization coverage, introduction of new vaccines, Pradhan Mantri Matri Suraksha Yojana (PMSMA), Mother’s Absolute Affection (MAA) for encouraging breastfeeding, Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojana (PMSSY) for strengthening the tertiary health sector.

President of India confers 3rd ICCR Distinguished Indologist award

The President of India, Shri Ram Nath Kovind, conferred the 3rd ICCR Distinguished Indologist Award on Professor Hiroshi Marui of Japan at a function held at Rashtrapati Bhavan.

- The President congratulated Professor Hiroshi Marui for receiving the Distinguished Indologist Award and thanked him for his exemplary contribution to Indology.
- He said that Professor Marui has spent over 40 years working on Indian philosophy and Buddhist Studies.

Ishaan Khatter Wins Best Actor Award at Turkish Film Fest

Ishaan Khatter was named the Best Actor for his debut film Beyond The Clouds at the International Bosphorus Film Festival in Turkey.

- Beyond The Clouds was the opening movie of the 48th International Film Festival of India (IFFI) on November 20.

Ministry of Water Resources pavilion bags Gold Medal in ITF – 2017


- Large number of visitors including students and youths visited the pavilion and showed keen interest in the exhibits. Several quiz competitions were organised for the visitors to make them aware about various water resources related issues including water conservation, drip irrigation, inter linking of rivers etc.

Indian Sports Honours: Srikanth, Sindhu Win Top Awards

Indian Sports Honours were given recently. Here is the complete list of the winners:

- Sportsman of the year (Individual sport): Srikanth Kidambi
- Sportsman of the year (Team sport) - Ravichandran Ashwin
- Sportswoman of the year (Individual sport) - PV Sindhu
- Sportswoman of the year (Team sport) - Mithali Raj
- Team of the year (Men/Women) - Indian Women's Cricket Team
- Coach of the year - Bisweshwar Nandi
- Emerging Sportswoman of the year - Aditi Ashok
- Emerging Sportsman of the year - Neeraj Chopra
• Differently-abled Sportsman of the year - Devendra Jhajuria
• Differently-abled Sportswoman of the year - Deepa Malik

Jury Honours
• Keep Walking Honour for Lifetime achievement - Balbir Singh
• Inspirational Honour - Sania Mirza
• Transformational Contribution to Sport - Abhinav Bindra

Popular choice Honours
• Breakthrough performance of the year - Hardik Pandya
• Star Sports Believe Honour (Comeback of the year) - Saina Nehwal
• Spirit of Sport - Yogeshwar Dutt
• Player of the year - Sunil Chhetri
• Club of the year - Mumbai Indians
• Best Fan Club - Manjappada Kerala Blasters.

120 Beats Per Minute wins the Golden Peacock at IFFI 2017
Morocco born French Director Robin Campillo’s drama film ‘120 BPM’ or ‘120 Beats Per Minute’ has won the coveted Golden Peacock Award at the 48th International Film Festival of India (IFFI), which concluded in Goa on November 28.
• Chinese director Vivian Qu won the Best Director Award for her 2017 film ‘Angels Wear White’.
• The Best Actor (Male) Award goes to Nahuel Perez Biscaryat.
• The Best Actor (Female) goes to Parvathy T K.
• Mahesh Narayan also walks away with the Special Jury Award for his directorial debut ‘Take Off’.
• Bolivian director Kiro Russo has won the Silver Peacock for the Best Feature Film of the Director.

• Manoj Kadaamh’s Marathi film ‘Kshitij’ has won the ICFT-UNESCO Gandhi Medal.
• One of Canada’s most celebrated art house directors, Atom Egoyan was honoured with the IFFI 2017 Lifetime Achievement Award.
• The Indian Film Personality of the Year Award was presented to Bollywood legend Amitabh Bachchan.

SAIL-ASP awarded for indigenization, supply of import substitute steel plates
Alloy Steels Plant (ASP) of the Steel Authority of India Ltd. (SAIL) has received the “BEST PERFORMANCE VENDOR - 2017” award from Ordnance Factory, Medak (OF-M) for indigenization, development and supply of import substitute steel plates.
• The steel plates in two categories, for which SAIL received the award, were supplied by Durgapur-based ASP, the special steels plant of SAIL.
• The award was received by Shri AK Patra, DGM I/c (Research & Control Lab)/ SAIL-ASP, at the Ordnance Factory’s Vendors’ meet held in Medak.

Sidhu clinches gold, Deepak gets bronze at Commonwealth shooting
Heena Sidhu claimed the 10m air pistol gold, while Deepak Kumar fetched a silver in the 10m air rifle event to give India a fine start at the Commonwealth Shooting Championships in Brisbane.
• Sidhu shot a combined score of 626.2 to claim the top honours.
This was Sidhu’s second successive international gold after she, along with Jitu Rai, claimed the top position in the 10m air pistol mixed team event in the ISSF World Cup Finals in Delhi.

India beat China to win women’s hockey Asia Cup
India won their biggest title in recent years as they completed a historic win over China in the women’s Hockey Asia Cup.
- This was India’s second Asia Cup title win after they had beaten Japan in 2004 in New Delhi.
- Playing the final for the first time since 2009, India managed to hold off China 5-4 in shootout in the final in Kakamighara, Japan.
- India had already qualified for the 2018 Women’s World Cup.

Shiv Kapur clinches Panasonic Open title
Shiv Kapur clinched his first Asian Tour title in India, bagging the Panasonic Open by three strokes.
- It is second Asian Tour title of the season for Kapur, who fired five birdies against one bogey to stay three strokes clear off a pack of fellow Indians.
- Kapur had won the Yeangder Heritage in April and finished second at the Thailand Open this season.
- He had won his first Asian tour title in 2005 at the Volvo Masters of Asia.

Saina Beats Sindhu to Clinch Badminton National Championship
Saina Nehwal defeated PV Sindhu 21-17, 27-25 in the final of the National Badminton Championships.
- With this win, the Olympic bronze medallist has clinched her third nationals title in as many appearances.
- Saina took the first game quite comfortably, winning it 21-17. However, Sindhu, too, fought back brilliantly in the second game, but her efforts went in vain.

Prannoy outwits Srikanth to emerge as new National champion
H.S Prannoy outwitted World No 2 and title favourite Kidambi Srikanth in a thrilling finale to claim the men’s singles title at the 82nd Senior National Championship in Nagpur.
- Second seed Prannoy, who achieved his career-best ranking of World No. 11 last week, saw off top seed Srikanth 21-15 16-21 21-7 in a 49-minute clash.

Mary Kom Becomes Asian Boxing Champion for Fifth Time
Ace India boxer Mary Kom once again showed why she is one of the best in the continent as the pugilist won the gold medal for the fifth time at the Asian Boxing Championships.
- Mary Kom thumped North Korea’s Hyang Mi Kim in the championship clash, to clinch her maiden gold in the 48 kg category of the tournament.
- In total, Mary Kom has now won six medals at this prestigious tournament, having won four golds and silver in the previous editions of the continental championship.

Pankaj Advani wins 17th world title
Ace Indian cueist Pankaj Advani clinched his 17th world title after he thrashed his arch-rival Mike Russell of England in the IBSF World Billiards Championship.
Advani beat Russell 6-2 (0-155, 150-128, 92-151, 151-0, 151-6, 151-0, 150-58, 150-21) to defend the 150-up format title he had won in Bengaluru last year.

Saeed Ajmal announces retirement from all forms of cricket
Pakistan off-spinner Saeed Ajmal has announced that he will retire from all forms of cricket at the end of the ongoing National Twenty20 tournament.
- In 35 Tests, he bagged 178 wickets while in 113 ODIs, he took 184 wickets at an average of 22.72 and an economy rate of 4.18.
- He has played 64 T20Is, in which he has taken 85 wickets.

Sebastian Vettel wins Brazilian GP
Ferrari’s Sebastian Vettel took his first victory since July at the Brazilian Grand Prix, where Lewis Hamilton battled from the back to finish fourth.
- Vettel controlled the race after taking the lead from pole position man Valtteri Bottas’ Mercedes at the start.
- Hamilton, his fourth world title won at the last race in Mexico.

Leander Paes, Purav Raja lift Knoxville Challenger title
Indian tennis duo of Leander Paes and Purav Raja lifted the Knoxville Challenger title after clinching a fighting win in the finals of the men's doubles.
- The top-seeded pair defeated the American-Australian duo of James Cerretani and John Patrick Smith 7-6 (7-4), 7-6.

France to host 2023 Rugby World Cup
France will host the 2023 Rugby World Cup after the Council of the sport’s governing body surprisingly went against the recommendations.
- South Africa had been recommended by World Rugby’s Board but Council members voted convincingly 24-15 for France, which also held the tournament in 2007.

Afghanistan wins maiden Under-19 Asia Cup
Afghanistan stunned favourites Pakistan by a massive 185 runs to clinch their maiden Under-19 Asia Cup title, in Kuala Lumpur.
- The Afghans rode on an unbeaten 107 from Ikram Ali to post a competitive 248 for seven after being asked to bat.
- In response, Pakistan was bundled for just 63 in 22.1 overs with off-spinner Mujeeb Zadran returning with brilliant figures of five for 13.

Yuki Bhambri wins Pune Challenger
Yuki Bhambri clinched his first title of the 2017 season on the ATP Challenger Tour defeating Ramkumar Ramanathan in the final of the KPIT-MSLTA Challenger in Pune.
- Yuki, country's top singles player, overcame Ramanathan 4-6, 6-3, 6-4 in a little over two hours at Balewadi Sports Complex.

Women’s Youth World Boxing Ch'ship begins in Guwahati
Women's Youth World Boxing Championship begins in Guwahati on 20 November.
- In AIBA women youth boxing championship being held in Guwahati, Indian pugilists will start their campaign on 21 November.
- Three young boxers will lock horn in the preliminaries.
- Assam Chief Minister Sarbanand Sonowal has inaugurated the event in presence of office bearers from AIBA and Boxing Federation of India.

**Ritu Phogat wins silver in Senior U-23 World Wrestling Championships**
Ritu Phogat won the silver medal women's 48 kg event in the U-23 Senior World Wrestling Championship at Poland.
- The 23-year-old lost to her Turkish opponent Evin Demirhan in the gold medal bout to settle for the silver medal.
- She is one the three Phogat sisters from Haryana.

**Gopi Thonakal first Indian man to win Asian Marathon Championship**
Gopi Thonakal became the first India man to win Asian Marathon Championships after he achieved the feat in the 16th edition of the prestigious event.
- Gopi clocked 2 hours, 15 minutes and 48 seconds to clinch the gold.
- Gopi, thus, became the first Indian man to win the title after the formation of separate Asian Marathon Championships.
- Earlier, Asha Agarwal won the women's title when it was part of the biennial Asian Track and Field Championships.

**India claims 5 gold medals at AIBA Youth Women Boxing Championship**
India topped the medals' chart after claiming five gold medals on the final day of the AIBA World Women's Youth Boxing Championships in Guwahati.
- Nitu, Jyoti, Sakshi, Shashi Chopra and Ankushita Boro clinched the gold medals.
- India earlier had also won two bronze medals.
- It was the biggest medal haul in the championship, followed by Russia (2 gold, 4 silver).

**Bottas Beats Hamilton To Win Abu Dhabi GP**
Mercedes driver Valtteri Bottas sealed the win in the Abu Dhabi Grand Prix, beating teammate Lewis Hamilton at Yas Marina.
- Bottas led the race throughout to win with a gap of 3.899 seconds over Hamilton.
- The Abu Dhabi GP also marked Bottas' third win of the season.

