International Day of Older Persons: October 1

The International Day of Older Persons is observed on October 1 each year.

• On December 14, 1990 the United Nations General Assembly voted to establish October 1 as the International Day of Older Persons as recorded in Resolution 45/106.
• The day was observed for the first time on October 1, 1991.
• The theme of the International Day of Older Persons 2017 is “Stepping into the Future: Tapping the Talents, Contributions and Participation of Older Persons in Society.”

UAE begins collecting ‘sin’ taxes on tobacco, energy drinks

The United Arab Emirates has begun collecting new “sin” taxes on tobacco products, energy drinks and soft drinks.

• Tobacco and energy drinks will be taxed at 100 percent and soft drinks at 50 percent.
• The new tax push comes as the UAE and other oil-rich Gulf nations have struggled with low global energy prices.

Nepal, India to conduct first joint tiger count

For the first time, Nepal and India will undertake a joint tiger census next month in their national parks, forests and protected areas.

• Conservation authorities and experts would install cameras in various locations in tiger habitats as well as in buffer zones to capture and track the movements of the tiger.
• The counting of tigers will begin from the second week of November.

India picked as guest country at World Summit of Governments

The World Government Summit announced that India is a guest country in its upcoming gathering.

• The Annual Gathering is scheduled for February 11 to 13, 2018.

• Honorary guests from India will join the notable list of speakers synonymous with the World Government Summit to showcase the country’s emerging economic growth, highlight valuable knowledge, skills, and capabilities and elaborate on the country’s unique culture, according to the Summit.

World Teachers’ Day: 5 October

World Teachers’ Day is celebrated yearly on October 5.

• World Teachers’ Day is celebrated around the world since 1994.
• "Teaching in Freedom, Empowering Teachers" is the theme of this year’s World Teachers’ Day.

UN ends 13-year military peacekeeping mission in Haiti

The UN soldiers left Haiti finishing their 13 year military peacekeeping mission in Haiti.

• A UN peacekeeping mission helped to maintain order in Haiti through 13 years of political turmoil and disaster.
• UN troops reached more than 10,000 in number after the January 2010 earthquake.
• The UN lowered its flag at its headquarters in Port-au-Prince.

India drops a rank, is eighth most valuable nation brand

India is ranked the eighth most valuable nation brand while the United States retained its top position and China took the second spot in the league of nations according to Brand Finance’s Nation Brands 2017.

• India went down one spot over the previous year, the report said, because the economy grew at its slowest pace.
• China, the fastest growing nation brand in 2017, saw valuation grow 44 per cent.

International Day of the Girl Child: 11 October

International Day of the Girl Child is an international observance day declared by the United Nations; it is also called the Day of the Girl and the International Day of the Girl.

• October 11, 2012, was the first Day of the Girl.
• The theme for the year 2017 is ‘EmPOWER Girls: Before, during and after crises’.

US, Israel withdraws from UNESCO
The US and its ally Israel have announced they will withdraw from the United Nations Scientific and Cultural Organization, accusing the body of "anti-Israel bias".

- Heather Nauert, US state department spokesperson, said the US would establish an "observer mission" to replace its representation at the Paris-based agency.
- The US was angered in 2011 when UNESCO members granted Palestine full membership of the body, despite opposition from its ally Israel.

Points to Remember

- UNESCO's headquarters is in Paris.
- This organization of the United Nations has been working since 1946.
- It is known for marking world heritage.
- Irina Bokova is the secretary General of UNESCO.

China Overtakes US As World's Largest Ice Cream Producer

China has overtaken the US as the world's largest ice cream producer, according to figures published at an industry expo in north China's Tianjin City.

- In 2016, China's major frozen drink producers yielded over 3.3 million tonnes of frozen drinks, ringing up nearly $6.6 billion in sales.

India 100th on global hunger index

India has a “serious” hunger problem and ranks 100th out of 119 countries on the global hunger index with a GHI score of 31.4, behind North Korea, Bangladesh and Iraq but ahead of Pakistan, according to a report.

- The country’s serious hunger level is driven by high child malnutrition and underlines need for stronger commitment to the social sector, the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) said in its report.
- India stood at 97th position in last year’s rankings.
- Central African Republic ranked last.
- Chile, Cuba and Turkey have a GHI score of less than 5 and have ranked as the best nations on the index.

International Day for Disaster Reduction: October 13

International Day for Disaster Reduction is being observed on every 13 October every year all over the world.

- The International Day for Disaster Reduction was started in 1989.


G-20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors Meeting

The Union Minister for Finance and Corporate Affairs, Shri Arun Jaitley participated in the G-20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors (FMCBG) Meeting in Washington D.C.

- The discussion focused on the agenda items pertaining to Global Economy and Framework for Growth, Compact with Africa and International Financial Architecture.
- The Finance Minister Shri Jaitley is presently on a one week visit to USA mainly to participate in Annual Meetings of the World Bank and IMF among others.

Tokyo is world's safest city, Delhi is 43rd

Tokyo has once again topped the list of The Economist's Safe Cities Index 2017 while Delhi and Mumbai ranked 43rd and 45th respectively.

- The index, produced by The Economist Intelligence Unit, was based on 49 indicators covering digital, health, infrastructure and personal security.
- Of the 10 cities at the bottom of the index, two are in South Asia (Dhaka and Karachi), three in South-east Asia (Manila, Ho Chi Minh City and Jakarta) and two in the Middle East and Africa (Cairo and Tehran).

World Standards Day: October 14

World Standards Day is observed on On 14th October every year all over the world.

- 14th October was chosen to mark the date, in 1946, when delegates from 25 countries first gathered in London to create an international organization focused on facilitating standardization.
- The first World Standards Day was celebrated on 14thNovember, 1970.
- World Standards Day theme for 2017 is “Standards make cities smarter”.
World Students' Day: 15 October
World Students' Day is celebrated on 15 October every year on the occasion of birth anniversary of A. P. J. Abdul Kalam.
- The most loved President of India, APJ Abdul Kalam was a scientist who made India proud with his missile defense programme.
- But his favourite job was teaching and that’s how he wanted the world to remember him.
- Due to his love for students and focus on promoting education, the United Nations declared his birthday (October 15) as ‘World Student’s Day’ in 2010.

World Food Day: 16 October
October 16 is observed as the World Food Day in honour of the founding of the Food & Agriculture Organization of the UN in 1945.
- The theme for this year is “Change the future of migration. Invest in food security and rural development”.

International Day for the Eradication of Poverty: October 17
International Day for the Eradication of Poverty is observed on 17th October every year all over the
- This day was chosen because on 17th October 1987, over a hundred thousand people gathered at the Trocadero in Paris, where the Universal Declaration of Human Rights was signed in 1948.
- Theme for International Day for the Eradication of Poverty 2017 is: ‘Answering the Call of October 17 to end poverty: A path toward peaceful and inclusive societies’.

Gandhi museum inaugurated in Durban
A Gandhi museum has been inaugurated on a small piece of land once owned by Mahatma Gandhi in the coastal city of Durban.
- Minister of State for External Affairs V K Singh inaugurated the museum, which will reflect the life and universal influence of Mahatma Gandhi.
- Gandhi owned the land in 1897 and used to hold public meetings there when the Natal Indian Congress planned its fight against laws discriminating against Indians in South Africa.

World Statistics Day: October 20
World Statistics Day is observed all over the world on 20 October every year.
- World Statistics Day was celebrated for the first time on 20th October 2010 throughout the world.
- World Statistics Day highlights the importance of reliable and timely data for informed decision-making by governments and individuals.

India ranked No. 1 in pollution related deaths: Lancet report
With 2.51 million deaths in 2015, India has been ranked No. 1 in pollution related deaths, according to a report by The Lancet Commission on pollution and health.
- China recorded the second highest number of such deaths (1.8 million).
- India accounted for about 28 per cent of an estimated nine million pollution linked deaths worldwide in 2015.

Robert Mugabe removed as WHO goodwill ambassador after outcry
Zimbabwean President Robert Mugabe has been removed as a goodwill ambassador, the World Health Organization (WHO) said following an outrage among Western donors and rights groups at the appointment.
- Mugabe, 93, is blamed in the West for destroying Zimbabwe’s economy and numerous human rights abuses during his 37 years leading the country as either president or prime minister.

United Nations Day: 24 October
24 October has been celebrated as United Nations Day since 1948.
- In 1971, the United Nations General Assembly recommended that the day be observed by Member States as a public holiday.
- UN Day marks the anniversary of the entry into force in 1945 of the UN Charter.

Singapore Passport World's 'Most Powerful'
Singapore has the world's "most powerful" passport, according to a global ranking topped for the first time by an Asian country.

- India ranked at 75th position, three notches better than its previous ranking.
- According to the 'Global Passport Power Rank 2017' by global financial advisory firm Arton Capital, Germany is ranked second, followed by Sweden and South Korea in third place.

Chile named best country to visit in 2018
Chile has been named the best country to visit next year by Lonely Planet in its 'Best in Travel 2018' list.

- South Korea and Portugal have ranked second and third respectively, while Djibouti and New Zealand have completed the top five.
- The other countries featured on the list are Malta, Georgia, Mauritius, China and South Africa.

Saudi Arabia bestows humanoid robot with citizenship
A humanoid named Sophia has made history by becoming the first robot in the world to be granted citizenship.

- Saudi Arabia offered citizenship to the robot, designed by entrepreneur David Hanson.
- The particulars of the citizenship were not discussed, and it’s not clear if Sophia will have the same rights as a human Saudi Arabian citizen.

Nepal govt accepts resignation of envoy to India
The Nepal government has accepted the resignation of Deep Kumar Upadhyay, the country’s ambassador to India, who has quit to contest the upcoming parliamentary elections.

- Upadhyaya had tendered his resignation to Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs Krishna Bahadur Mahara on October 6.
- Upadhyay has filed his nomination for the upcoming parliamentary election from Kapilastu district in western Nepal as the ruling Nepali Congress candidate.

First International Day of Diplomats celebrated in Brasilia
The first International Day of Diplomats was celebrated in Brasilia on October 24 with participation from the diplomats of Bangladesh, Brazil, France, Ghana, India, Israel, Italy, Mexico, South Africa and Turkey.

- The idea of celebrating International Day of Diplomats on October 24 was proposed by Indian poet-diplomat Abhay K. in his piece for a leading online daily titled 'Why the World needs International Day of Diplomats'.

Jeff Bezos passes Bill Gates to become the world's richest person
A post-earnings surge in Amazon.com Inc. shares Friday pushed Jeff Bezos to the top of the Bloomberg Billionaires Index for the first time, vaulting him ahead of Bill Gates who had held the top spot as the richest person on Earth for more than four years.

- At the close of U.S. markets on 27 October, Bezos had a net worth of $93.8 billion, $5.1 billion ahead of Gates on the Bloomberg index, a daily ranking of the world’s 500 richest people.
- Gates, 61, had been the world’s richest person since 2013.

Burundi becomes first country to leave International Criminal Court
Burundi has become the first country to withdraw from the International Criminal Court.

- The pullout took effect a year after Burundi notified the United Nations secretary-general of its intention to leave the court that prosecutes the world’s worst atrocities.
- Burundi is the only one of three African nations to go ahead with withdrawal after they made moves last year to leave, amid accusations that the court focuses too much on the continent.
- South Africa’s withdrawal was revoked in March.
- Gambia’s new government reversed its withdrawal in February.

Spanish PM dismisses Catalan government
Spanish Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy announced the immediate sacking of Catalan leader Carles Puigdemont and his government and called new elections in the region on December 21.

- This followed the decision taken by the Catalan parliament earlier in the day to unilaterally declare independence of the region in the northeast of Spain.
- Rajoy announced the measures after a special cabinet meeting called at his residence in the Palacio de la Moncloa to decide how to apply Article 155 of the Spanish Constitution.
World Stroke Day: October 29

World Stroke Day is observed on October 29 to underscore the serious nature and high rates of stroke. The theme for World Stroke Day 2017 is “What’s your reason for preventing stroke?”.

- Stroke occurs when the blood supply to part of the brain is cut off. Without blood, brain cells can be damaged or die.

Nirmala Sitharaman inaugurates Pratham-Shyok bridge in Leh

Defence Minister Nirmala Sitharaman inaugurated the Pratham-Shyok bridge that will link Leh to Karakoram, providing connectivity on the strategically important Darbuk-Shyok-Daulat Beg Olde axis for military transport.

- The bridge is a major development on the Shyok Gong river which will enhance travel of locals as well as the Army in this strategic region.
- It will increase travel and communication for strategic transport, the Minister said.

The third edition of ‘Women of India Organic Festival’

To celebrate and promote women entrepreneurs and farmers in the organic sector from across India, the Ministry of Women and Child Development is hosting the 3rd annual ‘Women of India Organic Festival’ from October 1st to 15th, 2017, in New Delhi.

- Smt. Maneka Sanjay Gandhi, Union Minister for Women and Child Development, inaugurated the festival in the presence of Shri Virendra Kumar, Minister of State, Ministry of Women and Child Development, on October 1 at Dilli Haat (INA).
- With the theme ‘Good for Women; Good for India; Good for You’, the Ministry intends to highlight the health and environmental advantages of organic goods, provide a platform for women engaged in it and boost the development of sustainable and easily accessible sales outlets for women producers from the remotest corners of India.

India opens two border crossing points with Myanmar, Bangladesh

India has opened two immigration check posts along the borders with Myanmar and Bangladesh, a reflection of its growing closeness with the two eastern neighbours.

- The home ministry said the central government has designated Zorinpui land check post in Lawngtlai district of Mizoram as an authorised immigration check post for entry into or exit from India with valid travel documents for all classes of passengers to or from Myanmar.
- In a separate notification, the ministry said the central government designated Kawrpuichhuah land check post in Lunglei district of Mizoram as an authorised immigration check post for entry into or exit from India with valid travel documents for all classes of passengers to or from Bangladesh.
- India shares a 1,643-km-long border with Myanmar which touches Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland, Manipur and Mizoram.
- India shares a 4,096-km-long border with Bangladesh which touches Assam, Tripura, Mizoram, Meghalaya and West Bengal.

President Kovind inaugurates Shirdi Airport

President Ram Nath Kovind inaugurated the swank new Shirdi Airport in Ahmednagar and the inaugural Alliance Air commercial flight to Mumbai.

- The inauguration of the airport, developed by Maharashtra Airport Development Corporation (MADC), also marks the start of the year-long centenary celebrations of Shri Saibaba Samadhi for which over 11 million pilgrims are expected from around the world.
- The small town in western Maharashtra is a world-famous pilgrim spot for the ‘samadhi’ temple of a 20th century saint, known as Saibaba, who is revered by all communities.
MP CM launches 'Single Click Pension Delivery' scheme
Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan launched 'Single Click Pension Delivery' scheme, wherein the money will go directly into the account of the beneficiaries.
- More than 35 lakh people of the state will be benefitted from this move.
- Chauhan honoured the elderly who completed the age of 100 years with the "Shataayu" award.

MCI to give Unique Permanent Registration Number to all doctors
The Medical Council of India has written to the country’s largest body of doctors to help digitise India’s registry of doctors through a unique registration number similar to AADHAAR as part of its ongoing e-governance initiative.
- The move is expected to help doctors practice in different States without seeking different licences across borders.

Government to celebrate Swachh Bharat Diwas on 2nd October
The third anniversary of the Swachh Bharat Mission will be celebrated as "Swachh Bharat Diwas" on 2nd October.
- October 2 is also celebrated as the International Day of Non-Violence. On June 15, 2007, the United Nations General Assembly had voted for this.

Bhopal set to become first state capital to get trans toilet
Over five months after the union government asked all states to allow transgender people to use any public toilet of their choice, Bhopal is set to become the first state capital to come up with an exclusive toilet for the transgender community.
- It will be inaugurated by Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan.
- In April this year, the union ministry of drinking water and sanitation had issued guidelines to state governments to put in efforts to make people from the transgender community feel as equal citizens.

Thaawarchand Gehlot Flags off “WALKATHON” for Older Persons
To mark the ‘International day of Older Persons’ on 2nd October, more than 5000 participants gathered at India Gate for a noble cause to spread the message of caring and giving respect to older persons and senior citizens.
- This year’s theme was “Stepping into the Future: Tapping the Talents, Contributions and Participation of Older Persons in Society.
- Shri Thaawarchand Gehlot Union Minister of Social Justice & Empowerment along with the Minister of State Shri Krishan Pal Gurjar, took the pledge with other dignitaries and 5000 participants.
- Then the “Walkathon” was flagged off by Shri Thawarchand Gehlot & MOS Shri Krishan Pal Gurjar and they also took part in 1 km Walkathon with all the dignitaries.

Rajghat gets Mahatma Statue, for the first time
Rajghat, the Samadhi of the Father of the Nation in the national capital, has for the first time acquired a new feature that could appeal to the large number of visitors.
- Vice-President of India Shri M.Venkaiah Naidu unveiled a 1.80 metre tall bronze statue of Mahatma Gandhi on the occasion of the 148 Birth Anniversary of the champion of country’s independence.
- The statue, sculpted by the renowned Shri Ram Sutar is installed in the Parking Area of Rajghat Samadhi Complex at a cost of Rs.8.73 lakhs. It is mounted on a two feet high pedestal clad with granite.
- The famous message of Gandhi ji “Be the Change You Wish to See” is inscribed on the front side of the pedestal. Installation of the Statue is a part of a large number of improvement works at Rajghat undertaken during the last three years.

Global Entrepreneurship Summit 2017 to be Held in Hyderabad
A high-level delegation from the Government of India and the United States met, at NITI Aayog to plan the 2017 Global Entrepreneurship Summit, which will be held November 28-30 at the Hyderabad International Convention Centre in Hyderabad, India.
- The Summit will be inaugurated by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi and Advisor to the President, Ivanka Trump, who leads the U.S. delegation.
• The GES is the preeminent annual gathering of emerging entrepreneurs, investors, and business leaders from around the world.

Chandrababu Naidu launches 'Swachh Andhra Mission'
Taking the cue from Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Swachh Bharat Mission, Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu launched Swachh Andhra Mission on the occasion of Gandhi Jayanti.
• Ace shuttler PV Sindhu, who has been chosen as the brand ambassador of Swachh Andhra, joined Naidu on this occasion.

'No helmet, no petrol' rule comes into force in Andhra Pradesh
'No helmet, no petrol' rule for two-wheeler riders to reduce road accident deaths has come into force in Andhra Pradesh.
• Chandrababu has sanctioned Rs 10 crore for equipment to implement this rule.
• He also ordered the officials to conduct a weekly check on the motorists for effective implementation of the rule.
• Naidu said that road safety rules must be implemented strictly to reduce the number of road accidents in the states.

Karnataka Government launches Mathru Poorna scheme
The Karnataka government has launched Mathru Poorna, a scheme meant to meet the nutritional needs of pregnant and lactating women in rural areas.
• Under the programme, pregnant and lactating poor women in rural areas will get one nutritious meal daily for 25 days in a month.

Upgradation of the Women’s Police Training Centre at Yamethin, Myanmar
The Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has given its ex-post facto approval to the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between India and Myanmar on upgradation of the Women’s Police Training Centre at Yamethin, Myanmar. The MoU was signed on 6th September, 2017.
• The MoU covers upgradation of the Yamethin Women’s Police Training Centre to further augment the capabilities of the Myanmar Government to build capacities of its police force with technical and financial assistance from Government of India.

High Level Committee for proper management of water resources in NER
The Government has constituted a high-level committee for proper management of the water resources in the North Eastern Region (NER) under the Chairmanship of Rajiv Kumar, Vice-Chairman, Niti Aayog.
• This is a sequel to the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi’s visit to Guwahati in August this year to review the flood situation and relief work in the North Eastern States.
• The Committee would facilitate optimising benefits of appropriate water management in the form of hydro-electric power, agriculture, bio-diversity conservation, reduced flood damage erosion, inland water transport, forestry, fishery and eco-tourism. Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region (DoNER) will serve as the coordinating point.
• The Committee will submit its report, including Plan of Action, by June, 2018.
• During the review of the flood situation with the Chief Ministers of Assam, Manipur, Nagaland and Arunachal Pradesh, the Prime Minister had announced constitution of a High-Level Committee for holistic management of water resources in the NER.

Turtle Sanctuary to be set up in Allahabad
In order to protect the rich aquatic biodiversity of river Ganga from escalating anthropogenic pressures, development of a Turtle sanctuary in Allahabad along with a River Biodiversity Park at Sangam have been approved under Namami Gange programme.
• The project at an estimated cost of Rs 1.34 crore would include development of River Biodiversity Park at Sangam (confluence of Ganga, Yamuna and mythical Sarasvati), establishment of a Turtle Rearing Centre (Permanent nursery at Triveni Pushp and makeshift annual hatcheries) and awareness about the importance of river Ganga and imperativeness of its conservation has been approved.
• This project will provide much needed platform to make the visitors aware of their place in the
ecosystem, their roles and responsibilities, improve their understanding of the complexity of co-existence with the environment and help generate awareness for reducing the impact of human activities on critical natural resources.

**Country’s first ITI for dibyangans in Dibrugarh**
Foundation stone for the first ever Industrial Training Institute for the Dibyangans exclusively was laid at Dibrugarh ITI Complex at Borboruah, Dibrugarh by Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal.
- This is a one of a kind institute in the country in order to set up a new pathway for empowerment of the differently abled youth of the state.

**Gujarat first state to slash VAT on fuel prices**
Ahead of the state assembly elections, the state government has cut value-added tax (VAT) on petrol and diesel, making it the first state to follow the Centre's directions to do so.
- Recently, the union government cut basic excise duty on petrol and diesel by Rs 2 a litre.
- Gujarat currently levies a 28.96 per cent VAT on petrol and diesel.

**Paryatan Parv of M/O Tourism begins across the country**
The Ministry of Tourism, in collaboration with other Central Ministries, State Governments and Stakeholders is organizing a “Paryatan Parv” across the country from the 5th to 25th October 2017.
- The programme is being organized with the objective of drawing focus on the benefits of tourism, showcasing the cultural diversity of the country and reinforcing the principle of “Tourism for All”.
- The Parv is being inaugurated at the Humayun’s Tomb, New Delhi by Dr. Mahesh Sharma, Minister of State (I/C) for Culture.

**Centre launches six-year secure Himalaya project**
The Centre launched a six-year project to ensure conservation of locally and globally significant biodiversity, land and forest resources in the high Himalayan ecosystem spread over four states in India.
- Protection of snow leopard and other endangered species and their habitats is one of the key components of the project which will also focus on securing livelihoods of the people in the region and enhancing enforcement to reduce wildlife crime.
- The project - called SECURE Himalaya - was launched by the Union environment minister Harsh Vardhan in association with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) on the inaugural day of the Global Wildlife Programme (GWP) conference.

**Mukesh Ambani is India’s Wealthiest Man for the 10th straight year**
Reliance Industries chief Mukesh Ambani emerged as India’s wealthiest for the 10th straight year as his net worth swelled to USD 38 billion (nearly Rs 2.5 lakh crore) while the wealth of 100 richest rose by 26 per cent despite economic hiccups.
- Wipro's Azim Premji was the distant second with a net worth of USD 19 billion, moving up two places from last year, while Sun Pharma's Dilip Shanghvi slipped from his earlier second place to the ninth now (USD 12.1 billion) on Forbes magazine's annual 'India Rich List 2017'.

**UP govt launches mass marriage scheme**
The Uttar Pradesh government approved the Mukhyamantri Samoohik Vivaah Yojana, a mass marriage scheme, wherein Rs 35,000 will be spent on each couple, besides gifting them mobile phones and household items.
- Under the scheme, mass marriages will be conducted by the social welfare department.
- Programmes in this regard will be organised by urban local bodies like nagar panchayat, nagar palika and nagar nigam, kshetra panchayats, zila panchayats, government/semi-government organisations and NGOs, which will be authorised by district magistrates of respective districts.

**President to Inaugurate India Water Week 2017**
President Shri Ram Nath Kovind will inaugurate India Water Week – 2017 on October 10, 2017 in New Delhi in the presence of Union Minister of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation Shri Nitin Gadkari and Union Ministers of State for Water Resources, River Development and Ganga
Rejuvenation Shri Arjun Ram Meghwal and Shri Dr. Satya Pal Singh.

- About 1500 delegates from India and 13 other countries will attend the five day international event. The theme of India Water Week – 2017 is “Water and Energy for Inclusive Growth”.
- The 5th edition of India Water Week (IWW) will be celebrated with a multi disciplinary conference and a concurrently running exhibition enriching the theme and showcasing the technologies and solutions available for the areas under deliberation of the meet.

Dr. Mahesh Sharma to inaugurate ‘Rashtriya Sanskriti Mahotsav-2017’
The “Rashtriya Sanskriti Mahotsav (RSM)-2017” will be held from 7th to 9th October, 2017 in India’s 1st World Heritage City i.e Ahmadabad, Gujarat.

- Ms. Sujata Prasad, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Culture addressing the media persons Ahmadabad, Gujarat said that Rashtriya Sanskriti Mahotsav was conceived by the Ministry of Culture in the year 2015 and after the grand success of the First Rashtriya Sanskriti Mahotsav in November-2015, the Ministry of Culture decided to organize it with an intent to showcase the rich cultural heritage of the Country in all its rich and varied dimensions, viz Handicrafts, Cuisine, Painting, Sculpture, Photography, Documentation and Performing Arts-Folk, Tribal, Classical and Contemporary- all in one place.
- So far, this Ministry has organised 5 RSM’s i.e 2 in Delhi, 1 each in Varanasi, Bengaluru and RSM North East in all NE State capitals.
- Additional Secretary informed that The Minister of State for Culture (I/C) and Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Dr. Mahesh Sharma will inaugurate the 6th edition of Rashtriya Sanskriti Mahotsav on 7th October 2017 at 7.00 pm at Sabarmati River Front Event Centre, A Block in Ahmadabad.

First Edition of the ASEAN India Music Festival held in New Delhi
Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India in collaboration with Ministry of Culture and Seher presents the first ever ASEAN-India Music Festival from October 6th-8th 2017 at Purana Quila in New Delhi.

- The Festival is being organised to celebrate the 25th year anniversary of ASEAN-India Dialogue Relations.
- The theme for this commemorative year “Shared Values, Common Destiny” along with this Music Festival aims to boost cultural influences among the peoples of the ASEAN member states and India.

Three-day Global Medical Conference Begins In Chandigarh
A three-day international conference, aimed at engaging industry and academic leaders to discuss current unmet medical needs, began at CSIR-Institute of Microbial Technology (IMTECH) in Chandigarh.

- CSIR-IMTECH is a premier microbial institute under the aegis of the Union Ministry of Science and Technology.
- The aim of the conference 'IMTechCon 2017' is to engage industry and academic leaders to discuss current unmet medical needs globally.

ISRO to set up research centre in Guwahati
The Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) will set up a research centre in Guwahati for start ups, academicians, environmentalists and entrepreneurs.

- ISRO would set up the exclusive research facility in Assam to explore the possibility of using geospatial technology, which include data generated through global positioning system (GPS), geographical information systems (GIS) and satellite remote sensing for expediting the development of Assam, officials said.
- Remote sensing technology would be used for accurate flood warning system, prevention of soil erosion and land slides to name a few.
- The state government would provide land to ISRO free of cost for the research centre.

India to conduct the First ‘BIMSTEC Disaster Management Exercise- 2017’
The First ‘BIMSTEC Disaster Management Exercise- 2017’ (BIMSTEC DMEx-2017) has been conducted by the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) as the lead agency from October 10-13, 2017 in Delhi and the National Capital Region (NCR).
This Exercise will be a platform for sharing Best Practices on all aspects of Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR), strengthening regional response and coordination for Disaster Management among the BIMSTEC member countries.