**7th world military games to be held at Wuhan in China**
The 7th international military games will be held in Wuhan city in the central China's Hubei Province.
- It comprises 329 competitions in 27 categories and is expected to attract around 8,000 participants from more than 100 countries and regions.

**Points to Remember**
- The slogan is of the games is "Military glory, world peace".
- The games were inaugurated in Rome in 1995.
- It is a multi-sport event organised every four years by the CISM.

**Pankaj Advani waltzes to an 18th World title**
Pankaj Advani dished out another superb performance to outclass Iran’s Amir Sarkhosh in the final and claim the IBSF World snooker championship in Doha.

- Advani’s deadly attacking game helped him secure his 18th World championship title with a 8-2 win over Sarkhosh at the Al-Arabi Sports Club.

**France wins Davis cup for 10th time**
Lucas Pouille ended a 16-year drought for France in the Davis Cup, winning the decisive match for the hosts to beat Belgium 3-2 in the final.

- Pouille’s lopsided 6-3, 6-1, 6-0 win over Steve Darcis in the second reverse singles gave France its 10th Davis Cup title, after a run of three losses in finals.

**Documentary on Arvind Kejriwal hit theatres**
A biographical film on the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) supremo and Delhi chief minister Arvind Kejriwal titled ‘An Insignificant Man’ was finally released on November 17, 2017.

- The film has been directed by Khushboo Ranka and Vina Shukla.
- The film is all about the rise of Kejriwal from relative obscurity to virtual national stardom as a corruption fighter that finally led to him being appointed the Chief Minister of Delhi.

**Padma Shri awardee author Manu Sharma passes away**
Noted author and Padma Shri awardee Manu Sharma alias Hanuman Prasad Sharma died following a prolonged illness. He was 89.

- He was nominated as one of the 'navratna' of the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan by Prime Minister Narendra Modi during his visit to Varanasi, his Lok Sabha constituency in 2014.
- Sharma had donated his lifetime savings of Rs 20 lakh for the renovation of a 'ghat' in Varanasi to carry out a cleanliness campaign.
- He was also the recipient of the prestigious Yash Bharti Award of the Uttar Pradesh government.
- Sharma has authored several Hindi books including 'Krishna Ki Atmakatha'.

**Former Nepal PM Bista passes away at 90**
Former Prime Minister of Nepal Kirti Nidhi Bista passed away at the age of 90 in Kathmandu.

- Born in Thamel, Kathmandu, Bista became Prime Minister for three times from 1969 to 1970, 1971 to 1973 and 1977 to 1979 and was the Vice-chair in the government led by then King Gyanendra Shaha.

**Former Test cricketer Milkha Singh passes away**
Former India cricketer A G Milkha Singh passed away after a cardiac arrest at a hospital in Chennai. He was 75.

- Milkha Singh played four Test matches in the early 60s.
- His elder brother Kripal Singh, also played for the country in 14 Tests. They played together in one Test against England in 1961-'62.

**Former MP Abdul Mannan Hossain dead**
Former Murshidabad MP and senior Trinamool Congress leader Abdul Mannan
Hossain died at a city hospital today. He was 65.

- He was a Congress leader and a two term MP of the party from 2004-2014. Earlier he was an MLA of Congress from 1987.
- He joined TMC in 2014 after he had differences with the Congress' state leadership.

**Hindi poet Kunwar Narain passes away**

Noted Hindi poet Kunwar Narain, who had been writing consistently for well over five decades, passed away here at the age of 90 on Wednesday.

- His first book “Chakravyuh” was published in 1956. He was awarded the Sahitya Akademi Award in 1995 and the Padma Bhusan in 2009.
- Narain was a native of Faizabad in Uttar Pradesh and had obtained an MA in English Literature from Lucknow University.

**Veteran Congress Leader Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi Dies**

Senior Congress leader and former union minister Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi, in coma since 2008, died at a hospital in Delhi. He was 72.

- He was union Parliamentary Affairs Minister when he went into coma.
- In 2006, Mr Dasmunsi was the first Indian to be a match commissioner in a FIFA World Cup game between Australia and Croatia.

**Jana Novotna, Czech Winner of Wimbledon, Dies at 49**

Jana Novotna, the Czech tennis star who won Wimbledon singles final in 1998, died in the Czech Republic. She was 49.

- She retired from professional tennis in 1999. She was inducted into the International Tennis Hall of Fame in 2005.

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**Current Affairs Question**

1. According to Global TB Report 2017 released by the WHO, which of the following country is top in the list?
   (A) Indonesia
   (B) China
   (C) India
   (D) Philippines
   (E) Nigeria

2. Rashtriya Ekta Diwas is celebrated on _______.
   (A) 30-Oct
   (B) 31-Oct
   (C) 1-Nov
   (D) 28-Oct
   (E) 29-Oct

3. Which of the following city will host ninth edition of CMS Vatavaran, an international film festival on environment and wildlife?
   (A) Tokyo
   (B) New Delhi
   (C) Durban
   (D) Melbourne
   (E) Brasilia

4. Which of the following country is hosting the 7th Asian Ministerial Energy Roundtable (AMER7)?
   (A) Saudi Arabia
   (B) Russia
   (C) UAE
   (D) Thailand
   (E) Iraq

5. Consider the following statements:
   1. India is the current chair of International Energy Forum (IEF) which is promoting the AMER - a biennial event bringing together Energy Ministers and experts from Asian countries.
   2. At the 7th AMER, Minister will participate in the Ministerial Roundtable and speak on “Natural Gas: Overcoming Market and Policy Hurdles to the Golden Age of Gas”.
   3. 16th Ministerial Conference of the IEF in India schedule during April 2018.

Which of the above statements are correct?
   (A) Only 1 & 2
   (B) Only 2 & 3
   (C) Only 1 & 3
   (D) 1, 2 & 3
   (E) None of these
6. Who among the following is Union Minister of State for HRD?
   (A) Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi
   (B) Rao Inderjit Singh
   (C) Santosh Kumar Gangwar
   (D) Hardeep Singh Puri
   (E) Upendra Kushwaha

7. Consider the following statements:
   1. A 45-member contingent of the Indian Air Force left for Israel to participate in exercise ‘Blue Flag-17’.
   2. Blue Flag is a bi-annual multilateral exercise which aims to strengthen military cooperation amongst participating nations.
   3. Indian Air Force is participating with the C-130J special operations aircraft along with Garud commandos.
   Which of the above statements are correct?
   (A) Only 1 & 2
   (B) Only 2 & 3
   (C) Only 1 & 3
   (D) 1 & 2 & 3
   (E) None of these

8. According to the Ease of Doing Business Report, India at which of the following rank?
   (A) 97th
   (B) 102th
   (C) 130th
   (D) 100th
   (E) 118th

9. Which of the following bank has approved USD 2 million loan (Rs. 13,000 crores) for five project in Andhra Pradesh?
   (A) New Development Bank
   (B) Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank
   (C) World Bank
   (D) Asian Development Bank
   (E) International monetary Fund

10. Who among the following players won gold at the Commonwealth Shooting Championships in Brisbane?
    (A) Abhinav Bindra
    (B) Heena Sidhu
    (C) Jitu Rai
    (D) Deepak Kumar
    (E) Anjali Bhagwat

11. According to World Economic Forum’s Global Gender Gap index, India at which of the following rank?
    (A) 99th
    (B) 90th
    (C) 108th
    (D) 102nd
    (E) 116th

12. Who among the following women is top in Forbes’ 100 most powerful women list?
    (A) Hillary Clinton
    (B) Melinda Gates
    (C) Janet Yellen
    (D) Angela Merkel
    (E) Chanda Kochhar

13. Who among the following is chairman of Inter State Council?
    (A) Prime Minister
    (B) Home Minister
    (C) Finance Minister
    (D) Vice Chairman of NITI Aayog
    (E) President

14. Which of the following state is top in Gender Vulnerability Index (GVI) released by Child development NGO Plan India?
    (A) Maharashtra
    (B) Madhya Pradesh
    (C) Goa
    (D) Bihar
    (E) Uttar Pradesh

15. In which city President of India inaugurated the 21st World Congress of Mental Health being organized by the World Federation for Mental Health?
    (A) Jaipur
    (B) New Delhi
    (C) Bhubaneswar
    (D) Kolkata
    (E) Bengaluru

16. In which city a fourteen days joint training exercise “PRABAL DOSTYK – 2017” between the Indian Army and the Kazakhstan Army commenced?
    (A) Jaipur
    (B) Astana
    (C) Bakhloch
    (D) Aktobe
    (E) Jaisalmer

17. Consider the following statements:
    1. The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi, inaugurated World Food India 2017.
2. WFI is the most anticipated international mega food event, as India welcomes to host biggest ever congregation of global investors and business leaders of major food companies.

3. This is the first time that India is hosting such an event for the Food processing sector.

Which of the above statements are correct?
(A) Only 1 & 2
(B) Only 1 & 3
(C) Only 2 & 3
(D) 1, 2 & 3
(E) None of these

18. Who among the following has been appointed as Additional Director General of Border Security Force?
(A) Prakash Mishra
(B) Archana Ramasundram
(C) U. K. Bansa
(D) Shri Nasir Kamal
(E) None of these

19. Which of the following cultural institution has been awarded the UNESCO Asia-Pacific Award for Cultural Heritage Conservation?
(A) National Gallery of Modern Art
(B) International Centre for Kathakali
(C) Kohinoor Theatre
(D) Royal Opera House
(E) Raj Mandir Theatre

20. Which of the following article of Indian Constitution provides power to president for the establishment of an Inter-State Council?
(A) Article 143
(B) Article 323
(C) Article 263
(D) Article 289
(E) Article 217

21. Which of the following central Asian country decided to change its name?
(A) Kazakhstan
(B) Uzbekistan
(C) Kyrgyzstan
(D) Tajikistan
(E) Turkmenistan

22. Consider the following statements:
1. HRD Ministry launched a Pan India scholarship program for school children called Deen Dayal SPARSH Yojana to increase the reach of Philately.
2. SPARSH stands for Scholarship for Promotion of Aptitude & Research in Stamps as a Hobby.
3. under the scheme, 920 scholarships will be awarded to students pursuing Philately as a hobby.

Which of the above statements are correct?
(A) Only 1 & 2
(B) Only 2 & 3
(C) Only 1 & 3
(D) 1, 2 & 3
(E) None of these

23. Which of the following cattle fair is largest in Asia?
(A) Nagaur, Rajasthan
(B) Sonepur, Bihar
(C) Chandrabhaga, Orissa
(D) Ambubachi, Assam
(E) Kolayat, Rajasthan

24. Which of the following Bank signed an agreement with the government to provide Rs 1,000 crore financing for food processing projects?
(A) ICICI
(B) Canara Bank
(C) HDFC
(D) IDBI
(E) Yes Bank

25. Which of the following Oil company gets government nod for acquiring HPCL?
(A) ONGC
(B) IOC
(C) BPCL
(D) ESSAR
(E) Reliance Petroleum

26. Which of the following bank has launched voice-based international remittance service on its Money2India application?
(A) ICICI
(B) Canara Bank
(C) HDFC
(D) IDBI
(E) Yes Bank

27. Which of the following bank is the first bank in the country to leverage on Apple’s virtual voice assistant to enable cross border remittances?
(A) State Bank of India
(B) Union Bank of India
(C) ICICI
(D) Punjab National Bank
28. Who among the following has been chosen for this year’s Jnanpith Award?
(A) MP Veerendra kumar
(B) Shankha Ghosh
(C) Mahabaleshwar Sail
(D) Krishna Sobti
(E) Surinder Verma

29. Which of the following Solar Company has won ‘Dun & Bradstreet - Everest Infra Awards 2017’ under Infrastructure Project category for commissioning India’s largest solar project?
(A) Vikram Solar Pvt Ltd
(B) Photon Energy Systems Ltd
(C) HHV Solar Technologies Pvt Ltd
(D) Selco Solar Light Pvt Ltd
(E) Tata Power Solar Systems Ltd

30. Consider the following rivers:
1. Koshi
2. Mahananda
3. Ganga
4. Gandak
5. Mahi
The traditional Sonepur cattle fair is held on the confluence of Which of the given rivers?
(A) Only 1, 2 & 4
(B) Only 2, 4 & 5
(C) Only 3, 4 & 5
(D) Only 1, 3 & 5
(E) None of these

31. Which country’s Prime Minister Saad al-Hariri resigned?
(A) Syria
(B) Lebanon
(C) Egypt
(D) Turkey
(E) Yemen

32. In which country World Youth Forum held which aims to provide a platform to the youth from all over the globe to engage with the key global policy makers?
(A) France
(B) Canada
(C) Turkey
(D) Egypt
(E) Russia

33. Which state’s Tourism Ministry Inaugurated 1st Heli Expo India and International Civil Helicopter Conclave-2017 in New Delhi?
(A) Uttar Pradesh
(B) Uttarakhand

34. Consider the following statements:
1. Union Ministry of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation has extended the term of Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal by six months.
2. Cauvery is an inter-State basin having its origin in Karnataka and flowing through Tamil Nadu and Puducherry before out falling in Bay of Bengal.
3. The sharing of waters of the Cauvery has been the source of a serious conflict between the states of Tamil Nadu and Karnataka.
Which of the above statements are correct?
(A) Only 1 & 2
(B) Only 2 & 3
(C) Only 1 & 3
(D) 1, 2 & 3
(E) None of these

35. Who among the following has named as ambassador of the AIBA Women’s Youth World Championships?
(A) P V Sindhu
(B) Sakshi Malik
(C) Saina Nehwal
(D) Deepa Karmarkar
(E) MC Mary Kom

36. Which of the following country’s airlines has been named Airline of the Year for 2018?
(A) India
(B) Qatar
(C) USA
(D) New Zealand
(E) Australia

37. Which of the following temple became a national symbol of conserving cultural heritage after bagging an Award of Merit from UNESCO?
(A) Meenakshi Temple
(B) Brihadeeswarar Temple
(C) Sri Ranganathaswamy Temple
(D) Somnath temple
(E) Lingaraja Temple

38. In which state Sri Ranganathaswamy Temple situated?
(A) Karnataka
(B) Tamil Nadu
(C) Andhra Pradesh
(D) Kerala
39. In which city AIBA Women’s Youth World Championships to be held from November 19 to 26?
   (A) Chandigarh
   (B) New Delhi
   (C) Guwahati
   (D) Kolkata
   (E) Bengaluru

40. Which of the following is the capital of Lebanon?
   (A) Beirut
   (B) Damascus
   (C) Ankara
   (D) Amman
   (E) Cairo

41. Which of the following country became a new member of International Solar Alliance?
   (A) Guinea
   (B) USA
   (C) Libya
   (D) South Africa
   (E) Somalia

42. In which state the seventh edition of Indo-Bangladesh joint military training exercise ‘SAMPRITI 2017’ begun?
   (A) Manipur
   (B) Sikkim
   (C) West Bengal
   (D) Nagaland
   (E) Meghalaya

43. In which city two-day conference of Ministers for Power and New & Renewable Energy of States & Union Territories will be held?
   (A) Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh
   (B) Rajgir, Bihar
   (C) Jaipur, Rajasthan
   (D) Amravati, Andhra Pradesh
   (E) Surat, Gujarat

44. Consider the following statements:
   1. Union HRD Minister Shri Prakash Javadekar inaugurated a two-day National Workshop ‘Chintan Shivir’.
   2. The main aim of the workshop is to provide holistic education relevant for 21st century India.
   3. Workshop mainly focuses on five themes i.e. Digital education, Life Skill education, Experimental learning, Physical Education and Value education.

   Which of the above statements are correct?
   (A) Only 1 & 2
   (B) Only 2 & 3
   (C) Only 1 & 3
   (D) 1, 2 & 3
   (E) None of these

45. At which airport, Airports Authority of India has replaced the existing Instrument Landing System (ILS) with Wide Aperture Log Periodic Antenna Array (LPDA) system?
   (A) Chhatrapati Shivaji International Airport, Mumbai
   (B) Indira Gandhi International Airport, New Delhi
   (C) Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel International Airport, Ahmedabad
   (D) Chennai International Airport, Chennai
   (E) Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose International Airport, Kolkata

46. Which of the following bank has made online transactions through RTGS and NEFT free of cost, with an aim to promote a digital economy?
   (A) IDBI
   (B) HDFC
   (C) ICICI
   (D) YES Bank
   (E) OBC Bank

47. Who among the following has been appointed as Finance Secretary?
   (A) Rajiv Maharishi
   (B) Ashok Lavasa
   (C) Ajay Narayan Jha
   (D) Hasmukh Adhia
   (E) Subhash Chandra Garg

48. Which of the following city’s Municipal Corporation has been chosen for the ‘Best City Bus Services Award’ by the Union Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs?
   (A) New Delhi
   (B) Hyderabad
   (C) Bhopal
   (D) Surat
   (E) Chandigarh

49. Which of the following won 21st Asia Insurance Industry Awards in the “General Insurance Company of the Year” category?
   (A) Apollo Munich Health Insurance Company
   (B) Bajaj Allianz General Insurance
   (C) Export Credit Guarantee Corporation of India
   (D) PNB MetLife India Insurance Company
   (E) Max Life Insurance
50. Which of the following city won the ‘Best Urban Transport Initiative’ Award for completing its Metro Rail Project in a quick time?
(A) Mysuru  
(B) Hyderabad  
(C) Chittor  
(D) Surat  
(E) Kochi

51. According to World Bank’s Ease of Doing Business Report, which of the following country has been named the most improved economy in the world for the third year?
(A) France  
(B) Brunei  
(C) Malaysia  
(D) Singapore  
(E) India

52. In which city president of India inaugurated the Global Clubfoot Conference?
(A) Bhopal  
(B) Jaipur  
(C) New Delhi  
(D) Ahmedabad  
(E) Bengaluru

53. Which of the following ministry organized the Global Clubfoot Conference in partnership with CURE India?
(A) Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare  
(B) Ministry of Culture  
(C) Ministry of Science and Technology  
(D) Ministry of Women and Child Development  
(E) Ministry of Health and Family Welfare

54. Which of the following Indian dish will be prepared at the World Food India event in a bid to create world record and popularize it as brand India food globally?
(A) Khichadi  
(B) Daliya  
(C) Halwa  
(D) Dal Baati  
(E) Kheer

55. Which of the following city will be India’s first conservation reserve for black buck?
(A) Varanasi  
(B) Patna  
(C) Kolkata  
(D) Allahabad  
(E) Bhubaneswar

56. Which of the following country signed MoUs with Assam Government for skilling over 78,000 rural youths in the state by 2019 and greening Guwahati?
(A) China  
(B) Indonesia  
(C) Singapore  
(D) Japan  
(E) South Korea

57. Which of the following brand is India’s most valuable brand?
(A) Tata Group  
(B) Reliance  
(C) Airtel  
(D) SAIL  
(E) ONGC

58. Who among the following leaders has been elected as Japanese Prime Minister?
(A) Sakamoto Ryōma  
(B) Masayoshi YOSHINO  
(C) Shinzo Abe  
(D) Katsunobu KATO  
(E) Seiko NODA

59. What is the name of Japanese Parliament?
(A) Diet  
(B) Bundestag  
(C) Saeima  
(D) Parliament  
(E) National People Congress

60. Who among the following has been appointed as Consul General in Hyderabad by the Republic of Korea?
(A) Sujan Chinoy  
(B) Navdeep Singh Suri  
(C) Deepa Gopalan Wadhwa  
(D) Suresh Chukkapalli  
(E) None of these

61. World Tsunami Awareness Day is observed on which of the following date?
(A) 4-Nov  
(B) 5-Nov  
(C) 6-Nov  
(D) 3-Nov  
(E) 2-Nov

62. In which year first World Tsunami Awareness Day was observed?
(A) 2015  
(B) 2016
63. Who among the following is Civil Aviation Minister?
(A) Ashok Gajapathi Raju
(B) Rajiv Pratap Ruddy
(C) R K Singh
(D) Arjun Ram Meghwal
(E) J P Nadda

64. Which of the following state government executed a trilateral Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Department of Bio-Technology and Nobel Media, Sweden to hold the ‘Nobel Prize Series — India 2018’?
(A) Madhya Pradesh
(B) Maharashtra
(C) Goa
(D) Rajasthan
(E) West Bengal

65. In which state Nobel Prize Series has earlier been organized?
(A) Madhya Pradesh
(B) Maharashtra
(C) Uttar Pradesh
(D) Tamil Nadu
(E) Gujarat

66. According to NITI Aayog’s documents, in which year India will be free from poverty, dirt, corruption, terrorism, casteism and communalism?
(A) 2030
(B) 2025
(C) 2022
(D) 2035
(E) 2028

67. Consider the following states:
1. Maharashtra
2. Telangana
3. Gujarat
4. Tamil Nadu
Which of the above state/states announced their own food processing policy at the World Food India event?
(A) Only 1 & 3
(B) Only 2 & 4
(C) Only 1 & 4
(D) Only 1 & 2
(E) Only 3 & 4

68. Which of the following bank will open 650 branches by April-May next year with aims to facilitate financial inclusion across the country?
(A) Indian Post Payment Bank
(B) State Bank of India
(C) Union Bank of India
(D) Punjab national Bank
(E) Allahabad Bank

69. Which country has been defeated by India in Women Hockey Asia Cup 2017 final?
(A) China
(B) Japan
(C) Indonesia
(D) Malaysia
(E) South Korea

70. Who among the following clinched his first Asian Tour title in India, bagging the Panasonic Open?
(A) Paul Peterson
(B) Shiv Kapoor
(C) Shubhankar Sharma
(D) Ajeetesh Sandhu
(E) Chiragh Kumar

71. Which of the following state will host the 10-day Sangai International Festival?
(A) Assam
(B) Manipur
(C) Rajasthan
(D) Telangana
(E) Karnataka

72. Consider the following statements:
1. Indian Government launched a comprehensive SHe-Box online complaint Management System.
2. It is for women working in both public and private organizations to lodge complaints of sexual harassment at workplace.
3. Those who have already filed a written complaint with the concerned Internal Complaint Committee or Local Complaint Committee constituted under the SH Act are also eligible to file their complaint through this portal.
Which of the above statements are correct?
(A) Only 1 & 2
(B) Only 2 & 3
(C) Only 1 & 3
(D) 1, 2 & 3
(E) None of these