The main focus of the BIMSTEC DMEx-2017 will be on testing the region’s preparedness and resilience towards effective activation of inter-Governmental interaction/dialogue/agreements for immediate deployment of regional resources for disaster response.

Dialogue of Civilizations – IV being Organized from 8th – 15th October, 2017

‘4th Dialogue of Civilizations’ is being jointly organized by the Archaeological Survey of India, Ministry of Culture and National Geographic in New Delhi from 8th to 15th October, 2017.

The theme of the Conference is “Technology and Civilization”.

In 2013, the National Geographic Society initiated a five-year annual conference called “The Dialogue of Civilizations,” the mission of which is to encourage scholarly and public discourse about the five ancient, literate civilizations of the world (i.e., Egypt, Mesopotamia, South Asia, China, and Mesoamerica).

9th Annual ‘World Dental Show 2017’ opens in Mumbai

The 3-day international exhibition-9th Annual ‘World Dental Show 2017’ has opened Bandra-Kurla Complex in Mumbai.

It is an integral part of Asia’s biggest dental event.

The exhibition was hosted by the Indian Dental Association (IDA).

It is showcasing the evolving global technologies and techniques in dentistry.

SC appoints amicus on plea seeking reprobe of Gandhi murder

The Supreme Court put some searching questions on a plea seeking reopening of the investigation into the assassination of Mahatma Gandhi.

After a brief hearing, a bench comprising Justices S A Bobde and L Nageswara Rao appointed senior advocate and former additional solicitor general Amrendre Sharan as amicus curiae to assist the court in the matter.

Gandhi was shot dead in New Delhi on January 30, 1948 by Nathuram Vinayak Godse, a right-wing advocate of Hindu nationalism.

Dharmendra Pradhan inaugurates Saudi Aramco India Office

Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas & Skill Development & Entrepreneurship Shri Dharmendra Pradhan, inaugurated Saudi Aramco’s ARAMCO ASIA INDIA office in Gurugram jointly with Mr Amin H Al-Nasser, President and CEO of Saudi Aramco.

The office is located at Two Horizon Tower, Gurugram.

Saudi Aramco through its subsidiary ARAMCO Asia India (AAI) established its formal business presence in India in 2016.

AAI would now formally engage in crude oil and LPG marketing, engineering & technical services, and other business development activities.

Prez launches Rs 100 crore clean water initiative

President Ram Nath Kovind launched Mata Amritanandamayi Math’s Rs 100 crore clean water initiative for rural India at the math headquarters in Kerala.

Kovind, who is on his maiden visit to the southern state after assuming office, inaugurated the ‘Jivamritam’ filtration system, envisaged to provide clean drinking water to 10 million villagers across the nation.

The programme was organised as part of the 64th birthday celebrations of spiritual leader Mata Amritanandamayi Devi, popularly known as ‘Amma’ among her devotees.

Prime Minister launches Intensified Mission Indradhanush (IMI)

"Let no child suffer from any vaccine-preventable disease".

This was stated by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi as he launched the Intensified Mission Indradhanush (IMI) at Vadnagar in Gujarat.

Through this programme, Government of India aims to reach each and every child under two years of age and all those pregnant women who have been left uncovered under the routine immunisation programme.
• The special drive will focus on improving immunization coverage in select districts and cities to ensure full immunization to more than 90% by December 2018.
• The achievement of full immunisation under Mission Indradhanush to at least 90% coverage was to be achieved by 2020 earlier.
• With the launch of IMI, achievement of the target has now been advanced.

**PM lays foundation stone for Bhadbhut barrage project**

Prime Minister Narendra Modi laid the foundation stone for the Rs 4,337-crore Bhadbhut Barrage project which aims to stop the ingress of salinity along the Narmada river.

- Modi, on the second day of his two-day visit to poll-bound Gujarat, also flagged off a new train between Udhna in Surat and Jaynagar in Bihar.
- The prime minister also inaugurated various neem-related projects of the Gujarat Narmada Valley Fertilisers Company Limited (GNFC), and said the idea of 100 per cent neem-coated urea, conceived by his government, has stopped its pilferage and helped in addressing the problem of urea shortage faced by farmers.

**Vice President to inaugurate the third International Conference on Yoga**

Vice President, Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu has inaugurated the two-day ‘International Conference on Yoga for Wellness’ at Pravasi Bharatiya Kendra, Chanakyapuri, New Delhi.

- The conference is being organized by Ministry of AYUSH as a part of commemorating the celebration of 21st June as International Day of Yoga declared by the United Nations.
- Yoga focused deliberations of the conference will be organized in six technical sessions followed by Panel Discussion among 16 interdisciplinary experts from prominent scientific institutions.
- The thematic areas of deliberations include Yoga research in non-communicable diseases and scope of Yoga in Integrated Medicine, Control of Cancer, Depression, Gynecological disorders and Pain Management.
- 25 national and international experts will be the speakers and 11 highly reckoned resource persons of Yoga and Medical field as Chairpersons and Co-chairpersons of the technical sessions.
- The theme of this year’s conference will be ‘Yoga for Wellness’.

**NMCG Approves Eight Projects worth over Rs 700 Crore**

National Mission for Clean Ganga has approved eight projects worth Rs. 700 crore, out of which four pertain to sewage management in Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and West Bengal, three are related to treatment of drains through bio-remediation and one of inventorization and surveillance of river Ganga.

- On sewage management front, a project for pollution abatement in river Ganga at Bally in West Bengal has been approved at an estimated cost of Rs 200.07 crore that would include construction of a 40 MLD STP under Hybrid Annuity based PPP model among other works.
- Similarly, construction of a 65 MLD STP under Hybrid Annuity model has been approved for Bhagalpur in Bihar at an estimated project cost of Rs 268.49 crore.
- In Uttar Pradesh, sewage treatment related works at an estimated cost of Rs 213.62 crore have also been approved that includes construction of two STPs (28 MLD + 05 MLD) in Farrukabad and one 2 MLD STP at Bargadiya drain in Fatehpur.
- Pollution abatement works for river Ganga like interception, diversion and treatment of sewage in Bithoor have also been approved at an estimated cost of Rs 13.40 crore.
- Three projects of treatment of drains using bio-remediation technology have also been given a green signal at an estimated cost of Rs 4.29 crore. These are for Rajapur drain and Digha drain in Patna and Laksar drain in Haridwar.
- One project for pollution inventorization, assessment and surveillance on river Ganga has also been approved at an estimated cost of Rs 42.9 crore. Continuation of an ongoing exercise, the project aims to strengthen environmental regulation and water quality monitoring vis-à-vis river Ganga.
President of India inaugurates India water Week-2017

The President of India, Shri Ram Nath Kovind, inaugurated India Water Week-2017 on October 10, 2017 in New Delhi.

- Speaking on the occasion, the President said that water is essential to life. It is fundamental to the economy and to ecology – and to human equity.
- The issue of water is becoming still more critical in view of climate change and related environmental concerns.
- Better and more efficient use of water is a challenge for Indian agriculture and industry alike. It requires us to set new benchmarks in both our villages and in the cities we build.

Germany to help Indian Railways to increase speed

German Railways will assist Indian Railways to make country’s existing rail corridors semi high speed. The semi high speed trains will run at 200 km per hour.

- A joint declaration of Intent was signed between Ministry of Railways and Germany in Rail Bhavan regarding carrying out of feasibility study on existing 643 km Chennai-Kazipet corridor of Indian Railways by German Railways for increasing the speed of passenger trains to 200 kmph on 50.50 percent cost sharing basis.
- German Railways is likely to undertake more such projects for Indian Railways.

Kempegowda Airport will be India’s first Aadhaar-enabled airport

Bengaluru’s Kempegowda International Airport (KIA) is all set to become country’s first Aadhaar-enabled airport by 2018.

- After a two-month pilot project in February, Bangalore International Airport Limited (BIAL) has decided to make KIA fully compliant with Aadhaar-enabled entry and biometric boarding system.

MoC between India and Japan on the "Technical Intern Training Program"

The Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has approved the signing of "Memorandum of Cooperation (MoC)" between India and Japan on the "Technical Intern Training Program (TITP)".

- This MoC is expected to be signed during the forthcoming visit of Hon'ble Minister for Skill Development & Entrepreneurship during October, 16-18, 2017 at Tokyo.
- The Technical Intern Training Program (TITP) is an ambitious program to send Indian technical interns to Japan for on the job training for a period of three to five years.
- It is expected that the MoC will pave the way for bilateral cooperation between the two countries in the area of skill development.

IALA to change its status to Inter-Governmental Organization

The Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi has given its approval for International Association of Marine Aids to Navigation and Lighthouse Authorities (IALA) to change its status from Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) to Inter-Governmental Organization (IGO).

- The move will facilitate “to foster the safe, economic and efficient movement of vessels”. It will bring IALA at par with International Maritime Organisation (IMO) and International Hydrographic Organisation (IHO).

Cabinet approves SANKALP & STRIVE Schemes to boost Skill India Mission

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, has approved two new World Bank supported schemes of Rs. 6,655 crore - Skills Acquisition and Knowledge Awareness for Livelihood Promotion (SANKALP) and Skill Strengthening for Industrial Value Enhancement (STRIVE).

- SANKALP is Rs 4,455 crore Centrally sponsored scheme including Rs. 3,300 crore loan support from World Bank whereas STRIVE is a Rs. 2,200 crore -
central sector scheme, with half of the scheme outlay as World bank loan assistance.

- SANKALP and STRIVE are outcome focused schemes marking shift in government's implementation strategy in vocational education and training from inputs to results.

Suresh Prabhu kick-starts “Make in India: Sweden 2017”

Make in India: Sweden 2017, organized by the Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion in Stockholm, from October 12-13 aims to enhance Indo-Swedish cooperation and explore new areas of partnership.

- Several run-up events and high level meetings took place a day before the commencement of Make in India: Sweden 2017.
- The Indian delegation led by the Minister of Commerce & Industry, Shri Suresh Prabhu held a bilateral meeting with the Prime Minister of Sweden, Mr. Stefan Löfven.
- The meeting reiterated the dedication to further strengthening of the Indo-Swedish economic relationship and exploring new avenues of collaboration.

Launch of Mobile Health App ‘MedWatch’ By the Indian Air Force

On the occasion of its 85th anniversary, the Indian Air Force has launched an innovative mobile health App named ‘MedWatch’ in keeping with the Prime Minister's vision of 'Digital India'.

- ‘MedWatch’, available on the IAF’s AFCEL network, comprises a host of features that will provide authentic health information to all IAF personnel.
- A Reminder Tool to enable timely immunization for the children of all Air Warriors is an important component of the App. This will directly enable 'Mission Indradhanush' of the Govt of India.
- ‘MedWatch’, the first mobile health app in the three Armed Services, was launched by Air Chief Marshal BS Dhanoa, Chief of the Air Staff, during the Air Force Commanders’ Conference at New Delhi on 11 Oct 17.

Union Textiles Minister inaugurates IHGF - Delhi Fair Autumn 2017

The Union Textiles Minister Smt. Smriti Zubin Irani has urged the exporting fraternity to take care of the welfare of artisans who are the backbone of the sector.

- The Minister said that design and product development play a crucial role in value realisation and in turn in the benefit that the artisans and producers are able to reap from their products.
- The Minister said this after inaugurating IHGF - Delhi Fair Autumn 2017, world’s largest handicrafts and gifts fair.
- The fair is being held at India Expo Centre & Mart, Greater Noida, during October 12 - 16, 2017.
- Delivering the inaugural address, the Minister applauded the role of Export Promotion Council for Handicrafts in promoting exports of handicrafts.
- She noted that handicraft exports have witnessed a year-on-year growth of 13.15% in 2016-17 and has touched Rs. 24,392 crores.
- The Minister appreciated the launch of schemes by EPCH under their CSR programme, for education of children of artisans.
- The scheme provides full support to education of children of artisans through open schools.
- 75% of the expenditure will be borne by EPCH and 25% by member exporters.
- Smt. Irani added that it is the dream of the Hon’ble Prime Minister that no child in the country should be left illiterate.

DoP launches Sampoorna Bima Gram Yojana

The Minister for Communications Shri Manoj Sinha launched the Sampoorna Bima Gram (SBG) Yojana and an initiative for expansion of clientele base of Postal Life Insurance.

- He said that all villages under the Saansad Adarsh Gram Yojana will be brought under its ambit.
- The Minister said, under Sampoorna Bima Gram (SBG) Yojana, at least one village (having a minimum of 100 households) will be identified in each of the revenue districts of the country, wherein endeavour will be made to cover all households of that identified village with a minimum of one RPLI (Rural Postal Life Insurance) policy each.
• Coverage of all households in the identified Sampoorna Bima Gram village is the primary objective of this scheme.
• Shri Sinha said, under the scheme expansion of clientele base of PLI, it has now been decided that benefits of PLI will no more be confined to Government and semi-Government employees, but will also be available to professionals such as Doctors, Engineers, Management Consultants, Chartered Accountants, Architects, Lawyers, Bankers etc. and to employees of listed companies of NSE (National Stock Exchange) and BSE (Bombay Stock Exchange).

Dr Mahesh Sharma Inaugurates ‘Deep Dharohar’
Dr. Mahesh Sharma, Minister of State (Independent charge) for Culture inaugurated “Deep Dharohar” organized by the Ministry of Culture.
• The festival was inaugurated by the lighting of 1000 diyas by the participating artists and artisans and children from organisations like the CCRT, SAPNA Prayas and Kailash Satyarthi’s foundation.

India to hold Dubai’s 1st-ever AYUSH conference in Nov
India will hold Dubai’s first-ever AYUSH conference next month to spread awareness about the prevention and management of lifestyle diseases through Yoga and Ayurveda.
• ‘International AYUSH Conference and Exhibition 2017’ with the theme of ‘Lifestyle diseases: Prevention and management through AYUSH’ will be organised from November 9-11 by Science India Forum, with the support of Ministry of AYUSH.