73. Which of the following ministry launched a comprehensive SHe-Box online complaint Management System?
(A) Ministry of Commerce and Industry
74. Which of the following app has been launched by Shri Piyush Goyal benefitting customers of Coal India Limited (CIL) lifting coal through road mode?
(A) Grahak Sadak Koyla Vitaran
(B) Grahak Road coal Vitaran
(C) Grahak Road Koyla Vitaran
(D) Grahak Sadak Coal Vitaran
(E) None of these

75. In which city Shri Piyush Goyal, Union Minister of Railways & Coal has launched an app for benefitting customers of Coal India Limited (CIL) lifting coal through road mode?
(A) Dhanbad
(B) Kolkata
(C) Raurkela
(D) Jamshedpur
(E) Bhubaneshwar

76. Which of the following India’s first indigenously designed and developed Long Range Sub-Sonic Cruise Missile launched by DRDO?
(A) Brahmos
(B) Indra Dhanush
(C) Nirbhaya
(D) Prithvi
(E) Vikramaditya

77. Which of the following International bank signed an agreement with Indian Government for the Odisha Higher Education Programme for Excellence & Equity (OHEPEE) Project?
(A) AIIB
(B) ADB
(C) New Development Bank
(D) IMF
(E) World Bank

78. Which of the following bank will launch SmartUp Zones in over 65 branches in 30 cities across the country?
(A) ICICI Bank
(B) IDBI Bank
(C) HDFC Bank
(D) Canara Bank
(E) UCO Bank

79. Who among the following has been awarded with Israel’s 2018 Genesis Prize in recognition of her commitment to social causes and deep connection to her Jewish and Israeli roots?
(A) Anish Kapoor
(B) Itzhak Perlman
(C) Michael Bloomberg
(D) Natalie Portman
(E) Michael Douglas

80. What is the tagline of HDFC Bank?
(A) We understand your world
(B) The world’s local bank
(C) Hum Hai Na, Khyal Apka
(D) One family one bank
(E) The changing face of prosperity

81. Who among the following chaired the second meeting of Island Development Agency which reviewed the concept development plans and detailed master plans for holistic development of 09 islands?
(A) Prime Minister
(B) Home Minister
(C) Defence Minister
(D) Environment Minister
(E) Finance Minister

82. Consider the following statements:
1. Union Agriculture and Farmers’ Welfare Minister will inaugurate the three-day Organic World Congress – 2017.
2. It will be organized at India Expo Centre in Greater Noida.
3. The Organic World Congress (OWC) is organized once every three years in a different country.
Which of the above statements are correct?
(A) Only 1 & 2
(B) Only 2 & 3
(C) Only 1 & 3
(D) 1, 2 & 3
(E) None of these

83. Which of the following state government rolled out the ‘She Pad’ scheme to ensure menstrual hygiene among girls?
(A) Kerala
(B) Telangana
(C) Chhattisgarh
(D) Punjab
(E) Gujarat
84. With which Institution Indian government has signed an Institutional agreement to establish India’s second Technology and Innovation Support Center?
(A) SRM University
(B) KIIT University
(C) IIT Kharagpur
(D) IIT Mumbai
(E) Anna University

85. According to Thornton’s International Business Report (IBR), which of the following country is at the top position in 'business optimism' index?
(A) Finland
(B) Austria
(C) Indonesia
(D) Netherlands
(E) Finland

86. Who among the following will be head of a high-level committee to investigate the 1 November blast at state-run NTPC Ltd’s Unchahar power plant in Rae Bareli?
(A) P.D. Siwal
(B) A. P. Shah
(C) M. N. Shinghavi
(D) S D Sharma
(E) S N Mishra

87. Which of the following city joined the elite club of Creative Cities Network (CCN) of UNESCO for its contributions to music?
(A) Bhopal
(B) Chennai
(C) Jaipur
(D) Varanasi
(E) Lucknow

88. Who among the following won National Badminton Championships?
(A) P.V. Sindhu
(B) Rituparna Das
(C) Saina Nehwal
(D) Reshma Karthik
(E) Saili Rane

89. Who among the following won men’s singles title at the 82nd Senior National Championship in Nagpur?
(A) B. Sai Praneeth
(B) Kidambi Srikanth
(C) H.S Prannoy
(D) Ajay Jayaram
(E) Parupalli Kashyap

90. Who among the following won the gold medal for the fifth time at the Asian Boxing Championships?
(A) Mary Kom
(B) Hyang Mi Kim
(C) Meng-Chieh Pin
(D) Sonia Lather
(E) Pooja Rani

91. With which company National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) organized India Disaster Response Summit?
(A) Google
(B) Microsoft
(C) Facebook
(D) Tata Group
(E) L&T

92. In Short Film Competition on Divyangjan Shashaktikaran-2017, which of the following film bagged the first position in the categories of Documentary?
(A) Sugamaya Bharat
(B) I know Sign Language
(C) Tum Main aur Hum Sab
(D) Azan
(E) Zebra Crossing

93. Which of the following passenger train will run every Thursday from both Kolkata and Bangladesh's southwestern industrial city of Khulna?
(A) Maitri Express
(B) Bandhan Express
(C) Barisal Express
(D) Samjhauta Express
(E) Banga Nagarik Express

94. On the first anniversary of demonetization, which of the following bank has entered into a “strategic alliance” with mobile wallet major MobiKwik?
(A) IDFC
(B) HDFC
(C) ICICI
(D) Bank of Baroda
(E) Punjab national Bank

95. Consider the following statements:
1. Reserve Bank will soon launch an awareness campaign - Suno RBI Kya Kehta Hai - through SMSes to warn the public against falling prey to unsolicited and fictitious offers from fraudsters.
2. The cautionary messages will be sent from 'RBISAY' sender ID.
3. The drive comes amid rising instances of fraudsters trying to dupe gullible customers by promising them lucrative financial gains and prize money through e-mails and SMSes.

Which of the above statements are correct?
(A) Only 1 & 2
(B) Only 2 & 3
(C) Only 1 & 3
(D) 1, 2 & 3
(E) None of these

96. Which of the following country’s Bank NDB has started operations in India?
(A) Saudi Arabia
(B) United Arab Emirates
(C) Oman
(D) Qatar
(E) Iran

97. From which state Union Minister of State for Tourism and BJP leader Alphons Kannanthanam was elected unopposed to the Rajya Sabha?
(A) Kerala
(B) Madhya Pradesh
(C) Uttar Pradesh
(D) Tamil Nadu
(E) Rajasthan

98. Who among the following will be honoured with the prestigious Sumitra Charat Ram Award for Lifetime Achievement?
(A) Lata Mangeshkar
(B) Shreya Ghoshal
(C) Pooja Sharma
(D) Girija Devi
(E) Asha Bhonsle

99. Padma Shri awardee Manu Sharma alias Hanuman Prasad Sharma died. Who he was?
(A) Businessman
(B) Author
(C) Film Director
(D) Politician
(E) Sportsman

100. Who among the following is Minister for Social Justice and Empowerment?
(A) Kiren Rijiju
(B) Alphons Kannathanam
(C) Thaawarchand Gehlot
(D) Prithvi Raj
(E) Hardeep Singh Puri

101. In which country Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) meeting held on 10-11 November?
(A) China
(B) Philippines
(C) Vietnam
(D) USA
(E) Australia

102. Who among the following has been appointed head of Second National Judicial Pay Commission (SNJPC) for Subordinate Judiciary in the country?
(A) J P. Venkatrama Reddi
(B) Shri R. Basant
(C) Navin Sinha
(D) L. Nageswara Rao
(E) Rohinton Fali Nariman

103. Consider the following statements:
1. Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has approved creation of National Testing Agency (NTA).
2. The NTA would initially conduct those entrance examinations which are currently being conducted by the CBSE.
3. The entrance examinations will be conducted in online mode at least twice a year, thereby giving adequate opportunity to candidates to bring out their best.

Which of the above statements are correct?
(A) Only 1 & 2
(B) Only 2 & 3
(C) Only 1 & 3
(D) 1, 2 & 3
(E) None of these

104. In which city India’s first Military Literature Festival (MLF) will be held?
(A) New Delhi
(B) Ahmedabad
(C) Chandigarh
(D) Bhopal
(E) Jammu & Kashmir

105. GST Council is chaired by:
(A) Arun Jaitley
(B) Narendra Modi
(C) Amitabh Mitra
(D) Sushil Kumar Modi
(E) Amitabh Kant
106. How many items have been put into the lower tax category of 18% from 28% in new GST council meeting?

(A) 228
(B) 178
(C) 156
(D) 128
(E) 94

107. Who among the following has appointed as new president of National Association of Software and Service Companies (NASSCOM)?

(A) R Chandrashekhar
(B) Raman Roy
(C) B V R Mohan Reddy
(D) Debjani Ghosh
(E) C. P. Gurnani

108. Who among the following has been awarded with National Entrepreneurship Award, 2017?

(A) Seema Bahuguna
(B) K P Krishnan
(C) Dr. Renu Swarup
(D) Mr. Pradeep Gupta
(E) Dr. Harkesh Kumar Mittal

109. Which of the following ministry presented National Entrepreneurship Award, 2017?

(A) Ministry of Science & Technology
(B) Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship
(C) Ministry of Finance and Corporate Affairs
(D) Ministry of Information and Broadcasting
(E) Minister of Electronics and Information Technology

110. Which among the following countries is not a member of Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC)?

(A) China
(B) Peru
(C) Brazil
(D) United State of America
(E) Singapore

111. World Pneumonia Day is observed on which of the following date?

(A) 10-Nov
(B) 12-Nov
(C) 13-Nov
(D) 11-Nov
(E) 9-Nov

112. In which year World Pneumonia Day was first observed?

(A) 2007
(B) 2002

113. Consider the following statements: -

1. India is the sixth most vulnerable country in the world in terms of facing extreme weather events.
2. Haiti, Zimbabwe, Fiji, Sri Lanka and Vietnam taking top five positions in the fresh list of nations facing climate risk.
3. The ranking was released here by the German watch, an independent Berlin-based development and environmental organization, in its latest global climate risk index (CRI).

Which of the above statements are correct?