India Sri Lanka Joint Military exercise Mitra Shakti 2017 begins
The fifth India-Sri Lanka Joint Training Exercise MITRA SHAKTI 2017 started with a grand Opening Ceremony conducted at Aundh Military Station, Pune.
• The exercise is based on Counter Terrorist Operations and an Infantry company from both the countries is participating in the same.
• The India - Sri Lanka joint training exercise MITRA SHAKTI 2017 in its fifth edition will send a strong signal to the world that both India and Sri Lanka understand the emerging threat of terrorism and stand shoulder to shoulder in countering this menace.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced a corpus of Rs 10,000-crore to be given to top 20 Indian universities for their development, in order to ensure that the top ranking institutions are counted among the best in the world.
• Addressing a function on the centenary celebrations of the Patna University in Bihar, PM Modi said that his government has undertaken “a step forward” towards making 10 private and 10 government universities world class.
• Modi said, we will provide an assistance of Rs 10,000 crore to 10 private universities and an equal number of government ones for a period of five years.
• All these universities have to do is to demonstrate their potential to become world class,” he said.
• The top 20 universities will be selected through a challenge which will be judged by a third party.

'Rajasthan assembly first in India to call motions online'
The Rajasthan assembly has become the first in India to call attention and adjournment motions and proposals online from legislators to send them to the state government.
• Speaker Kailash Meghwal inaugurated the new system by sending a call for an attention motion to the state government with a click of a mouse..
• The system is expected to save time, labour and use of paper in the functioning of the assembly, and also help legislators in bringing attention to urgent public issues.

World’s largest combustion research centre at IIT Madras
The world’s largest combustion research centre which will impart a major boost to the Indian scientific community was inaugurated at the Indian Institute of Technology, Madras.
• The National Centre for Combustion Research and Development (NCCRD) was inaugurated by NITI Aayog member V K Saraswat.
• This is the world's largest combustion research centre.

“Exercise INDRA - 2017: Indo-Russia Joint Exercise”
Exercise INDRA-2017, the first ever Tri Services Joint Exercise between Indian and Russian Armed Forces will be conducted

- Exercise INDRA in its previous nine avatars has been conducted as a single service exercise alternately between the two countries.
- The year 2017 marks a major milestone as this Exercise has been upgraded to involve all the three Services of the Armed Forces (Army, Navy & Air Force), which further accentuates the importance of Joint Services in the present world environment.
- Exercise INDRA-2017 will be conducted at the 249th Combined Army Range Sergeevsky and in the Sea of Japan near Vladivostok.

**Defence Minister Sitharaman commissions INS Kiltan**

Defence Minister Nirmala Sitharaman commissioned the indigenously-built anti-submarine warfare stealth corvette INS Kiltan at the Eastern Naval Command.

- Kiltan is the latest indigenous warship after Shivalik class, Kolkata class and sister ships INS Kamorta and INS Kadmatt to have joined the Indian Navy’s arsenal wherein a plethora of weapons and sensors have been integrated to provide a Common Operational Picture (COP).
- It is India’s first major warship to have a superstructure of carbon fibre composite material resulting in improved stealth features, lower top weight and maintenance costs, it said.
- In the future, it would also be installed with short range SAM system and carry an integral ASW helicopter.
- This is the third of the four Kamorta-class corvettes being built under Project 28.
- The ship derives its name from one of the islands in Aminidivi group of the strategically located Lakshadweep and Minicoy group of islands.

**The first ever All India Institute of Ayurveda dedicated to the Nation**

The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi, dedicated the All India Institute of Ayurveda, in New Delhi, to the Nation.

- The first ever All India Institute of Ayurveda (AIIA) is set up along the lines of AIIMS.
- As an apex institute under the Ministry of AYUSH, the AIIA will bring synergy between the traditional wisdom of Ayurveda and modern diagnostic tools and technology.
- Speaking on this occasion, the Prime Minister congratulated the gathering on the celebration of Dhanvantari Jayanti as Ayurveda Divas.

**Ministry WCD launches campaign on ‘women for women’: #IamThatWoman**

In an attempt to end Gender bias in women against women, the Ministry of Women and Child Development is undertaking online campaign #IamThatWoman.

- Through the campaign, the Ministry seeks to highlight the various aspects of women standing ‘by’ and ‘for’ women.
- Ministry of WCD has urged people to shun stereotypes associated with women harming other women.
- Twitter and Facebook users have been encouraged to tag and share stories of women helping women with a photograph and post online with the hashtag #IamThatWoman.

**Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister launches Bhavantar Bhugtan Yojana**

Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan launched the ambitious ‘Bhavantar Bhugtan Yojna’ in the presence of the farmers at the Krishi Upaj Mandi in Khurai, Sagar district of Madhya Pradesh.

- The objective of this scheme is to ensure reasonable prices to the farmers for their agriculture produces and thereby protecting them from losses suffered on account of distress sale.

**Delhi among the world’s worst cities for women**

A survey by Thomson Reuters Foundation ranked Delhi among the world’s worst megacities when it comes to women safety.

- Delhi has been placed at fourth position after Cairo, Karachi and Kinshasa (Congo).
- The survey was conducted in 19 of the world’s megacities, based on UN’s ranking, between June and July this year.

**Haryana records 39 percent of all cancer cases in India**

Cancer is strengthening its grip across India, and reportedly, Haryana has a major share, with over 39% of cases recorded in the state.
• Approximately 17.3 lakh new cancer cases are being estimated by the year 2020 in India, therefore with the present trends Haryana might have around 6.5 lakh cancer cases by then.
• Breast cancer has a majority share of cancer cases and is the leading cause for deaths in women suffering with non-communicable disease.
• According to an Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) report, breast cancer shares 10% of all cases.

IIT Bombay top ranked Indian institute in QS Asia University Rankings
The Indian Institute of Technology Bombay (IIT Bombay) has emerged as the only Indian institute to better its performance among the top 100 universities in the latest Quacquarelli Symonds (QS) Asia University Rankings 2018.
• The top-ranked Indian institute in the QS Asia University Rankings, IIT Bombay saw its best position at 34th rank in the last three years.
• Other Indian institutes like IIT Delhi ranked at 41, IIT Madras (48), Indian Institute of Science (IISc) Bangalore (51), IIT Kanpur (59), IIT Kharagpur (62), University of Delhi (72), IIT Roorkee (93) and IIT Guwahati (98) showed a decline in their respective rankings as against last year.

India, Brazil, South Africa sign IBSA Trust Fund agreement
India, Brazil and South Africa signed the IBSA Trust Fund Agreement that seeks to fight poverty in developing countries.
• The agreement was signed by Minister of State for External Affairs V K Singh who led the Indian side at the 8th IBSA trilateral Ministerial Commission Meeting in Durban.
• The IBSA Trust Fund brings together the three emerging economies of India, Brazil and South Africa to combat poverty in other developing countries.
• Each country contributes USD 1 million annually to this fund which is managed by the UN Development Programme’s (UNDP) Special Unit for South-South Cooperation.

ACI ranks Hyderabad airport No. 1 in 5 to 15 million category
Hyderabad’s Rajiv Gandhi International Airport (RGIA) has ranked No. 1 in the Airports Council International’s (ACI) service quality survey in the category of 5 to 15 million passengers per annum.
• On a scale of 1 to 5, Hyderabad airport’s score improved from 4.4 in 2009 to 4.9 in 2016.
• RGIA was opened in year 2008 and is operated by GMR Hyderabad International Airport Ltd. (GHIAL).

Jaipur and Srinagar Airports rated Best Airports in the World
The Jaipur and Srinagar Airport got First and Second rank respectively in the category of 2-5 million passengers in ACI-ASQ Survey.
• Dr. Guruprasad Mohapatra, Chairman, Airports Authority of India along with his team received the ACI-ASQ Award at a function held in Mauritius.
• The Chairman congratulated both APDs for their stupendous achievement and challenged more AAI airports to compete and win at ACI-ASQ Awards in their respective categories in future.
• This is for the second consecutive time that Jaipur Airport has been rated the Best Airport in the World in the traffic volume of 2 to 5 million passengers per year.

Arunachal Assembly approves Kamle as 23rd district
The Arunachal Assembly passed a bill paving way for creation of a new district to be named Kamle.
• With the official creation of the new district, the total number of districts in the state shot up to 23.
• Chief Minister Pema Khandu introduced the Arunachal Pradesh Re-Organisation of Districts (Amendment) Bill 2017 in the Assembly on October 14.
• Kamle district, constituting the eastern part of Lower Subansiri district and western part of Upper Subansiri district, would have a population of 22,256 of homogeneous people.

Canada to be partner country for Tech Summit-2017
Canada will be the partner country at the 23rd iteration of the Tech Summit, knowledge and technology conference and exhibition from 14 – 15 November, 2017 in New Delhi.
• The Summit is being organised by the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) and the Indian Department of Science and Technology (DST).
• The India-Canada Tech Summit will highlight a broad range of research and innovations areas where India and Canada are world leaders.
• The themes for the Summit include Advanced Manufacturing, Transportation, Agricultural Technology, and Energy.

Assam to hold Global Investors Summit in February, 2018
The first Global Investors Summit in Assam will be held in Guwahati in February next year and Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate it.
• The state government plans to utilise the event to showcase Assam's business potential with attractive policies so that investments are made.

President to inaugurate International Gita Mahotsav in Haryana
President Ram Nath Kovind will inaugurate the International Gita Mahotsav in Kurukshetra, Haryana, on November 25.
• He will also participate in Gita Yajna and Gita Poojan ceremonies at Brahma Sarovar.
• The mahotsav which will conclude on December 3 will have Mauritius as partner country and Uttar Pradesh as partner state.

Kerala govt prohibits using 'Dalit', 'Harijan' in official communications
The Kerala Information and Public Relations Department's internal circular has directed to avoid usage of words "Dalit" and "Harijan" in its official communications.
• The order was issued based on the directive from Kerala State Commission for Scheduled Castes (SC) and Scheduled Tribes (ST) Chairman Justice PN Vijayakumar.
• The department informed that the government has also banned the usage of word "Keezhalar" which was used to refer to scheduled communities.

Centre asks states to name toilets as ‘izzat ghar’ in rural areas
The Centre has asked each state to name the toilets in their rural households as “izzat ghar”, or to use a phrase in regional language equivalent to “house of dignity”.

PM Narendra Modi launches several projects in Gujarat
Prime Minister Narendra Modi visited the poll-bound Gujarat for the third time this month, where he inaugurated and laid foundation stones for a number of projects in Bhavnagar and Vadodara districts.
• PM Modi inaugurates the first phase of the Rs 615-crore 'roll-on, roll-off (ro-ro)' ferry service between Ghogha in Bhavnagar district and Dahej in Bharuch in the Gulf of Cambay.
• In, Vadodara, he inaugurated and laid the foundation stones for projects worth over Rs 1,140 crore.

Rajasthan govt passes ordinance to protect judges, babus from probe
The Vasundhara Raje government has passed an ordinance which seeks to protect both serving and former judges, magistrates and public servants in Rajasthan from being investigated for on-duty action without its prior sanction.
• The Criminal Laws (Rajasthan Amendment) Ordinance, 2017, promulgated on September 7, also seeks to bar the media from reporting on accusations till the sanction to proceed with the probe is obtained.

North Korea, Pak not invited for consumer protection conference in India
India has not invited Pakistan and North Korea to attend the first global conference on consumer protection to be inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in New Delhi next week, consumer affairs Minister Ram Vilas Paswan said.
• The two-day Regional Conference on Consumer Protection will be held on October 26-27 and will see the participation of 23 countries.
• India is organising the event at the request of United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD).

Govt to organise global ayurveda meet in February
The Kerala government will organise an international seminar and ayurveda expo in Kochi in February next year.
• The four-day seminar will showcase Kerala’s achievements in health tourism, healthcare and ayurveda.
• Apart from leading firms and experts in the field, well-known names in the economic and business sectors will also take part in the event.

Hyderabad to host CFSI’s Intl Children’s Film Fest next month
Several film personalities are expected to attend the 20th International Children’s Film Festival (ICFFI) to be held in Hyderabad between November 8 and 14.
• The festival, also called 'The Golden Elephant', being organised by Children's Film Society, India (CFSI), will be hosted by the Telangana government jointly with CFSI and the Union Ministry of Information and Broadcasting.
• A record number of 1,402 entries, drawn from as many as 109 countries, have been received by the CFSI in various categories, including animation, documentary and short films.
• The theme for this year's festival is 'New India'.

India’s First Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Kendra for Skilling in Smart Cities
To bring momentum in skilling through collaborative efforts, the Union Home Minister Shri Rajnath Singh along with Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas and Skill Development and Entrepreneurship Shri Dharmendra Pradhan inaugurated India’s first Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Kendra (PMKK) for Skilling in Smart Cities, in collaboration with New Delhi Municipal Council (NDMC).
• The ministers also laid the foundation for a Skill Development Centre at Moti Bagh and a Centre of Excellence at Dharam Marg, New Delhi.
• Affirming synergies with the Government of India’s flagship programs, the new skill development centres underscore the commitment of the Ministry of Urban Affairs & Housing (MUHA) and the Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship (MSDE) to support skilling in smart cities.
• National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC), an executive arm of MSDE, has collaborated with New Delhi Municipal Council Smart City Limited (NDMCSCL) to extend cooperation for setting up of PMKK Centres for Smart Cities, to provide skill training for unemployed youth through its short-term training (STT) module and contribute to the capacity building of municipal employees through Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) program.

Sitharaman to attend Southeast Asian defence ministers’ meeting
In her first foreign visit as defence minister, Nirmala Sitharaman will travel to the Philippines to attend a Southeast Asian defence ministers’ meeting which is likely to review the regional security architecture including China's growing assertiveness in the South China Sea.
• China claims sovereignty over all of South China Sea, a huge source of hydrocarbons.
• However, a number of ASEAN member countries including Vietnam, the Philippines and Brunei have counter claims.
• India has been supporting freedom of navigation and access to resources in the South China Sea in accordance with principles of international law, including the 1982 UN Convention on the Law of the Sea.