(A) Only 1 & 2
(B) Only 2 & 3
(C) Only 1 & 3
(D) 1, 2 & 3
(E) None of these

114. Bangladesh's first Hindu Chief Justice who has resigned after facing allegations of bribery and money laundering is:

(A) Ashish Ranjan Daash
(B) Surendra Kumar Sinha
(C) Bhishmadev Chakrabortty
(D) Sushila Karki
(E) Arun Kumar Mishra

115. Who among the following will be head of a 7-member committee to tackle the Delhi air pollution?

(A) Rajiv Maharishi
(B) Bhaskar Khusbe
(C) Pradeep Kumar Sinha
(D) C K Mishra
(E) A.R.K. Kini

116. Which of the following ministry will celebrate Hausla 2017 from 16th to 20th November, 2017?

(A) Ministry of Finance Corporate Affairs
(B) Ministry of Health and Family Welfare
(C) Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment
(D) Ministry of Women and Child Development
(E) Ministry of Human Resource Development

117. In which city North India's biggest Butterfly Conservatory Park will be set up?

(A) New Delhi
(B) Jaipur
(C) Bhopal
(D) Lucknow
118. Which of the following institution has been named as the recipient of the Mother Teresa Memorial Award for Social Justice, 2017?
(A) World Trade Organization
(B) UNESCO
(C) UNHCR
(D) World Bank
(E) Economic and Social Council of UNO

119. International Child Rights Day is celebrated on which of the following date?
(A) 14-Nov
(B) 16-Nov
(C) 20-Nov
(D) 18-Nov
(E) 13-Nov

120. Kirti Nidhi Bista passed away at the age of 90. He was a former prime Minister of which Country?
(A) Bhutan
(B) Indonesia
(C) Malaysia
(D) Singapore
(E) Nepal

121. Which of the following country will conclude its year-long ASEAN hosting duties with the 31st ASEAN Summit from 12-14 November?
(A) Indonesia
(B) Australia
(C) Malaysia
(D) Vietnam
(E) Philippines

122. What is the ASEAN's theme for 2017?
(A) Moving Forward in Unity to a Peaceful and Prosperous Community
(B) Our People, Our Future Together
(C) Towards the ASEAN Community: from Vision to Action
(D) Partnering for Change, Engaging the World
(E) One Community One Destiny

123. Which of the following city is top in the list of Country's Most Polluted City?
(A) New Delhi
(B) Lucknow
(C) Varanasi
(D) Gurugram
(E) Jaipur

124. Which of the following city will host the 34th annual conference of the Asian Bankers Association (ABA)?
(A) New Delhi
(B) Ahmedabad
(C) Jaipur
(D) Hyderabad
(E) Mumbai

125. Who among the following has been named as the chairperson of the World Hindu Congress to be held in Chicago next year?
(A) Manka Dhingra
(B) Subash Kashyap
(C) Tulsi Gabbard
(D) A G Rohini
(E) R P Singh

126. Who among the following has been concurrently accredited as the next Ambassador of India to Ecuador?
(A) Shri Sanjay Rana
(B) Shri Ravi Bangar
(C) Mr. Pankaj Saxena
(D) Shri Prabhat Kumar
(E) Vijay Thakur Singh

127. Which of the following company received the prestigious "Kalinga Safety Award" in the 8th Odisha State Safety Conclave?
(A) Neelachal Ispat Nigam Limited (NINL)
(B) Steel Authority of India Ltd.(SAIL)
(C) Tata Iron and Steel Company (TISCO)
(D) Hindalco Industries Ltd
(E) Coal India Ltd.

128. Who among the following players has been conferred a D.Litt. degree from the National Institute of Technology (NIT) Agartala?
(A) M C Mary Kom
(B) P V Sindhu
(C) Sakshi Malik
(D) Deepa Karmarkar
(E) Saina Nehwal

129. Who clinched his 17th world title in the IBSF World Billiards Championship?
(A) Ashok Shandilya
(B) Pankaj Advani
(C) Geet Sethi
(D) Michael Ferreira
(E) Wilson Jones
130. A G Milkha Singh passed away after a cardiac arrest. He was_________.
   (A) Cricketer  
   (B) Musician  
   (C) Film Director  
   (D) Writer  
   (E) Actor

131. World Diabetes Day is observed on which of the following date?
   (A) 13-Nov  
   (B) 12-Nov  
   (C) 14-Nov  
   (D) 16-Nov  
   (E) 15-Nov

132. In which country a Rice Field laboratory has been setup named after Narendra Modi?
   (A) Vietnam  
   (B) Singapore  
   (C) Israel  
   (D) Philippines  
   (E) South Korea

133. Consider the following statements: -
   1. In Northeast region India’s first-ever "Air Dispensary will be setup.
   2. As per the envisaged plan helicopter will be based at two locations, namely Imphal in Manipur and Meghalaya in Shillong.
   3. According to plan, specialist doctors would be able to move into the helicopter and hold a dispensary/OPD in different locations across the eight States of North Eastern Region.
Which of the above statements are correct?
   (A) Only 1 & 2  
   (B) Only 2 & 3  
   (C) Only 1 & 3  
   (D) 1, 2 & 3  
   (E) None of these

134. Consider the following statements: -
   1. Union Minister of State for Youth Affairs and Sports released the India Youth Development Index and Report 2017.
   2. The objective of constructing the India Youth Development Index (YDI) 2017 is to track the trends in Youth Development across the States.
   3. This is a pioneering attempt made by the Institute in 2013 which it followed up with the India Youth Development Index in 2017.
Which of the above statements are correct?
   (A) Only 1 & 2  
   (B) Only 2 & 3  
   (C) Only 1 & 3  
   (D) 1, 2 & 3  
   (E) None of these

135. In which city 4th India-Canada Ministerial Dialogue on Trade and Investment was held?
   (A) Ottawa  
   (B) New Delhi  
   (C) Vancouver  
   (D) Mumbai  
   (E) Montreal

136. At which place Army organized a mega event Youth Fest: 2017 on 13 Nov 2017?
   (A) Punch  
   (B) Kargil  
   (C) Leh  
   (D) Kishtwar  
   (E) Samgaon

137. Consider the following statements: -
   1. Government launched Phase II of BharatNet project through which it aims to provide high-speed broadband connections to all panchayats by the end of 2019.
   2. Under Phase I, 1 lakh panchayats or 3 lakh villages were connected.
   3. Phase II of BharatNet is expected to connect 1.5 lakh panchayats.
Which of the above statements are correct?
   (A) Only 1 & 2  
   (B) Only 2 & 3  
   (C) Only 1 & 3  
   (D) 1, 2 & 3  
   (E) None of these
139. Which of the following bank will launch a first-of-its-kind fintech survey to cover India and a few major fintech markets in the world?
   (A) HDFC
   (B) IDBI
   (C) YES Bank
   (D) Canara
   (E) ICICI

140. Which among the following Pakistani players has announced that he will retire from all forms of cricket at the end of the ongoing National Twenty20 tournament?
   (A) Sarfraz Ahmed
   (B) Umar Akmal
   (C) Saeed Ajmal
   (D) Babar Azam
   (E) Shoaib Malik

141. Which of the following country has officially approved Yoga as a sporting activity under its Ministry of Trade and Industry?
   (A) Philippines
   (B) Singapore
   (C) Indonesia
   (D) Iraq
   (E) Saudi Arabia

142. In which country 10th South Asia Economic Summit (SAES) with theme “Deepening Economic Integration for Inclusive and Sustainable Development in South Asia” was held?
   (A) Nepal
   (B) Bangladesh
   (C) India
   (D) Sri Lanka
   (E) Bhutan

143. Consider the following statements:
   1. India’s first Tribal Entrepreneurship Summit has been organised in Dantewada, Chhattisgarh.
   2. Its aims to inspire, nurture and promote the spirit of entrepreneurship among the tribal youth.
   3. The event is a part of 8th Global Entrepreneurship Summit being held in India.
   Which of the above statements are correct?
   (A) Only 1 & 2
   (B) Only 2 & 3

144. Which of the following state has won a Geographical Indication for rasgulla?
   (A) Rajasthan
   (B) West Bengal
   (C) Odisha
   (D) Uttar Pradesh
   (E) Tamil Nadu

145. In which city 37th India International Trade Fair (IITF) - 2017 on November 14, 2017 started?
   (A) Kolkata
   (B) Chennai
   (C) New Delhi
   (D) Ahmedabad
   (E) Mumbai

146. Consider the following statements:
   1. Government of India has launched the BHARAT-22 Exchange Traded Fund (ETF).
   2. It will be managed by HDFC Mutual Fund targeting an initial amount of about Rs. 8,000 crores.
   Which of the above statements are correct?
   (A) Only 1 & 2
   (B) Only 2 & 3
   (C) Only 1 & 3
   (D) 1, 2 & 3
   (E) None of these

147. Which state is top in the list of opening new PMJDY accounts after demonetization?
   (A) Rajasthan
   (B) Uttar Pradesh
   (C) Madhya Pradesh
   (D) Karnataka
   (E) Maharashtra

148. Consider the following statements:
   1. International Solar Alliance announced a target to support setting up 1000GW of solar energy capacity by 2030 across its member countries.
   2. Sixteen countries have ratified the framework agreement of the International Solar Alliance (ISA).
3. it will come into force on December 6, when it will recognized as a UN treaty body.
Which of the above statements are correct?
(A) Only 1 & 2
(B) Only 2 & 3
(C) Only 1 & 3
(D) 1, 2 & 3
(E) None of these

149. Who among the following has been appointed as the chairman of the leading stock exchange BSE?
(A) Sethurathnam Ravi
(B) Ashish Kumar Chauhan
(C) Dr. K. Kasturirangan
(D) Rajeshree Sabnavis
(E) Usha Sangwan

150. Who among the following has won Brazilian Grand Prix?
(A) Sebastian Vettel
(B) Lewis Hamilton
(C) Valtteri Bottas
(D) Daniel Ricciardo
(E) Max Verstappen

151. Which of the following country’s military leaders have seized national government?
(A) Gambia
(B) Liberia
(C) Sudan
(D) Zimbabwe
(E) Mozambique

152. Which of the following is capital of Zimbabwe?
(A) Nairobi
(B) Monrovia
(C) Luanda
(D) Khartoum
(E) Harare

153. Consider the following statements:
1. Bihar State Government gave approval for setting up a ‘State Ayush Society’.
2. It aims to promote the usage of alternative medicine in the state.
3. Bihar’s ‘State Ayush Society’ will be set up as part of Central Government’s “National Ayush Mission”.
Which of the above statements are correct?
(A) Only 1 & 2
(B) Only 2 & 3
(C) Only 1 & 3
(D) 1, 2 & 3
(E) None of these

154. According to a study published in the latest edition of journal Scientific Reports, which country became world’s largest emitter of human-caused Sulphur dioxide?
(A) USA
(B) UK
(C) India
(D) China
(E) Israel

155. Consider the following statements:
1. Indian Railway present a comprehensive plan for imparting training to its all employees.
2. This comprehensive training programme named as “Project Saksham” will help boost productivity and efficiency.
3. Under this plan, all employees in each zone will be put through a week’s training in skills and knowledge relevant to their work area over next one year.
Which of the above statements are correct?
(A) Only 1 & 2
(B) Only 2 & 3
(C) Only 1 & 3
(D) 1, 2 & 3
(E) None of these

156. Who among the following is chairman of Railway Board?
(A) Ashwani Lohani
(B) Pradeep Kumar Sinha
(C) Ajit Seth
(D) B K Chaturvedi

157. Consider the following statements:
1. Vice President inaugurated ‘Aadi Mahotsav’ - a fortnight long Tribal Festival with the theme of ‘A Celebration of the Spirit of Tribal Culture, Cuisine and Commerce’.
2. This Mahotsav has been organized in Bhubaneswar.
3. The inaugural function was presided over by Minister of Tribal Affairs Shri Jual Oram.
Which of the above statements are correct?
(A) Only 1 & 2
(B) Only 2 & 3
(C) Only 1 & 3
(D) 1, 2 & 3
(E) None of these

158. Which of the following players’ pair lifted the Knoxville Challenger title after clinching a fighting win in the finals of the men's doubles.
159. Former MP Abdul Mannan Hossain died. He belonged from which party?
(A) TMC
(B) INC
(C) BJP
(D) CPI(M)
(E) BJD

160. Hindi poet Kunwar Narain, passed away, which of the following was his first Book?
(A) Koi Doosra Naheen
(B) Chakravyuh
(C) Aaj Aur Aaj Se Pahale
(D) Hashiye ka gawaah
(E) Parivesh : Hum-Tum

161. International Day for Tolerance is observed on 16 November. Which of the following is theme of this year?
(A) Together
(B) Promoting Tolerance
(C) Promoting Tolerance & Non-Violence
(D) Think about Tolerance
(E) None of these