Madhya Pradesh tops in digital initiatives: Survey
Madhya Pradesh has emerged as the top state in terms of digital initiatives undertaken, with a maximum score of 100.1 on performance index, followed by Maharashtra at 99.9 and Andhra Pradesh at 99.8, says a report by Coeus Age Consulting.
• Chhattisgarh (97.4) and Karnataka (95.3) occupied the fourth and fifth positions in the list, respectively.
• The report is based on a comparative assessment of digital initiatives by 36 states and Union Territories.

Supreme Court Slaps Rs. 2 Lakh Fine On Environment Ministry
The Supreme Court today came down heavily on the Union Environment Ministry for not finalising pollution emission standards for industries using pet coke and furnace oil in the
national capital region and slapped a cost of Rs. two lakh on it.

- Terming it as a "completely disgusting state of affairs", the top court asked the Ministry why the standards were not finalised despite its earlier direction that it should be done on or before June 30 this year.

‘Paika Bidroha’ to be named as 1st War of Independence
The ‘Paika Bidroha’ (Paika rebellion) of 1817 will find a place in the history books as ‘the First War of Independence’ from the next academic session, HRD Minister Prakash Javadekar said.

- Mr. Javadekar had first made the announcement in Bhubaneswar at a function to mark the bicentenary of the Paika rebellion, and added that the Centre has allocated Rs. 200 crore for commemorating it across the country.
- Paikas were peasant militia under the Gajapati rulers of Odisha who rendered military service to the king during times of war.
- They rebelled against the British rule under the leadership of Bakshi Jagabandhu Bidyadhara as early as 1817.

Indian ship in Indonesia for joint exercise – CORPAT
Indian Naval ship Sukanya reached Belawan port, Indonesia to take part in the 30th edition of CORPAT (Coordinated Patrol) and third Bilateral exercise between the Indian and Indonesian navies.

- The exercise is aimed at fostering closer maritime ties with countries located on the rim of the Indian Ocean.

Deadline to link Aadhaar with schemes extended till March 31
The deadline for mandatory linking of Aadhaar to avail benefits of various government schemes would be extended till March 31 next year, the Centre told the Supreme Court.

- It told a bench headed by Chief Justice Dipak Misra that the deadline for Aadhaar linking to avail benefits of the schemes was to end in December and it has now been decided to extend it till March 31, 2018.

India grants USD 585,000 aid to Sri Lanka university
India has provided equipment and vehicles worth USD 585,000 to a university in Sri Lanka’s Tamil-dominated north as part of its development partnership with the country in the field of higher education.

- The assistance package was given to develop agriculture as well as an engineering faculty on the Killinochchi campus of University of Jaffna, Indian High Commission said in a statement.
- The material worth USD 585,000 (SLR 90 million) is part of the USD 3.9 million (SLR 600 million) development project to develop the agriculture and engineering departments of the university.

BJP to observe first anniversary of DeMo as ‘anti-black money day’
Bharatiya Janata Party will celebrate 8 November, first anniversary of the demonetisation move, as ‘anti-black money day’, said Finance Minister Arun Jaitley.

- Earlier, the Opposition had said that they will observe 8 November as a ‘black-day’ with nationwide protests and rallies.
- Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) has also announced to hold a nationwide protest, “Dhokha Divas”, on 8 November to mark the completion of one year of demonetisation.

‘Letters of Intent’ for 14 monuments under ‘Adopt a Heritage Scheme’
Seven shortlisted companies were given ‘Letters of Intent’ for fourteen monuments under ‘Adopt a Heritage Scheme’ of Ministry of Tourism at the closing ceremony of ‘Paryatan Parv’ at Rajpath Lawns, New Delhi.

- These companies will be the future ‘Monument Mitras’ who would associate pride with their CSR activities.
- SBI Foundation shortlisted for the adoption of - Jantar Mantar, Delhi.
- TK International Limited shortlisted for the adoption of - Sun Temple, Konark, Raja Rani Temple, Bhubaneshwar and Ratnagiri Monuments, Jajpur, Odisha
- Yatra Online Pvt. Limited shortlisted for the adoption of: Hampi, Karnataka, Leh Palace, Jammu & Kashmir, Qutub Minar, Delhi and Ajanta Caves, Maharashtra
- Travel Corporation of India Ltd. shortlisted for the adoption of: Mattancherry Palace Museum, Kochiand Safdarjung Tomb, Delhi
• Adventure Tour Operator Association of India shortlisted for the adoption of: Gangotri Temple Area and Trail to Gaumukh and Mt. StokKangri, Laddakh, Jammu and Kashmir
• Special Holidays Travel Pvt. Ltd. (With) Rotary Club of Delhi shortlisted for the adoption of Agrasen ki Baoli, Delhi
• NBCC shortlisted for the adoption of Purana Quila, Delhi.
• The ‘Adopt a Heritage Scheme’ of Ministry of Tourism was launched on World Tourism Day i.e. 27th September, 2017 by the President of India.

Power Minister addresses the 3rd Global Investors’ India Forum
Union Minister of State (IC) for Power and New & Renewable Energy, Shri R. K. Singh addressed the 3rd Global Investors’ India Forum in New Delhi.
• The theme of the event was ‘Ideate, Innovate, Implement and Invest in India’ and it was attended by global industry stalwarts.
• The event was organized by the ASSOCHAM and witnessed the participation of Global Industry stalwarts, who engaged in an intense discussion with the Minister; and senior officials of the Ministry.

Odisha will be the 'Focus State' at World Food India-2017
Odisha will be the ‘Focus State’ in the World Food India (WFI)-2017, a mega international food event to be held at New Delhi from November 3 to 5.
• More than 200 global companies from 30 countries will be participating in the event.
• Besides, 450 domestic companies and leading research and development (R&D) institutes along with 95 Indian industry captains are likely to participate in WFI.

Madras HC bans photos of living persons on banners in Tamil Nadu
The Madras High Court banned the use of pictures of living persons on banners and hoardings in Tamil Nadu, where towering cut-outs of politicians and actors are almost a part of the local culture.
• The court asked Tamil Nadu’s top official to maintain a clean environment and also ensure that there were “no unnecessary drawings” on buildings and residential places in all wards of the southern state.

• It means that pictures of the chief minister, ministers or politicians can no longer be used in posters or hoardings, often put up as a show of strength and support – larger the better.

International Conference on Green Initiatives & Railway Electrification
Minister of Railways & Coal Shri Piyush Goyal inaugurated International Conference on Green Initiatives & Railway Electrification organised by Ministry of Railways through Institution of Railways Electrical Engineer (IREE) India.
• The main objective of the two days international conference is to bring green power project developers and other stakeholders on a common platform for making Indian Railways (IR) an efficient and Greener mode of transport.
• This conference has the aim for giving boost to ‘Make in India’ and ‘Innovative India’ campaigns of Hon'ble Prime Minister of India.

India pips US to become second-largest smartphone market
India has pipped the US to become the world’s second-largest smartphone market at the end of the third quarter, according to two research firms, which also said China’s Xiaomi is expected to end Korean major Samsung’s four and-a-half year reign at the top soon.
• Singapore-based Canalys said in a report that the Indian smartphone market grew by 23% year-on-year in the July-September quarter to top 40 million units.

First International Conference on Consumer Protection concludes
The First International Consumer Protection Conference on “Empowering consumers in new markets” for the South, South East and East Asian Countries was held on 26 to 27 October 2017 in New Delhi.
• Mr. Narendra Modi, Prime Minister of India inaugurated the Conference which was attended by 1600 participants that included delegates from 19 countries.
• Dr. Mukhisa Kituyi, Secretary-General of UNCTAD addressed the conference in the Inaugural session.
• The Conference was chaired by Shri Ram Vilas Paswan, Union Minister for Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution.

11th World Congress on Adolescent Health held in New Delhi
The 11th World Congress on Adolescent Health was held in New Delhi during 27th to 29th October 2017.
• The theme for World Congress on Adolescent Health 2017 was ‘Investing in Adolescent Health—the Future is Now’.
• This event was hosted by MAMTA Health Institute for Mother and Child and the Public Health Foundation of India (PHFI).

Dalai Lama addresses peace conference in Imphal
The 14th Dalai Lama during his three-day maiden visit to Manipur addressed at the International Peace Conference in the Imphal
• The conference was aimed at promoting peace and harmony in the northeastern region.
• The conference brought a host of religious leaders from various countries, including Buddhist monks from South-East Asia and Myanmar, under one platform.

India to host UN wildlife summit in 2020
India will host the next United Nations (UN) global wildlife conference in 2020, it was announced on 28 October.
• An announcement in this regard was made in the Philippine capital on the last day of the 12th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS COP).
• The CMS COP is held once in three years.

Giriraj Singh launches MSME Delayed Payment Portal – MSME Samadhaan
Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Shri Giriraj Singh launched MSME Delayed Payment Portal – MSME Samadhaan.
• It will micro and small entrepreneurs across the country to directly register their cases relating to delayed payments by Central Ministries/Departments/CPSEs/State Governments. Shri Arun Kumar Panda, Secretary, Ministry of MSME along with other dignitaries and senior officials from the Ministry were also present.
• Speaking on the occasion, Shri Giriraj Singh said that the Micro, Small and Medium Enterprise Development (MSMED) Act, 2006 contains provisions to deal with cases of delayed payment to Micro and Small Enterprises (MSEs).
• As per the provisions, the buyer is liable to pay compound interest with monthly rests to the supplier on the amount at three times of the bank rate notified by Reserve Bank in case he does not make payment to the supplier for the supplies of goods or services within 45 days of the day of acceptance of the goods/service or the deemed day of acceptance.

RCom calls off merger deal with Aircel
Reliance Communications (RCom) has called off plans to merge its wireless business with rival Aircel, citing legal and regulatory uncertainties.
• Had the merger gone through, it would have created India’s third-largest telecom provider with 175 million subscribers.
• The proposed deal with Aircel signed last September.

Fitch lowers India's growth forecast to 6.9%
Fitch Ratings has lowered India's economic growth forecast for the current fiscal to 6.9 per cent from 7.4 per cent after the GDP growth "unexpectedly faltered" in the April-June quarter.
• The Asian Development Bank (ADB) had last month slashed India's GDP growth forecast for the current fiscal to 7 per cent from 7.4 per cent owing to weakness in private consumption, manufacturing output and business investment.
• India had posted a 7.1 per cent growth in 2016-17.

GIFT-IFSC ranks at 10th place in global financial centres index
India's first IFSC has been featured at the tenth place in the latest September 2017 edition of Global Financial Centres Index 22 (GFCI) - London.
• The Gandhinagar-based IFSC has ranked ahead of other leading financial hubs at Luxembourg, Seoul, Abu Dhabi, Toronto and Beijing.
GIFT has been put in the same league as other top financial centres at New York and Hong Kong.

US ships first lot of crude to India
The first shipment of US crude oil to India arrived at Paradip Port in Odisha, as part of the two million barrels contracted by India.
- The shipment follows recent commitments to US oil purchases by Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) and Bharat Petroleum (BPCL), both of which have placed orders for over 2 million barrels from the US.
- US crude oil shipments to India have the potential to boost bilateral trade by up to $2 billion.

AIIB, ADB approves $100 mn loan for India’s power sector
China-led AIIB and multilateral funding agency ADB will co-finance a USD 100-million loan for India to improve power transmission network and expand the use of solar and wind energy.
- The loan, approved by the Board of Directors of the Beijing-headquartered Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB), involves co-financing of USD 50 million from the Manila-based Asian Development Bank (ADB).
- This was the fourth co-financing made by the AIIB and the ADB, two major multilateral development banks in Asia.
- India is the second largest shareholder in the AIIB. The bank has an authorised capital of USD 100 billion.

RBI keeps repo rate, reverse repo rate unchanged
The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has kept the repo rate and reverse repo rate unchanged at 6 percent and 5.75 percent respectively.
- Repo Rate: Unchanged at 6%
- Reverse Repo Rate: Unchanged at 5.75%
- Marginal Standing Facility (MSF) Rate: Unchanged at 6.25%
- Bank Rate: Unchanged at 6.25%
- Cash Reserve Ratio: Unchanged at 4%
- Statutory Liquidity Ratio (SLR): Changed by 50 basis points to 19.5%

Bangladesh Signs USD 4.5 Billion Loan Deal With India
Bangladesh signed a whopping USD 4.5 billion third line of credit (LoC) agreement with India for its infrastructure and social sector development.
- The agreement was signed in the presence of Finance Minister Arun Jaitley and his Bangladeshi counterpart A M A Muhith.
- The new Indian line of credit, worth USD 4.5 billion, will be used to fund 17 major projects in Bangladesh, which include electricity, railroads, roads, shipping and ports.

India signs €300 million Finance Contract with European Investment Bank
Government of India and European Investment Bank (EIB) signed the Finance Contract for lending of €300 million for Bangalore Metro Rail Project Phase II Line R6.
- Bangalore Metro Rail Project Phase II is to be jointly financed by the European Investment Bank (€500 million) and Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (€300 million).
- The first tranche of €300 million was signed on October 5.
- The project envisages extension of East-West & North-South lines for Bangalore Metro Rail which includes a total length of 72.095 km (13.79 km underground) and 61 stations with 12 underground stations.

RBI forms High-level Task Force on Public Credit Registry
Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has formed a High-level Task Force on Public Credit Registry (PCR) for India.
- The task force has been constituted under the chairmanship of Yeshwant M. Deosthalee.
- It will review the current availability of information on credit, the adequacy of existing information system and identify gaps that could be filled by a PCR.

HDFC Life launches service bot Neo
HDFC Life Insurance Company has launched Neo — a servicing bot for Twitter that uses artificial intelligence for customer service.
- The insurer hopes to deploy the bot in answering policy-related queries on social media.
• This is the second bot put in operation by HDFC Life, after the launch of SPOK, which was an email bot to answer customer queries.