162. In which city 1st WHO Global Ministerial Conference on Ending TB in Sustainable Development Era organized?
(A) New Delhi
(B) Moscow
(C) Paris
(D) New York
(E) Beijing

163. Consider the following statements:
1. Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi has given its approval for the creation of the National Anti-Profitsteering Authority (NAA).
2. It will be headed by a senior officer of the level of Secretary to the Government of India with four Technical Members from the Centre and/or the States.
3. Authority will ensure that the benefits of the reduction in GST rates on goods or services are passed on to the ultimate consumers by way of a reduction in prices.
Which of the above statements are correct?
(A) Only 1 & 2
(B) Only 2 & 3
(C) Only 1 & 3
(D) 1, 2 & 3
(E) None of these

164. Consider the following statements:
1. 12th North-East Business Summit” was inaugurated in New Delhi.
2. The summit aims to explore the scope for business opportunities in the North-Eastern region of India.
3. The Summit is being organized by the Indian Chamber of Commerce (ICC), with Meghalaya being the state partner for the event.
Which of the above statements are correct?
(A) Only 1 & 2
(B) Only 2 & 3
(C) Only 1 & 3
(D) 1, 2 & 3
(E) None of these

165. In which city India will host the Global Conference on Cyber Space (GCCS), one of the world’s largest conferences in the field of Cyber Space and related issues?
(A) Bhopal
(B) Ahmedabad
(C) Chennai
(D) Bangalore
(E) New Delhi

166. Consider the following statements:
2. The portal can be accessed at http://saubhagya.gov.in.
3. Saubhagya Dashboard is a platform for monitoring household electrification progress, which would disseminate information on Household Electrification Status.
Which of the above statements are correct?
(A) Only 1 & 2
(B) Only 2 & 3
(C) Only 1 & 3
(D) 1, 2 & 3
(E) None of these

167. Consider the following statements:
1. National press day is observed on 16 November every year.
2. Press Council was established in India on July 4, 1966, which started its duties from November 16, 1966.
3. National Press Day draws our attention to the pressures and responsibilities of the press. Which of the above statements are correct?
(A) Only 1 & 2
(B) Only 2 & 3
(C) Only 1 & 3
(D) 1, 2 & 3
(E) None of these

168. Which of the following scheme launched by President for Jharkhand to help tribal and Dalit families double their incomes in four years?
(A) TDFDI
(B) JOHAR
(C) MSBY
(D) Gyanodaya
(E) ARYA

169. Toyota Kirloskar Motor Private Limited signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with which state to undertake a feasibility study on the introduction of electric vehicles?
(A) Telangana
(B) Andhra Pradesh
(C) Karnataka
(D) Madhya Pradesh
(E) Rajasthan

170. Kevin Lilliana won Miss International 2017 title on November 14. She belonged from which country?
(A) Malaysia
(B) South Korea
(C) Indonesia
(D) Japan
(E) France

171. What is the rank of India in this year's Climate Change Performance Index (CCPI) 2018?
(A) 12th
(B) 28th
(C) 14th
(D) 25th
(E) 22nd

172. In which country Founding Ceremony of the International Solar Alliance (ISA) was held?
(A) England
(B) Japan
(C) USA
(D) South Africa
(E) Germany

173. In which country International Solar Alliance was jointly launched on 30 November 2015 on the sidelines of the UNFCCC Conference of Parties 21 (CoP21)?
(A) France
(B) Japan
(C) India
(D) South Africa
(E) Germany

174. Which of the following port will be a global ship repair hub?
(A) Vishakhapatnam Port
(B) Cochin Port
(C) Paradeep Port
(D) Kandla Port
(E) Haldia Port

175. Consider the following statements:
1. "Qaumi Ekta Week" (National Integration Week) will be observed all over the country, from the 19th to 25th November, 2017.
2. November 19, 2017 will be observed as National Integration Day.
3. November 20, 2017 will be observed as Welfare of Minorities Day and Items of the 15 Point Programme are emphasized on this day.
Which of the above statements are correct?
(A) Only 1 & 2
(B) Only 2 & 3
(C) Only 1 & 3
(D) 1, 2 & 3
(E) None of these

176. Consider the following statements:
1. RBI Governor Urjit Patel was appointed to the Financial Stability Institute Advisory Board.
2. Bank of International Settlement (BIS) is a global financial organization owned by major central banks from across the world.
3. The Financial Stability Institute (FSI) of the BIS assists financial sector authorities worldwide in strengthening their financial systems.
Which of the above statements are correct?
(A) Only 1 & 2
(B) Only 2 & 3
(C) Only 1 & 3
(D) 1, 2 & 3
(E) None of these
177. Who among the following has been reelected as president of Slovenia?
   (A) Antonio Tajani
   (B) Donald Tusk
   (C) Leo Varadkar
   (D) Mariano Rajoy
   (E) Borut Pahor

178. Who among the following has been awarded with this year’s “Rashtriya Bal Kalyan Award” for his contributions in the field of teaching and education?
   (A) Kailash Satyarthi
   (B) Bezwada Wilson
   (C) T M Krishna
   (D) Anand Kumar
   (E) M Raisinghaniya

179. Who among the following has bagged the NTR National Film Awards for 2016?
   (A) Kamal Hasan
   (B) Rajnikant
   (C) K. Raghvendra Rao
   (D) Amitabh Bachchan
   (E) Irfan Khan

180. Who among the following has bagged the NTR National Film Awards for 2015?
   (A) Kamal Hasan
   (B) Rajnikant
   (C) K. Raghvendra Rao
   (D) Aamir Khan
   (E) Anil Kapoor

181. World Toilet Day is celebrated on which of the following date?
   (A) 18-Nov
   (B) 19-Nov
   (C) 20-Nov
   (D) 17-Nov
   (E) None of these

182. What is the theme for this year’s World Toilet Day?
   (A) Toilets and Jobs
   (B) End Open Defecation
   (C) Wastewater
   (D) I give a shit, do you?
   (E) Toilets and Nutrition

183. Which of the following state government has banned packaged water bottles in Mantralaya and other government offices in a bid to become plastic-free state?
   (A) Madhya Pradesh
   (B) Rajasthan
   (C) Karnataka
   (D) Maharashtra
   (E) West Bengal

184. Which of the following bank has set up an all women branch in Chennai?
   (A) Karur Vysya Bank
   (B) Tamilnad Mercantile Bank
   (C) Lakshmi Vilas Bank
   (D) IndusInd Bank
   (E) RBL Bank

185. With which bank Reliance General Insurance, a subsidiary of Reliance Capital, has signed a comprehensive bancassurance-corporate agency agreement?
   (A) ICICI
   (B) HDFC
   (C) YES Bank
   (D) Canara Bank
   (E) IndusInd Bank

186. Which of the following Indian Financial Institution’s rating is not upgraded by Moody’s Investors Service?
   (A) Union Bank of India
   (B) Export-Import Bank of India (EXIM India)
   (C) HDFC Bank
   (D) Indian Railway Finance Corporation Limited (IRFC)
   (E) State Bank of India (SBI)

187. Where is the Headquarters of Moody’s Investors Service?
   (A) New York
   (B) Paris
   (C) Luxemburg
   (D) Mosco
   (E) Berlin

188. With which bank Action Construction Equipment Ltd (ACE) have tied up for augmenting tractors/agricultural implements financing to the farmers across the country?
   (A) State Bank of India
   (B) Union Bank of India
   (C) Punjab National Bank
   (D) ICICI Bank
   (E) HDFC Bank

189. Who among the following won the Miss World beauty pageant for the year 2017?
   (A) Stephanie Hill
   (B) Andrea Meza
   (C) Manushi Chhillar
   (D) Antigone Costanda
190. Which of the following country will host the 2023 Rugby World Cup?
(A) England
(B) Russia
(C) China
(D) France
(E) USA

191. Which state’s Chief Minister inaugurated the Namami Barak festival?
(A) Sikkim
(B) Arunachal Pradesh
(C) Assam
(D) Manipur
(E) Meghalaya

192. Which of the following Military Exercise will be conduct between India and Myanmar?
(A) SAMPRITI
(B) IMBAX
(C) INTRA
(D) MITRA SHAKTI
(E) SURYA KIRAN

193. In which state Indian and Myanmar armies will conduct their maiden joint exercise?
(A) Manipur
(B) Arunachal Pradesh
(C) West Bengal
(D) Meghalaya
(E) Nagaland

194. In which city 42nd World Congress of the International Committee of Military Medicine (ICMM) is organized?
(A) New Delhi
(B) Lucknow
(C) Gandhinagar
(D) Chennai
(E) Bangalore

195. What is the theme for this year’s World Congress of the International Committee of Military Medicine (ICMM)?
(A) International Innovation of Laboratory Medicine - Basic and Advanced
(B) Military Medicine in Transition: Looking Ahead
(C) International Innovation in Medicine
(D) Military and Medicine
(E) None of these

196. What is the rank of India in terms of GDP per capita of countries?
(A) 98th
(B) 102nd
(C) 126th
(D) 48th
(E) 92nd

197. In which city Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) will set up nation’s first electric vehicle charging?
(A) Hyderabad
(B) Chennai
(C) Indore
(D) Ahmedabad
(E) Nagpur

198. Who among the following will receive the Indira Gandhi Prize for Peace, Disarmament and Development?
(A) P Chidambaram
(B) A K Antony
(C) Pranab Mukherjee
(D) Dr. Manmohan Singh
(E) Pratibha Devi Singh Patil

199. Which of the following country won Under-19 Asia Cup title, in Kuala Lumpur?
(A) India
(B) Pakistan
(C) Afghanistan
(D) Nepal
(E) Malaysia

200. Who among the following players clinched his first title of the 2017 season on the ATP Challenger Tour?
(A) Yuki Bhambri
(B) Ramkumar Ramanathan
(C) Saketh Myneni
(D) N Sriram Balaji
(E) E Ravichandran

201. In which country 13th Asia-Europe Foreign Ministers’ Meeting held in which the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and the European Union (EU) participated?
(A) Nepal
(B) Vietnam
(C) Singapore
(D) Myanmar
(E) Philippines

202. According to World Economic Forum’s list of most trusted governments, what is the rank of Modi’s government?
(A) 2nd
(B) 3rd
203. Consider the following statements:
1. The International Seminar on Indian Space Programme: ‘Trends and Opportunities for Industry’ was inaugurated in Bangalore.
2. The seminar is being organized by ISRO, Antrix Corporation Limited in coordination with Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI).
3. The objective of conference is to deliberate on the best practices, pursue the ongoing discussion process to support further work of India’s Space Sector and facilitate arriving at coherent framework.
Which of the above statements are correct?
(A) Only 1 & 2
(B) Only 2 & 3
(C) Only 1 & 3
(D) 1, 2 & 3
(E) None of these

204. At which railway station, India’s largest state of the art, Electronic Interlocking (EI) system of 800 routes has been commissioned?
(A) Kharagpur
(B) Mumbai
(C) New Delhi
(D) Gorakhpur
(E) Mughal Sarai

205. India signed a loan agreement with which of the following Bank for the “Shared Infrastructure for Solar Parks Project”?
(A) IMF
(B) World Bank
(C) ADB
(D) AIIB
(E) NDB

206. Who among the following re-elected to the fifth and the last seat of the world court after Britain withdrew its candidate from the election?
(A) Nagendra Singh
(B) Dalveer Bhandari
(C) Nripendra Mishra
(D) B.N.Rao
(E) R.S.Pathak