**Axis Bank acquires Freecharge**
The country’s third largest private sector lender Axis Bank said it has acquired payments wallet Freecharge for Rs 373 crore in an all-cash deal.
• Sangram Singh has been appointed as the CEO of Freecharge Payment Technologies Private Ltd, it said.
• Freecharge presently has revenue of about Rs. 80 crore.

**Vijaya Bank inks MoU with HPCL for digital payments**
Vijaya Bank has entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd (HPCL) for enabling all HPCL retail outlets with BHIM/UPI merchant solutions.
• This rollout will empower all petrol pump attendants and LPG delivery personnel to accept digital payments.
• Customers can make payments by scanning a payment QR code, using BHIM Vijaya or any BHIM app that supports payments via UPI.

**RBI imposes restrictions banking business on Oriental Bank of Commerce**
The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has imposed certain restriction on banking activities of government-owned Oriental Bank of Commerce which has suffered huge losses due to sharp rise in bad loan.
• This will be the seventh bank among the 21 PSU banks to be placed under restrictions since March this calendar year.
• RBI has earlier placed restrictions on six banks which include Dena Bank, Central Bank of India, IDBI Bank, Indian Overseas Bank, Bank of Maharashtra and UCO Bank.

**RBI to launch financial literacy drive in 9 states**
The Reserve Bank will soon launch a financial literacy drive in 80 blocks in nine states on pilot basis to educate people on e-transactions, formal sector borrowings and insurance purchases.
• Six NGOs registered with the Depositor Education and Awareness Fund -- CRISIL Foundation, Dhan Foundation, Swadhaar Fin Access, Indian School of Micro Finance for Women (ISMW), Samarpit and the PACE Foundation -- have been selected to execute the pilot project in collaboration with banks.
• The total cost of the pilot project over a period of three years is Rs 18.40 crore.
• The aim of the CFL is to inculcate the habit of making a household budget and recording financial transactions, encourage transactions in savings accounts, and active saving by depositing in banks through fixed deposits and recurring deposits.

**SBI to fund Maharashtra govt’s affordable housing schemes**
The State Bank of India (SBI) will soon ink an MoU with the Maharashtra government-owned PSU Shivshahi Purnarvasan Prakalp (SPPL) for financing affordable housing under the State’s slum rehabilitation schemes.
• The SBI will make available funds for the construction of affordable housing tenements under the slum rehabilitation schemes, including the Dharavi Redevelopment Project, of the Maharashtra government.
• According to sources in SBI and SPPL, the MoU is expected to promote private sector participation in construction of affordable housing under the slum rehabilitation schemes in Mumbai. The SBI will promote its home loan business with special offers under the SBI Hamara Loan scheme.

**Govt raises stake in IDBI Bank to 77.79%**
IDBI Bank said its promoter, the government of India, has increased its stake in the company to 77.79% by acquiring 3.81% shares through preferential allotment.
• The government earlier had 73.98% stake in IDBI Bank.
• The government of India has acquired 3.81% shares carrying voting rights in the company due to preferential allotment of equity shares.
ICICI Bank commits Rs 10 crore for welfare of armed forces
Country’s largest private sector lender ICICI Bank committed a financial assistance of Rs 10 crore to the Indian Armed Forces.

- The fund will be utilised towards welfare activities and betterment of the families of ex-servicemen who have lost their lives guarding the nation.
- The contribution would be made in two equal tranches by the bank as part of its Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiative.
- A cheque worth Rs 5 crore was handed over to Defence Minister Nirmala Sitharaman as part of the initiative.

World Bank reduces India GDP growth forecast to 7%
In its South Asia Economic Focus (Fall 2017), the World Bank reduced India’s GDP growth forecast to 7% for 2017-18 from 7.2% estimated earlier.

- After remaining the world’s fastest-growing region for eight consecutive quarters, South Asia has slipped to the third position behind East Asia and the Pacific regions, as India’s economy slowed to its lowest level in 13 quarters, the World Bank said.

IMF cuts India’s 2017 growth forecast
The International Monetary Fund (IMF) pared its growth forecast for India by half a percentage point to 6.7% for 2017.

- In its latest World Economic Outlook, IMF said the world economy is going through a cyclical upswing that began midway through 2016.
- It raised the global growth estimate marginally for 2017 to 3.6% while flagging downside risks.

Canara Bank launches first digital branch in Bengaluru
Canara Bank, which has set an ambitious target of moving to ‘paperless’ futuristic banking, launched its first ‘Digital Banking Branch’ at Spencer Towers in MG Road, Bengaluru.

- Titled ‘CANDI’, the branch will provide an end-to-end digital experience to customers.
- The bank, as part of the run-up to its digital foray, has introduced customer-friendly mobile apps which help customers get most of the information related to their accounts from the app without the need to visit the branch.

SBI to set up country’s largest innovation centre at Mumbai
The nation’s largest lender State Bank of India is creating a 15,000-sqft innovation centre in Navi Mumbai investing around Rs 100 crore.

- The centre, to be built at its Global IT Centre in Belapur in Navi Mumbai, will be the largest innovation centre by any financial services company in the country.
- The innovation centre is part of a Rs 200-crore allocation that the bank has earmarked for innovation last year.

Bharti Airtel acquires telecom business of Tatas
Bharti Airtel and Tata announced that they have entered into an understanding to merge Consumer Mobile Businesses (CMB) of Tata Teleservices Limited (TTSL) and Tata Teleservices Maharashtra Limited (TTML) into Bharti Airtel.

- The acquisition is subject to requisite regulatory approvals.
- The merger is being done on a debt-free cash-free basis.
- As part of the agreement, Bharti Airtel will absorb Consumer Mobile Businesses (CMB) of TTSL and TTML across the country in 19 circles (17 under TTSL and two under TTML).

IndusInd Bank to take over micro finance company Bharat Financial
The Board of Directors of IndusInd Bank Ltd and Bharat Financial Inclusion Ltd approved the merger of two companies through a composite scheme of arrangement.

- As per the merger terms, the shareholders of Bharat Financial will receive 639 shares of IndusInd for every 1,000 shares of Bharat Financial.
- The Board of Directors of the two companies approved the scheme at their respective meetings.

Odisha government department signs MOU with SBI
The Odisha government’s Directorate of Treasuries and Inspection and the State Bank of India have signed an MOU for integration of SBI e-Pay with cyber treasury.

- The MoU is a landmark initiative by the state government to facilitate revenue collection from citizens through digital banking platform, an official said.
• The SBI e-Pay is the payment aggregator service wing of the bank which will facilitate online payment of government dues by the customers of any public/private sector banks by using the payment gateway of SBI.

Union Bank launches bilingual Android app
Union Bank of India has launched an Android app, Union Sahyog, as part of its drive to digitise customer-facing banking services.
• The Union Sahyog app is bilingual — offering both English and Hindi language — and packs in all mobile-based banking applications, missed call/SMS-based services, Internet banking login and self-user creation, deposit and loan product information, online account opening, online loan application, online complaints and even RTI.
• It also offers extras such as branch locator, EMI calculator, social media links and digital banking information.

Italian banks most exposed to ECB’s new bad loan proposal: S&P
Italian banks are the most exposed to new bad loan rules proposed by the European Central Bank and may lend less to companies in response to them, credit ratings agency Standard & Poor’s.
• “We see Italian banks becoming increasingly less keen to lend to domestic corporations,” S&P said in a report looking at the ECB’s proposal that require bank to provision against loan losses at regular intervals.

SEBI revamps expert panel on Market Infrastructure Institutions
SEBI reorganised its committee on Market Infrastructure Institutions (MII) that advises it on reviewing norms related to stock exchanges, clearing corporations and depository participants.
• The five member expert committee on MII is now chaired by R Gandhi, former Deputy Governor at Reserve Bank of India (RBI).
• One of the major responsibilities of this committee is overall assessment of the existing MIIs’ framework.

Mahindra launches ‘Prerna’ project for women farmers
Mahindra & Mahindra said it has launched a programme, Prerna, to empower women working in the agriculture sector by promoting efficient and ergonomic farm tools and equipment.
• The project will be initially launched in the state of Odisha, with the intention to positively impact the lives of over 1,500 families across 30-plus villages.
• The company, which is part of the USD 19 billion Mahindra Group, yesterday celebrated the ‘Mahila Kisan Diwas’ with the launch of this programme.

Google Viewed as Most Authentic Brand in India: Survey
Indian consumers regard Google as the most authentic brand, even though Amazon.com tops the list globally, reveal results of a new survey.
• In India, Google is followed by Microsoft, Amazon.com, Maruti Suzuki and Apple.
• Globally, Apple takes the second spot after Amazon in the authenticity race, according to the results revealed by Cohn & Wolfe.

Kotak Mahindra Bank and Zeta launch Paymint
Kotak Mahindra Bank (“Kotak”) and Zeta, a fintech pioneer, announced the launch of Paymint – a comprehensive digital platform to manage multiple employee benefits.
• A multi-wallet digital prepaid solutions platform, Paymint enables corporates to offer a host of benefits to its employees including meal vouchers, medical reimbursements, leave travel allowances, gift cards, conveyance, fuel allowances, driver salaries and so on.
• Paymint offers corporates a single digital interface, powered by Zeta, to manage multiple reimbursements and allowances offered to employees.

SBI Foundation commits Rs10 crore for conservation of CST
The SBI Foundation has committed Rs10 crore for the conservation and restoration of the Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Terminus (CST) of Mumbai over a period of three to five years.
• The CST railway station, formerly known as Victoria Terminus, is a Unesco World Heritage Site.
• Through this project, the CSR arm of the State Bank of India aims to contribute in development and preservation of world heritage structures, SBI said in a statement.
• Restoration work of CST heritage building will be done by INTACH, an expert agency.

Aadhaar linking mandatory for bank accounts: RBI
The Reserve Bank of India has said biometric identity number Aadhaar linkage with bank accounts is mandatory.
• The RBI clarification followed media reports quoting a reply to a Right to Information (RTI) application that suggested the apex bank has not issued any order for mandatory Aadhaar linkage with bank accounts.

Banks to now match original IDs with photocopies
The Government has made it mandatory for banks and financial institutions to check the original identification documents of individuals dealing in cash above the prescribed threshold, to weed out the use of forged or fake copies.
• The Department of Revenue in the Finance Ministry has issued a gazette notification making an amendment to the Prevention of Money-laundering (Maintenance of Records) Rules.
• Biometric identification number Aadhaar and other official documents are required to be obtained by the reporting entities from anyone opening a bank account as well as for any financial transaction of Rs 50,000 and above.

RBI sets up task force to develop public credit registry
The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has set up a high-level task force to develop a comprehensive public credit registry (PCR)
• It is an extensive database of credit information for India that is accessible to all stakeholders.
• The 10-member task force is headed by Y. M. Deosthalee, ex-CMD, L&T Finance Holdings.

EEPC India, PNB ink MoU to provide easy finance
The Engineering Export Promotion Council (EEPC) of India and Punjab National Bank (PNB) signed an MoU to provide access to finance for the small and medium enterprises and merchant exporters of the council.
• The public sector bank will provide finances with assurance that loans up to Rs 10 crore would be provided within six to seven weeks at competitive rates. Business Standard

Govt to infuse Rs 2.11 lakh crore into PSU banks over 2 years
The government has announced an aggressive Rs. 2.11 lakh crore capital infusion for the NPA hit public sector banks over a period of two years.
• Out of this, Rs. 1.35 lakh crore will be through the recapitalisation bonds, while remaining Rs. 76,000 crore from the budgetary support, Financial Services Secretary Rajiv Kumar said.
• Non-performing assets of banks have increased from Rs. 2.75 lakh crore in March 2015 to Rs. 7.33 lakh crore as on June 2017.

RBI slaps Rs 2 crore penalty on IDFC Bank
The Reserve Bank of India has imposed a monetary penalty of Rs 2 crore on IDFC Bank for contravention of regulatory restrictions pertaining to loans and advances.
• The central bank, in a statement said the penalty has been imposed in exercise of powers vested in RBI under the Banking Regulation Act, 1949, taking into account failure of the bank to adhere to certain directions issued by RBI.

ADB Sign $300 Million Loan to Promote Fiscal Reforms in West Bengal
The Asian Development Bank and the Government of India signed a $300 million loan to continue a series of fiscal reforms in the State of West Bengal to improve the quality of public service delivery.
• The Second West Bengal Development Finance Program targets a further increase in public investment through reduction of unproductive expenditure, and savings from efficiencies in revenue collections.
• Phase I of the project costs $400 million.

Tata among top five in India's most attractive brands index
The Tata conglomerate is the only Indian brand to feature among the top five in the India’s most attractive brands index which has been topped by South Korean consumer electronics maker Samsung.

- Tata, which was at number 7 in 2016 is ranked at number 4 in India’s Most Attractive Brands 2017 study, carried out by Trust Research Advisory (TRA) and based on primary research conducted on close to 2,450 consumers across 16 cities.
- Samsung, which had occupied the third place last year, pipped LG and Sony to regain the top slot.

**RBI fines Yes Bank Rs 6 crore for non-compliance**
The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has announced it has imposed a penalty of Rs 6 crore on Yes Bank for not complying with the directions of the central bank.

- Yes Bank delayed reporting an information security incident involving its ATMs and failed to comply with the RBI’s direction on Income Recognition Asset Classification (IRAC norms).

**India to help develop Colombo, Trincomalee Ports**
India will help develop both Colombo and Trincomalee ports in Sri Lanka, foreign secretary S Jaishankar, days after Sri Lankan Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe named India as a top contender for developing the strategically located Trincomalee harbour.

- The development potentially extends India’s outreach in the Indian Ocean, where China is pursuing an expansionist policy.
- India is also helping build road and rail projects in Sri Lanka.

**ADB sign $65.5 Million Loan to support Coastal Protection in Karnataka**
The Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the Government of India signed a $65.5 million loan agreement in the national capital to continue interventions to check coastal erosion on the Western Coast in Karnataka.

- The loan is the Second Tranche of a $250 million financing facility under the Sustainable Coastal Protection and Management Investment Program.
- The financing will be used to address the immediate coastal protection needs and for strengthening institutional capacity of Karnataka’s Public Works, Ports and Inland Water Transport Department.

**RIL first Indian company to cross Rs 6 trillion market cap**
Reliance Industries Ltd (RIL) became the first Indian company to cross Rs6 trillion market capitalisation after its shares surged over 75% so far this year and hit a fresh lifetime high.

- The stock added nearly Rs3 trillion market cap since April after its telecom arm Reliance Jio started charging its customers.

**AU Small Bank, Sidbi launch Rs200 crore fund for MSMEs**
AU Small Finance Bank tied up with Small Industries Development Bank of India (Sidbi) to launch a Rs200 crore fund for providing loans to micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs).

- The programme will fund term loans in the Rs25 lakh to Rs2 crore ticket size.
- Both the financial institutions will earmark a corpus of Rs100 crore for lending under this agreement this financial year.

**India and World Bank sign $200 Million Loan Agreement for the Assam**
The Government of India and the World Bank signed a $200 million Loan Agreement for the Assam Agribusiness and Rural Transformation Project.

- The Project will support the Government of Assam to facilitate agri-business investments, increase agriculture productivity and market access, and enable small farm holders produce crops that are resilient to recurrent floods or droughts in the state.
- The Project will be implemented in over 16 Districts of Assam. Over 500,000 farming households will directly benefit from the Project. At least 30 percent women are expected to participate in project activities. Specific focus will be given to women-led enterprises and their participation in the decision-making process of farmer producer organizations.
- The $200 million loan from the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD), has a 7-year grace period, and a maturity of 16.5 years.

**SBI extends Rs 2317 crore for 43 solar power projects**
State Bank of India signed an agreement with seven companies for funding solar power energy following a line of credit from World Bank.

- The seven companies include Adani Group, JSW Energy, Hinduja Renewables, Tata Renewables Energy, Azure Power, Cleantech Solar and Hero Solar Energy.
- The bank has funded 43 projects rooftop solar power projects amounting Rs 2317 crore with the aggregate capacity of 475 mw.
- SBI has availed $ 625 mn from World Bank.

Government sets up Arun Jaitley led panel on PSU bank mergers
Moving ahead with reforms in the public sector banking space, the government has constituted a ministerial panel headed by Finance Minister Arun Jaitley that will oversee merger proposals of state-owned banks.

- The other members of the panel include Railway and Coal Minister Piyush Goyal and Defence Minister Nirmala Sitharaman.
- The panel will oversee the proposals coming from boards of PSBs for consolidation.

Microsoft joins IIT Kharagpur to create 'deeper' search engine
In a bid to take on Google Search, Microsoft said it is working with professors from the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT)-Kharagpur towards developing a system that can form the basis for a deeper, more meaningful search engine.

- The new search engine could assist users looking for subjective information and trusted opinions, the company said in a statement.
- Bing is a web search engine owned and operated by Microsoft.

President of India appoints Governors
The President has been pleased to make the following appointments:-

- Brig. (Dr.) B. D. Mishra (Retd.) as the Governor of Arunachal Pradesh
- Shri Satya Pal Malik as the Governor of Bihar
- Shri Banwarilal Purohit as the Governor of Tamil Nadu
- Prof. Jagdish Mukhi as the Governor of Assam
- Shri Ganga Prasad as the Governor of Meghalaya
- Admiral Devendra Kumar Joshi was appointed as the Lieutenant Governor for Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

President Appoints Commission to Examine Sub Categorization of OBC
The President on 02.10.2017, in exercise of the powers conferred by article 340 of the Constitution appointed a Commission to examine the sub-categorisation of Other Backward Classes.

The composition of the Commission is as follows:

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

Yatinder Pal Singh Suri elected as PPMAI Chairman
The Process Plant and Machinery Association of India (PPMAI) has elected Yatinder Pal Singh Suri as its new Chairman.

- Suri is currently working as the Managing Director and India head of Finland-based stainless steel major Outokumpu.
- PPMAI is a service organisation having members from companies serving in industries such as oil and gas processing, refineries, fertilisers, chemicals, petrochemicals, synthetic fibre, and environmental controls.

Rajnish Kumar as new SBI chairman
Rajnish Kumar, 59, the senior most of the managing directors at State Bank of India (SBI), will become the 25th chairman of the country’s largest lender, succeeding Arundhati Bhattacharya, who is set to retire on 6 October.

- The government announced his
appointment for three years. Kumar currently is in charge of retail banking at SBI.

- Kumar’s appointment comes at a time when SBI’s profitability is under strain because of ballooning bad loans and sluggish credit growth.
- Kumar’s predecessor Bhattacharya was the first woman chairperson of the 200-year-old state-owned bank.

**Mongolia ushers in new Prime Minister**
The Mongolian legislature installed a new prime minister, bringing into focus the potential implications for diplomatic relations with North Korea as well as neighboring Russia and China.

- Khurelsukh Ukhnaa, the deputy prime minister from the ruling Mongolian People’s Party, took office after a confirmation vote in the parliament.
- He succeeds Erdenebat Jargaltulga, who was ousted by the legislature last month in a no-confidence vote.

**Pooja Kapur is next Ambassador of India to the Republic of Macedonia**
Ms. Pooja Kapur, (IFS: 1996) has been concurrently accredited as the next Ambassador of India to the Republic of Macedonia, with residence in Sofia, Republic of Bulgaria.

- She is expected to take up the assignment shortly. She is presently Ambassador of India to the Republic of Bulgaria.

**Centre appoints 9 EDs in public sector banks**
The Centre has elevated as many as nine General Managers to Executive Directors in various Public Sector Banks (PSBs).

- Bajrang Singh Shekhawat has been appointed as Executive Director of Central Bank of India.
- Govind N Dongre has been appointed as Executive Director at Punjab & Sind Bank.
- Ajay Kumar Srivastava has been appointed as an Executive Director at Indian Overseas Bank.
- Matam Venkata Rao has been elevated as an Executive Director at Canara Bank.
- Kulbhushan Jain has been elevated as an Executive Director at Andhra Bank.
- Rajesh Kumar Yadhuvanshi has been elevated as an Executive Director at Dena Bank.
- Chaitanya Gayatri Chinthapalli, has been elevated as an Executive Director at Bank of India.
- S.Krishnan has been elevated as an Executive Director at Syndicate Bank.
- Lingam Venkata Prabhakar has been elevated as an Executive Director at Punjab National Bank.

**Nisha Biswal to head US-India Business Council**
Nisha Biswal, a former state department official, will head the US-India Business Council, a powerful advocacy group of US companies with business interest in India.

- USIBC is a part of the US Chamber of Commerce, the largest lobbying organisation in the country that wields real political power in Washington.
- Biswal, who was assistant secretary of state for South and Central Asia in the Obama administration, is expected to join on November 1 in her new position.

**House panel to look into China-India relations**
A parliamentary committee has decided to examine the whole gamut of Sino-Indian relations, including the border situation.

- The Standing Committee on External Affairs, which will examine the relations between the two Asian powers, is headed by Shashi Tharoor, Congress member of the Lok Sabha.
- The move comes days after Congress vice-president Rahul Gandhi had demanded that Prime Minister Narendra Modi explain the resumed road-construction by the Chinese near the Doklam plateau.
- The committee will examine in detail the issue of “cooperation” between India and China in international organisations.

**Anupam Kher appointed as Chairman FTII**
Shri Anupam Kher, veteran cine star, has been appointed as Chairman of Film and Television Institute of India (FTII), Pune. Shri Kher succeeds Shri Gajendra Chauhan.

- Shri Kher who has appeared in over 500 films is a recipient of the Padma Shri in 2004 and the Padma Bhushan in 2016 for his contribution in the field of cinema and arts.
• The veteran star has won many national and international awards including the ‘Filmfare Award for Best Performance in a Comic Role’ five times.
• He has appeared in acclaimed international films such as the 2002 Golden Globe nominated Bend It Like Beckham, 2007 Golden Lion award-winning Lust, Caution and 2013 Oscar-winning Silver Linings Playbook.
• He has appeared in more than 100 plays and has also authored the book ‘The Best Thing about You Is You’.
• Earlier he served as the Chairman of the Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC) and was the Director of National School of Drama from 2001 to 2004.
• He is also an alumnus of National School of Drama (1978 batch).

Points to Remember
• FTII is an autonomous body under the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting and is regarded as a center of excellence across the world.
• Films made by FTII’s students have enjoyed excellent receptions in festivals in India and abroad and have won National and International awards.

Yuvraj named Laureus ambassador
Mercedes-Benz and Laureus Sport has named Cricketer Yuvraj Singh as their first brand ambassador in India.
• The global auto manufacturer said it had appointed the cricketer to “to bring the change and uplift the society through the power of sports.”

Gautam Bambawale India’s next ambassador to China
Seasoned diplomat Gautam Bambawale, India's high commissioner to Pakistan, was appointed as the country's next envoy to China.
• This was announced by the external affairs ministry.
• A 1984 India Foreign Service (IFS) officer, Bambawale will replace Vijay Gokhale.

France's Audrey Azoulay to be next UNESCO chief
UNESCO's executive board has chosen former French Culture Minister Audrey Azoulay to be the UN cultural agency's next leader over a Qatari candidate.
• The US announcement this week that it's quitting UNESCO rocked the multi-day election and heightened concerns about the agency's funding and future direction.
• Azoulay succeeds outgoing Director-General Irina Bokova of Bulgaria, whose eight-year term was marred by financial woes and criticism over Palestine's inclusion as a member.
• Recently, the US and Israel said they plan to pull out of the Paris-based organisation over its perceived anti-Israel bias.

Solicitor General Ranjit Kumar resigns
Ranjit Kumar, India’s second-most senior law officer, has resigned from the the post of Solicitor General of India citing personal reasons.
• He was appointed by the incumbent government of Prime Minister Narendra Modi on 7 June 2014.
• Ranjit Kumar succeeded Mohan Parasaran.
• The Solicitor General of India assists the Attorney General of India in advising the Union Government on matters pertaining to law.
• Appointments Committee of the Cabinet appoints the Solicitor General. Attorney General for India is appointed by the President under Article 76(1) of the Constitution.

Sunny Verghese appointed as WBCSD Chair from 2018
The World Business Council for Sustainable Development announced that Mr Sunny Verghese has been appointed as the new Chair of WBCSD.
• Mr Verghese’s term begins on 1 January 2018 for a duration of two years.
• The appointment was enacted by a vote from members at the 2017 Annual General Meeting of WBCSD in Mexico City.
• Mr Verghese will succeed Mr Paul Polman, CEO of Unilever, who has been Chairman of WBCSD since 2014.

Jacinda Ardern to be New Zealand's next PM
Jacinda Ardern will become New Zealand’s next prime minister 26 days after the country’s electorate cast their votes.
• Labour party will form a coalition government with NZ First, along with the backing of the Green party, which means Ardern, 37, becomes New Zealand’s third female prime minister.
• Ardern, who also becomes New Zealand’s youngest prime minister for 150 years, said she was committed to forming a strong and durable government.

Sibi George appointed next Ambassador of India to Switzerland
Sibi George has been appointed as the next Ambassador of India to Switzerland.
• He will replace Smita Purushottam. George is presently serving as Joint Secretary in the Ministry of External Affairs.
• George, a 1993 batch Indian Forest Service (IFS) officer, has also served as deputy chief of mission of Indian embassy in Saudi Arabia.

Rakesh Asthana appointed CBI special director
Gujarat-cadre IPS officer Rakesh Asthana has been appointed the special director of the CBI.
• Asthana, a 1984-batch IPS officer, had been serving in the Central Bureau of Investigation as additional director.
• Gurbachan Singh has been appointed as Special Director of Intelligence Bureau (IB).
• Deepak Kumar Mishra and Sudeep Lakhtakia have been promoted as Special DG in the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF).
• Rajesh Ranjan and AP Maheshwari have been promoted to the ranks of Special DG in the Border Security Force (BSF).

Centre appoints Shri Dineshwar Sharma as its Representative in J&K
In a major development, the Centre today appointed Shri Dineshwar Sharma, former Director of Intelligence Bureau, as the Representative of Government of India to initiate and carry forward a dialogue with the elected representatives, various organizations and concerned individuals in the State of Jammu and Kashmir.
• Shri Sharma will initiate a sustained interaction and dialogue to understand the legitimate aspirations of the wide cross sections of society, particularly the youth in Jammu and Kashmir and communicate them to the State Government and the Centre.
• The move comes in the wake of various steps taken by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi to address the needs of the people of Jammu and Kashmir.

• It may be recalled that during his visit to Srinagar on November 7, 2015, the Prime Minister had announced a package of Rs 80,068 Crores for the overall development of the State.

IPPB appoints Suresh Sethi as its MD & CEO
India Post Payments Bank (IPPB) has appointed Mr. Suresh Sethi, the former MD of Vodafone M-Pesa Ltd. as its Managing Director & Chief Executive Officer.
• Mr. Sethi had been selected by the Banks Board Bureau from amongst top contenders for the post, from both public and private sector Banking and Fintech professionals.
• Mr. Sethi takes over from the dynamic leadership of Mr. A.P. Singh who had been the interim MD & CEO of IPPB since January 2017.

Points to Remember
• IPPB has been incorporated as a Public Limited Company under the Department of Posts with 100% GOI equity.
• IPPB plans to leverage the unparalleled reach of the India Post network to achieve a Pan India roll out of 650 branches by early next year.

Alok Kumar Pateria appointed as ADG, CISF
The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet has approved the appointment of Shri Alok Kumar Pateria, IPS (MP:86) as Additional Director General, CISF on deputation basis.
• He appointed has been made for a period upto 31.05.2020 i.e. date of his superannuation from the date of assumption of charge of the post or until further orders, whichever is earlier.