207. Consider the following statements:
1. 48th edition of International Film Festival of India (IFFI 2017) was inaugurated in Goa by Shah Rukh Khan.
2. Amitabh Bachchan will be honoured with the Indian Film Personality of the Year Award at the event.
3. The International Film Festival of India (IFFI), founded in 1952, is one of the most significant film festivals in Asia.
Which of the above statements are correct?
(A) Only 1 & 2
(B) Only 2 & 3
(C) Only 1 & 3
(D) 1, 2 & 3
(E) None of these

208. In which city AIBA women youth boxing championship being held?
(A) Kohima
(B) Guwahati
(C) Shillong
(D) New Delhi
(E) Gangtok

209. Former union minister Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi died, he belonged from which party?
(A) NCP
(B) BJP
(C) INC
(D) TMC
(E) AIDMK

210. Jana Novotna, the tennis star who won Wimbledon singles final in 1998, died. She belonged from which country?
(A) Spain
(B) Russia
(C) Japan
(D) USA
(E) Czech Republic

211. According to IMD World Talent Ranking, what is the rank of India in terms of ability to attract, develop and retain talent?
(A) 55
(B) 51
(C) 62
(D) 47
(E) 42

212. Which of the following country is top in the list of IMD World Talent Ranking?
(A) Switzerland
(B) Denmark
213. In which state President inaugurated the North-East Development Summit to develop the North-East Region?
(A) Assam
(B) Meghalaya
(C) Sikkim
(D) Manipur
(E) Nagaland

214. World Fisheries Day is celebrated on which of the following date?
(A) 20th November
(B) 22nd November
(C) 21st November
(D) 18th November
(E) None of these

215. India, which is the second largest fish producing country, the World Fisheries Day is being celebrated from which year in it?
(A) 2011
(B) 2016
(C) 2015
(D) 2014
(E) 2009

216. In which city, 1st World Conference on Access to Medical Products and International Laws for Trade and Health in the Context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is held?
(A) Kolkata
(B) Bhubaneswar
(C) Pune
(D) Hyderabad
(E) New Delhi

217. Which of the following bank has launched a new scheme for self-help groups (SHGs) to encourage entrepreneurship?
(A) ICICI Bank
(B) Andhra Bank
(C) HDFC Bank
(D) Canara Bank
(E) UCO Bank

218. Which of the following bank is the biggest bank by volume of SMSes, with 30 per cent of Truecaller users using it?
(A) HDFC
(B) Union bank of India
(C) State Bank of India
(D) ICICI
(E) Axis Bank

219. Who among the following has been appointed as the acting chairperson of IFFI?
(A) Rahul Rawail
(B) Sujoy Ghosh
(C) Suresh Heblikar
(D) Hari Vishwanath
(E) Ravi Jadhav

220. Who among the following has been appointed as a UNAIDS Special Ambassador for Adolescents and HIV?
(A) Deeyah Khan
(B) Michael Bloomberg
(C) Kristin Davis
(D) Quarraisha Abdool Karim
(E) Lilly Singh

221. Consider the following statements:
1. Union Minister for Agriculture & Farmers Welfare has sent a proposal to United Nations for declaring the year 2018 as ‘International Year of Millets’.
2. Proposal will raise awareness about millets among consumers, policy makers, industry and R&D sector.
3. Millet is a common term to categorize small-seeded grasses that are often termed nutri-cereals or dryland-cereals.
Which of the above statements are correct?
(A) Only 1 & 2
(B) Only 2 & 3
(C) Only 1 & 3
(D) 1, 2 & 3
(E) None of these

222. How many Finance Commissions have been constituted in the past?
(A) Thirteen
(B) Fifteen
(C) Sixteen
(D) Twenty
(E) Fourteen

223. Under which article of the Constitution, Finance Commission is set up?
(A) 280
(B) 321
(C) 218
(D) 324
224. Consider the following statements:
1. Cabinet has given its approval for expansion of the schemes of MWCD under Umbrella Scheme "Mission for Protection and Empowerment for Women" for a period 2017-18 to 2019-20.
2. CCEA has given approval to the new scheme called ‘Pradhan Mantri Mahila Shakti Kendra.
3. It will empower rural women through community participation to create an environment in which they realize their full potential.
Which of the above statements are correct?
(A) Only 1 & 2
(B) Only 2 & 3
(C) Only 1 & 3
(D) 1, 2 & 3
(E) None of these

225. Which of the following state government has launched ‘Dishari’ -- an educational mobile application that provides free study materials for youths preparing for competitive examinations?
(A) Uttar Pradesh
(B) Rajasthan
(C) Gujarat
(D) Andhra Pradesh
(E) Madhya Pradesh

226. Who among the following has inaugurated the National Biomaterial Centre (National Tissue Bank) at the National Organ and Tissue Transplant Organization (NOTTO)?
(A) Sushma Swaraj
(B) Menaka Gandhi
(C) Nirmala Sitharaman
(D) Smriti Irani
(E) Anupriya Patel

227. Consider the following statements:
1. Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi has approved India's Membership for European Bank for Reconstruction & Development (EBRD).
2. Necessary steps will be initiated by the Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance to acquire the membership of the EBRD.
3. Membership of EBRD would enhance India's international profile and promote its economic interests.
Which of the above statements are correct?
(A) Only 1 & 2
(B) Only 2 & 3
(C) Only 1 & 3
(D) 1, 2 & 3
(E) None of these

228. Who among the following will be convener of a task force for redrafting the 50-year old income tax law in sync with the economic needs of the country?
(A) Rajiv Memani
(B) Arbind Modi
(C) Girish Ahuja
(D) Mansi Kedia
(E) Arvind Subramanian

229. Which of the following bank has approved two infrastructure and sustainable development projects in India and Russia with loans of $400 million?
(A) European Bank
(B) ADB
(C) NDB
(D) World Bank
(E) AIIB

230. Under which declaration New Development bank was set up with an initial authorized capital of $100 billion?
(A) Ufa Declaration
(B) Durban Declaration
(C) Shanghai Declaration
(D) Goa Declaration
(E) Fortaleza Declaration

231. Consider the following statements:
1. Central Government launched an exclusive "Rural Livelihood" scheme for the Northeast.
2. This unique scheme will be under the title “North East Rural Livelihood Project” is being supported by the IMF.
3. It will primarily benefit the tribal and the lower socioeconomic groups, including women, in the North-Eastern Region (NER).
Which of the above statements are correct?
(A) Only 1 & 2
(B) Only 2 & 3
(C) Only 1 & 3
(D) 1, 2 & 3
(E) None of these

232. What is theme for 5th Global Conference on Cyberspace, 2017?
(A) Promoting and Raising Awareness of Cyber Security
(B) Cyber4All: A Secure and Inclusive Cyberspace for Sustainable Development
(C) Protect Your Precious Assets in Cyberspace
233. In which city Hon’ble Prime Minister of India inaugurated the Global Conference on Cyberspace 2017?
(A) Bangalore
(B) Assam
(C) Chennai
(D) Hyderabad
(E) New Delhi

234. Consider the following statements:
1. Government has launched a new mobile app -- UMANG (Unified Mobile Application for New-age Governance),
2. It will allow citizens to access government services on a single platform.
3. The services live on the app include Aadhaar, DigiLocker, Bharat Bill Payment System (BBPS) among others.
Which of the above statements are correct?
(A) Only 1 & 2
(B) Only 2 & 3
(C) Only 1 & 3
(D) 1, 2 & 3
(E) None of these

235. Which of the following state has the highest number of women entrepreneurs in India?
(A) Tamil Nadu
(B) Kerala
(C) Andhra Pradesh
(D) Karnataka
(E) Maharashtra

236. Which of the following bank has launched its latest campaign #MuhPeTaala to promote safe banking in association with Mumbai Police?
(A) State Bank of India
(B) Axis Bank
(C) HDFC Bank
(D) Canara Bank
(E) Punjab National Bank

237. Which of the following bank has launched comprehensive digital service platform ‘You Only Need One’?
(A) State Bank of India
(B) Axis Bank
(C) HDFC Bank
(D) Canara Bank
(E) Punjab National Bank

238. Who among the following will be Indian Navy’s first woman pilot?
(A) Sakthi Maya S
(B) Astha Segal
(C) Shubhangi Swaroop
(D) Bhawana Kanth
(E) Mohana Singh

239. Which of the following movie secured two wins at the Asia Pacific Screen Awards in Brisbane?
(A) Lady of the Lake
(B) S Durga
(C) Newton
(D) Rustom
(E) Baby

240. Who among the following won best actor award at the Asia Pacific Screen Awards?
(A) Akshay Kumar
(B) Ranbeer Singh
(C) Mayank Tewari
(D) Sanal Kumar Sasidharan
(E) Rajkummar Rao

241. In which state, president inaugurated the International Gita Mahotsava-2017?
(A) Punjab
(B) Haryana
(C) New Delhi
(D) Uttar Pradesh
(E) Gujarat

242. Which of the following state government will give an assistance of Rs. 75,000 for marriages of couples belonging to the Scheduled Caste (SC) as well as the inter-caste marriages in the state?
(A) Punjab
(B) Haryana
(C) New Delhi
(D) Uttar Pradesh
(E) Rajasthan

243. Which of the following ministry conducted a first-of-its-kind multi-State mega mock exercise on tsunami preparedness the Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS)?
(A) Ministry of External Affairs
(B) Ministry of Home Affairs
(C) Ministry of shipping
(D) Ministry of Finance
244. Which of the following states’ coast is not included in multi-State mega mock exercise on tsunami preparedness?
(A) Odisha
(B) West Bengal
(C) Andhra Pradesh
(D) Gujarat
(E) Tamil Nadu

245. National Law Day-2017 is celebrated on which of the following date?
(A) 26th November
(B) 24-Nov
(C) 25th November
(D) 28-Nov
(E) None of these

246. Which of the following Institution celebrated National Law Day-2017 jointly with the Law Commission of India?
(A) Supreme Court
(B) National Development Council
(C) NITI Aayog
(D) Ministry of Home Affairs
(E) Ministry of External Affairs

247. In how many districts across India, Government will set up Pradhan Mantri Mahila Shakti Kendras?
(A) 164
(B) 640
(C) 115
(D) 143
(E) 98

248. Which of the following state government has decided to launch a new scheme ‘Nabakrushna Choudhury Seccha Unnayan Yojana’ to provide irrigation facility?
(A) West Bengal
(B) Telangana
(C) Odisha
(D) Madhya Pradesh
(E) Jharkhand

249. Who among the following has been sworn in as the third president of Zimbabwe since the country gained independence in 1980?
(A) Elliot Belgrave
(B) Sir Hassanal Bolkiah
(C) Emmerson Mnangagwa
(D) Bashar Al-Assad
(E) Ibrahim Boubacar Keita

250. Who among the following is vice chairman of NITI Aayog?
(A) Ajay Tyagi
(B) Ashok Kumar Mathur
(C) Pradeep Kumar Sinha
(D) Hasmukh Adhia
(E) Dr. Rajiv Kumar

251. Which of the following joint army training exercise will be conducted between India and UK?
(A) Maitri
(B) Sampriti
(C) Surya Kiran
(D) Garun
(E) Ajeya Warrior

252. In which Indian State the third India-United Kingdom joint army training exercise will be conducted?
(A) Jammu & Kashmir
(B) Punjab
(C) Rajasthan
(D) Uttarakhand
(E) Gujarat

253. In which city the 12th meeting of the Standing Committee of Inter-State Council (ISC) held?
(A) Bhopal
(B) Hyderabad
(C) Kolkata
(D) New Delhi
(E) Pune

254. Who among the following chaired the 12th meeting of the Standing Committee of Inter-State Council (ISC)?
(A) Prime Minister
(B) Home Minister
(C) Finance Minister
(D) Corporate Minister
(E) Vice Chairman of NITI Aayog

255. From which fighter aircraft of Indian Air Force’s (IAF), the world’s fastest supersonic cruise missile Brahmos successfully flight-tested first time?
(A) HAL Tejas
(B) Rafale
(C) AH-64 Apache
(D) Sukhoi Su-30MKI
(E) Mikoyan MiG-29

256. Brahmos is a joint venture between DRDO of India and____________.
(A) NCDMM of USA
257. In which year Government of India declared 26 November as Constitution Day by a gazette notification?
(A) 2014
(B) 2012
(C) 2015
(D) 2016
(E) 2010

258. Consider the following statements:
1. Defence of Andaman and Nicobar Islands Exercise (DANX) was conducted.
2. It was conducted under the aegis of Andaman & Nicobar Command.
3. Main objective of the exercise was to practice & validate procedures and drills of all the Command forces aimed at defending Andaman & Nicobar Islands.
Which of the above statements are correct?
(A) Only 1 & 2
(B) Only 2 & 3
(C) Only 1 & 3
(D) 1, 2 & 3
(E) None of these

259. Who among the following won a Lifetime Achievement Award at Times Lit Fest 2017?
(A) Arundhati Roy
(B) Bishwanath Ghosh
(C) Chetan Bhagat
(D) Gopi Chand Narang
(E) Nayantara Sahgal

260. ‘An Insignificant Man’ is a Biographical film based on which of the following personality?
(A) M K Gandhi
(B) Narendra Modi
(C) Bala Saheb Thackrey
(D) Arvind Kejriwal
(E) Dr. Manmohan Singh

261. Consider the following statements:
1. India celebrates National Milk Day on November 26, the birthday of Verghese Kurien.
2. He is the Father of White Revolution in India.
3. He is also the founder of the popular dairy brand in India, Amul.
Which of the above statements are correct?
(A) Only 1 & 2
(B) Only 2 & 3
(C) Only 1 & 3
(D) 1, 2 & 3
(E) None of these

262. Consider the following statements:
1. India will host the 36th International Geological Congress in New Delhi in March 2020.
2. Union Cabinet has approved setting up of a society which will also strive to promote geoscience in the Indian subcontinent.
3. The Congress will be hosted jointly by the Ministry of External Affairs and Ministry of Earth Sciences with active support from science academies of India and co-host neighbouring countries.
Which of the above statements are correct?
(A) Only 1 & 2
(B) Only 2 & 3
(C) Only 1 & 3
(D) 1, 2 & 3
(E) None of these

263. Which of the following country will be assisted by Government of India to develop and set up digital locker services?
(A) Singapore
(B) Myanmar
(C) Philippines
(D) Mauritius
(E) Denmark

264. Who among the following is President of Mauritius?
(A) Ameenah Gurib
(B) Pravind Jugnauth
(C) N. Sidheswari
(D) Anerood Jugnauth
(E) Navin Ramgoolam

265. Consider the following statements:
1. Defence Minister Nirmala Sitharaman has been elected President of the Institute for Defence Studies and Analysis (IDSA).
2. IDSA was set up in 1965 by the Ministry of Defence as an autonomous think tank, and it is customary to have the Defence Minister as its President.
3. Minister chairs the Executive Council which governs the Institute.
Which of the above statements are correct?
(A) Only 1 & 2
266. Which of the following tourist spot has been awarded the ‘most visited place of the world’ by ‘World Book of Records’?
(A) Minakshi Temple
(B) Golden Temple
(C) Somnath Temple
(D) Konark Temple
(E) Brihadeeswar Temple

267. In which country U-23 Senior World Wrestling Championship held?
(A) Russia
(B) Kirgizstan
(C) Poland
(D) China
(E) Japan

268. Who among the following won the silver medal women’s 48 kg event in the U-23 Senior World Wrestling Championship?
(A) Ritu Phogat
(B) Babita Phogat
(C) Vinesh Phogat
(D) Sakshi Malik
(E) Kavita Devi

269. Who among the following became the first India man to win Asian Marathon Championships?
(A) Ram Singh Yadav
(B) Gopi Thonakal
(C) Nitendra Singh Rawat
(D) Budhia Singh
(E) P jaisha

270. Which of the following country topped the medals’ chart of the AIBA World Women’s Youth Boxing Championships in Guwahati?
(A) Russia
(B) Japan
(C) China
(D) Singapore
(E) India

271. Consider the following statements:
1. Global Entrepreneurship Summit is being held for the first time in South Asia in Hyderabad.
2. It is Co-hosted by the Governments of the United States and India.
3. The theme of Global Entrepreneurship Summit is “Women First, Prosperity for All.”
Which of the above statements are correct?
(A) Only 1 & 2
(B) Only 2 & 3
(C) Only 1 & 3
(D) 1, 2 & 3
(E) None of these

272. Which of the following state government has launched a scheme to boost fish production in the state?
(A) West Bengal
(B) Odisha
(C) Andhra Pradesh
(D) Kerala
(E) Tamil Nadu

273. Who among the following has been appointed as chairman of the 15th Finance Commission (FC)?
(A) Dr Y.V Reddy
(B) Dr M.Govindha Rao
(C) Ajay Narayan Jha
(D) NK Singh
(E) Ashok Lahiri

274. Who among the following has been crowned Miss Universe 2017?
(A) Demi-Leigh Nel-Peters
(B) Laura González
(C) Davina Bennett
(D) Iris Mittenaere
(E) Pia Wurtzbach

275. Which of the following ministry has been awarded the Bronze Medal for its creative and informative display at the 37th India International Trade Fair 2017?
(A) Ministry of External Affairs
(B) Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
(C) Ministry of Health and Family Welfare
(D) Ministry of Commerce and Industry
(E) Ministry of Culture

276. President of India conferred the 3rd ICCR Distinguished Indologist Award to Professor Hiroshi Marui. He belongs from which country?
(A) Singapore
(B) Philippines
(C) Japan
(D) China
277. Who among the following was named the Best Actor for his debut film Beyond the Clouds at the International Bosporus Film Festival in Turkey?
(A) Arjun Kapoor
(B) Varun Dhawan
(C) Sushant Singh Rajput
(D) Tiger Shroff
(E) Ishaan Khatter

278. Who among the following won Abu Dhabi Grand Prix?
(A) Valtteri Bottas
(B) Lewis Hamilton
(C) Fernando Alonso
(D) Nico Rosberg
(E) Max Verstappen

279. In which country 7th international military games will be held?
(A) Italy
(B) Russia
(C) China
(D) Japan
(E) USA

280. Who among the following won IBSF World snooker championship in Doha?
(A) Aditya Mehta
(B) Manan Chandra
(C) Anuja Thakur
(D) Pankaj Advani
(E) Subash Agrawal

281. Who has been appointed as India’s G20 Sherpa till December 31, 2018 for the Development Track of the grouping?
(A) Pradeep Singh Kharola
(B) B.N. Sharma
(C) Shaktikanta Das
(D) Snehlata Shrivastava
(E) Anup Misra

282. Who has been appointed first woman Lok Sabha Secretary General?
(A) Sujatha Singh
(B) Nirupama Rao
(C) Rama Devi
(D) Snehlata Shrivastava
(E) Aditi Ashok

283. Which Ministry’s pavilion bags Gold Medal in India International Trade Fair-2017 at New Delhi?
(A) Ministry of Water Resources
(B) Ministry of Health & Family Welfare
(C) Ministry of Culture
(D) Ministry of Corporate Affairs
(E) Ministry of Railways

284. Who has been appointed as Air India CMD?
(A) Pradeep Singh Kharola
(B) B.N. Sharma
(C) Rama Devi
(D) Rajiv Kumar
(E) Rajat Chouhan

285. Which film has won the coveted Golden Peacock Award at the 48th International Film Festival of India (IFFI)?
(A) Angels Wear White
(B) Take Off
(C) Kshitij
(D) 120 Beats Per Minute
(E) Newton

286. Who has been appointed as India’s G20 Sherpa till December 31, 2018 for the Development Track of the grouping?
(A) Pradeep Singh Kharola
(B) B.N. Sharma
(C) Shaktikanta Das
(D) Snehlata Shrivastava
(E) Anup Misra

287. Who has been honoured with Sportsman of the year (Individual sport) award 2017?
(A) Ravichandran Ashwin
(B) Neeraj Chopra
(C) Abhinav Bindra
(D) Hardik Pandya
(E) Kidambi Srikanth
290. Who has been honoured with Sportswoman of the year (Team sport) award 2017?
   (A) Mithali Raj
   (B) P.V.Sindhu
   (C) Aditi Ashok
   (D) Deepa Malik
   (E) Saina Nehwal

291. Who has been sworn in as Kenyan president for second term?
   (A) Raila Odinga
   (B) Uhuru Kenyatta
   (C) William Ruto
   (D) Najib Balala
   (E) Mwai Kibaki

292. In which city three day India-Afghan Cultural Festival has been inaugurated?
   (A) Kabul
   (B) Mumbai
   (C) Balkh
   (D) New Delhi
   (E) Herat

293. How much maximum amount a customer can deposit in Payments Bank?
   (A) Rs. 50,000
   (B) Rs. 1 lakh
   (C) Rs. 5 lakh
   (D) Rs. 2.5 lakh
   (E) Rs. 2 lakh

294. Asian Development Bank (ADB) will raise annual funding to India to up to ......... from existing $2.7 billion, from next year.
   (A) $8 billion
   (B) $5 billion
   (C) $4 billion
   (D) $10 billion
   (E) $3 billion

295. Which of the following company has bagged an engineering, procurement, construction (EPC) order for a 400 megawatt gas-based power plant in Bangladesh?
   (A) Essar
   (B) Pentech
   (C) L&T
   (D) Technip
   (E) Petrofac

296. How much money India will contribute to strengthen public transport in Afghanistan in its latest financial assistance to the neighbouring country?
   (A) $2.87m
   (B) $3.87m
   (C) $3.78m
   (D) $5 m
   (E) $4.78m

297. Which company has received the “BEST PERFORMANCE VENDOR – 2017” award from Ordnance Factory, Medak?
   (A) BHEL
   (B) NTPC
   (C) COAL
   (D) SAIL
   (E) ONGC

298. The Competition Competition has imposed a fine of....... on BCCI for anti-competitive practices with respect to IPL media rights.
   (A) Rs 62.25 crore
   (B) Rs 75.44 crore
   (C) Rs 40.64 crore
   (D) Rs 65.84 crore
   (E) Rs 52.24 crore

299. Which of the following is not a Payments Bank?
   (A) Paytm Payments Bank
   (B) Airtel Payments Bank
   (C) India Post Payments Bank
   (D) Fino Payments Bank
   (E) AU Payments Bank

300. Which of the following is the Capital of Kenya?
   (A) Nairobi
   (B) Mombasa
   (C) Kisumu
   (D) Herat
   (E) Thimpu
|-----|----|-----|----|-----|----|-----|----|-----|----|-----|----|-----|----|-----|----|-----|----|-----|