NS Venkatesh appointed AMFI chief executive
NS Venkatesh has been appointed as chief executive of the Association of Mutual Funds in India (AMFI).
• The post was lying vacant after CVR Rajendran stepped down from the position in December.
• Prior to joining AMFI, a nodal association of mutual funds across India, he was the executive director at Lakshmi Vilas Bank.

HSBC appoints Jayant Rikhye as CEO India
The Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation (HSBC) announced the appointment of Jayant Rikhye as the chief executive officer for India.

- The appointment would be effective from December 1 subject to regulatory approvals, HSBC said in a statement.
- In his new role, Rikhye will lead HSBC’s next phase of growth in the country, where he first joined the Group in 1989.

N.J.Gangte appointed High Commissioner of India to Zambia
Shri N.J.Gangte (IFS: 1994) has been appointed as the next High Commissioner of India to the Republic of Zambia.

- He is expected to take up his assignment shortly. He is presently Joint Secretary in the Ministry of External Affairs.

Vice Admiral Ajit Kumar P assumes charge as the Vice Chief of Naval Staff
Vice Admiral Ajit Kumar P, AVSM, VSM has assumed charge as the Vice Chief of Naval Staff from Vice Admiral Karambir Singh AVSM at a formal ceremony held at South Block, New Delhi.

- Vice Admiral Karambir Singh proceeds to Visakhapatnam and is scheduled to take over as Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief Eastern Naval Command on 31 Oct 17.

FB Group gets Swacchata Award for voluntary citizen action
Fertilizer Cooperative, KRIBHCO was conferred the Swacchata Award by the Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs on the occasion of the third anniversary of the launch of Swachh Bharat Mission(Urban) for leading in marketing of compost made from Municipal Solid Waste.

- The Ministry will felicitate 20 individuals and agencies in 7 categories for significant contribution towards furthering the Clean India objective in urban areas.

- KRIBHCO has been chosen among the Companies category for marketing the highest quantity of 22,768 tons of compost during 2016-17.
- Delhi based citizen group ‘My Delhi Keep It Clean’ gets the award for promoting voluntary efforts to clean public places effectively using Face Book, in the Self-Help Group category.
- Richmond Park, Gurugram, located in DLF Phase-IV and completed in 2002 has been chosen for the award for exemplary decentralized waste management initiative through waste segregation at source, in the RWAs category.
- RWA Federation of Mysuru has shown the way in Zero-waste effluent management system.
- Roseland Housing Society, Pune also gets the award for waste segregation initiative.
- ‘No Food Waste’ initiative of Coimbatore has been selected in the Innovative Practices category for end-to-end cycle to manage and reduce food waste.
- Kasturba Gandhi Balika Awasiya Vidyalaya, Ambikar gets the award in the Schools and Colleges category while Swachh Ambikapur Sahakari Samiti has been chosen in Self-Help Group category for women empowerment and livelihood generation by converting garbage into wealth.
- Pemayangste Monastery, Gyalshing, Sikkim will be felicitated in the category of religious institutions for being a Zero-waste institution.

Meenakshi temple wins swachh award
The Sri Meenakshi Sundareswarar Temple in Madurai has been adjudged the cleanest iconic place in the country under Swachhta Hi Seva (cleanliness is service) programme.

- The temple earned the top slot from among 10 iconic places selected under the Swachh Bharath Mission in the country.
- Dedicated to Meenakshi, an incarnation of Parvati, and her consort Sundareswar, an incarnation of Shiva, the temple was adjudged the Best Swachh Iconic Place from a formidable list of contenders that included the Taj Mahal, Ajmer Sharif Dargah, the Golden Temple, Tirupathi temple and Sri Vaishno Devi temple.

Nobel Prizes in Physiology or Medicine
The Nobel Assembly at Karolinska Institute has decided to award the 2017 Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine jointly to Jeffrey C. Hall, Michael Rosbash and Michael W. Young for their discoveries of molecular mechanisms controlling the circadian rhythm.

- Hall was born in New York, Rosbash in Kansas City, and they both worked at Brandeis University. Michael Young was born in Miami and worked at Rockefeller University.
- The Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine, administered by the Nobel Foundation, is awarded once a year for outstanding discoveries in the fields of life sciences and medicine.
- It is one of five Nobel Prizes established in 1895 by Swedish chemist Alfred Nobel, the inventor of dynamite, in his will.
- As of 2015, 106 Nobel Prizes in Physiology or Medicine have been awarded to 198 men and 12 women.
- The first Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine was awarded in 1901 to the German physiologist Emil von Behring, for his work on serum therapy and the development of a vaccine against diphtheria.
- The first woman to receive the Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine, Gerty Cori, received it in 1947 for her role in elucidating the metabolism of glucose.

**Nobel prize in physics awarded for discovery of gravitational waves**

Three American physicists have won the Nobel prize in physics for the first observations of gravitational waves.

- Rainer Weiss has been awarded one half of the 9m Swedish kronor (£825,000) prize, announced by the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences in Stockholm.
- Kip Thorne and Barry Barish will share the other half of the prize.
- All three scientists have played leading roles in the Laser Interferometer Gravitational-Wave Observatory, or Ligo, experiment, which in 2015 made the first historic observation of gravitational waves.

**Ministry of Health adjudged best for ‘Swachhta Pakhwada’, receives award**

The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has been adjudged as the best department for its contribution during Swachhta Pakhwada, an inter-Ministry initiative of Swachh Bharat Mission of Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation.

- The Health Ministry observed the Swachhta Pakhwada from 1st February, 2017 to 15th February, 2017.
- The award was presented to the Ministry on 2nd October, 2017, the third anniversary of Swachh Bharat Mission. Shri C K Mishra, Secretary (HFW) received the award on behalf of the Ministry.

**Classical singer Manik Bhide chosen for Bhimsen Joshi award**

Noted vocalist Manik Bhide was chosen for the prestigious Bharatratna Pandit Bhimsen Joshi award for year 2017-18 for her contribution in the field of music.

- The Maharashtra government award, the highest in the category of performing arts, consist of Rs five lakh in cash, a plaque and citation.

**The Nobel Prize in Chemistry 2017**

The 2017 Nobel Prize in chemistry has been awarded to three scientists for improving images made of biological molecules.

- Jacques Dubochet, Joachim Frank and Richard Henderson will share the nine million kronor (£831,000) prize.
- They developed a technique called cryo-electron microscopy (cryo-EM), which simplifies the process for looking at the machinery of life.
- Prof Dubochet was born in Switzerland, Joachim Frank is German and Richard Henderson is from Edinburgh, UK.

**IIM Faculty Member Selected For Teaching Innovator Award 2016**

IIM Bangalore's Prof. P C Narayan, a faculty from the Finance & Accounting area, has been selected for the 'Teaching Innovator Award-2016' by the Ministry of Human Resource Development, Government of India.

- The Award will be presented at a ceremony by the MHRD, soon.
- The teaching innovation that fetched Prof. Narayan the award was titled "Transitioning from a ‘Teacher-centric’ to a ‘Student-centric’ Classroom and Online Learning".
Kazuo Ishiguro wins Nobel Prize in Literature
British author Kazuo Ishiguro, best known for his novel The Remains of the Day, has won the Nobel Literature Prize on October 5.

- "In novels of great emotional force, has uncovered the abyss beneath our illusory sense of connection with the world," the Academy wrote in its citation.
- Born in Nagasaki, he moved to Britain with his family when he was five years old.
- Of the 114 laureates honoured since the prize was first awarded to France's Sully Prudhomme in 1901, only 14 are women.

Gauri Lankesh named for Anna Politkovskaya Award
Indian journalist and activist Gauri Lankesh will be posthumously awarded the Annual Anna Politkovskaya Award, an award for women human rights defenders from war and conflict zones, for her fearless journalism, it was announced on Thursday.

- The award has been conferred by international human rights organisation Reach All Women in WAR (RAW in WAR) to Lankesh a month after she was shot dead outside her residence here on September 5.
- Lankesh, the editor of Kannada tabloid “Gauri Lankesh Patrike” is the first Indian to win the award.

2017 Nobel Prize in Peace
The 2017 Nobel Peace Prize has been awarded to International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN), a coalition of non-governmental organisations from over 100 countries around the globe.

- The Norwegian Nobel Committee honoured the Geneva-based group “for its work to draw attention to the catastrophic humanitarian consequences of any use of nuclear weapons and for its ground-breaking efforts to achieve a treaty-based prohibition of such weapons.”

Economics Nobel goes to Richard H. Thaler
The Sveriges Riksbank Prize in Economic Sciences in Memory of Alfred Nobel 2017 was awarded to US professor Richard H. Thaler "for his contributions to behavioural economics."

- Dr. Thaler's contributions have built a bridge between the economic and psychological analyses of individual decision-making.

Student from Belarus becomes first-ever Miss Wheelchair World
A psychology student from Belarus, Aleksandra Chichikova, was chosen Miss Wheelchair World in the first-ever edition of the beauty pageant held in Warsaw.

- The pageant was organised by the Poland-based Only One Foundation.
- India's Rajalakshmi won the 'Miss Popularity award' at pageant. This is three years after she won Miss Wheelchair India in 2014

T D Radhakrishnan selected for Vayalar award
Noted Novelist T D Radhakrishnan's 'Sugandhi Enna Andal Devanayaki' has been selected for this year's prestigious Vayalar award.

- The award, carrying a cash prize of Rs one lakh, citation and a statuette, will be presented to him on October 27, the death anniversary of poet and lyricist Vayalar Ramavarma.
- The award, given for the best literary work in Malayalam, was instituted in 1977 by the Vayalar Ramavarma Memorial Trust in memory of Vayalar.

President of India Presents 18th Lal Bahadur Shastri National Award
The President of India, Shri Ram Nath Kovind, presented the Lal Bahadur Shastri National Award for Excellence in Public Administration, Academics and Management for the year 2017 to Dr. Bindeshwar Pathak at Rashtrapati Bhavan.

- He said that Dr. Bindeshwar Pathak was the most deserving person for an award named after Shri Shastri as he has contributed immensely in the direction of getting rid of the practice of manual scavenging.
- The Mayor of New York had declared April 14, 2016 as the ‘Dr. Bindeshwar Pathak International Day’ keeping in mind this contribution made by Dr. Pathak.
• He also received the Padma Bhushan in 1991.

Amul named best FMCG co by IAA
India’s largest food products marketing organisation, Gujarat Co-operative Milk Marketing Federation Ltd (GCMMF), which markets the Amul brand of milk and milk products, has been recognised as the country’s best Fast Moving Consumer Goods (FMCG) company in the food sector by the International Advertising Association (IAA).

• Amul was presented the Fifth IAA Leadership Award for this recognition at Mumbai.

• The prestigious awards instituted by the IAA’s India Chapter recognise excellence towards contribution in marketing, advertising and media sectors as well as celebrate outstanding achievements of individuals and teams.

Boxing coach Sandhu gets Nat’l award for senior citizens
Long-serving Indian boxing coach Gurbax Singh Sandhu has been honoured with the National Awards for senior citizens by President Ramnath Kovind.

• Sandhu, who has the distinction of coaching both the men and women boxers, was bestowed the honour at a function.

• Sandhu was India’s longest-serving men’s national coach, occupying the position for two decades.

• Sandhu was the chief coach when India won its maiden Olympic medal in boxing through Vijender Singh in 2008.

Madhu Valli from USA crowned Miss India Worldwide
Madhu Valli, an emerging hip hop artist and a student of criminal law at George Mason University in Virginia, has been crowned as Miss India Worldwide 2017.

• Stephanie Madavane from France was declared runner up at the 26th edition of the beauty pageant held in New Jersey.

• The beauty pageant attracts people of Indian origin from across the world.

• Sarita Pattnaik from Texas was declared Mrs India Worldwide.

• Organised by New York-based India Festival Committee, Miss India Worldwide is the only international Indian pageant with affiliates in over 35 countries and considered among the top ethnic pageants in the world.

M K Sanu chosen for Mathrubhumi Literary award
Eminent critic, biographer and orator M K Sanu has been chosen for the Mathrubhumi Literary Award for 2016 in recognition of his rich contribution to the Malayalam literature.

• The award carries a cash prize of Rs 2 lakh, a citation and a statuette.

• A jury headed by eminent poet Vishnu Narayanan Namboothiri selected Sanu for the award.

Namita Gokhale bags Centenary National Award for Literature
Eminent writer Namita Gokhale has been nominated for the first Centenary National Award for Literature.

• The award is to be conferred by one of the most prestigious literary bodies in India- the Asam Sahitya Sabha -for her outstanding literary contributions as well as her service to the nation in supporting and showcasing literary talent.

• This is also the first time that the Sabha will be honouring an English-language author.

• The Sabha has instituted the national award as part of its centenary celebrations.

Jnangarima Manad Alankaran for writer E Sonamani
The Jnanpith Jury Board, at a meeting, unanimously decided to confer the Jnangarima Manad Alankaran 2017 to Elangbam Sonamani Singh, noted Manipuri litterateur.

• Sonamani has enriched Manipuri language with his adept multifaceted creations through novels, short stories, poetry, translation and Khand Kavyas.

• Sonamani has authored more than forty books and is a doyen of the Manipuri literary and socio-cultural fraternity.

Singer T M Krishna to get Indira Gandhi National Integration Award
Carnatic vocalist T.M. Krishna will be conferred with the Indira Gandhi Award for National Integration for 2015-16.

• The singer, who won the Ramon Magsaysay award for bringing “social inclusiveness in culture” in 2016, will be presented with the honour by Congress president Sonia Gandhi on October 31, Indira Gandhi’s death anniversary.

• The award consists of a citation and a cash prize of ₹10 lakh.
The Indira Gandhi Award for National Integration was instituted in 1985 by the Congress in its centenary year.

Indian peacekeepers in Sudan awarded UN medal

As many as 50 Indian peacekeepers stationed in South Sudan have been awarded the UN Medal for their professionalism and service in protecting civilians and building durable peace in the conflict-ridden country.

- The Indian peacekeepers are part of the UN Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS).
- They are deployed with the Indian Battalion stationed at Bor in the Jonglei region of South Sudan.
- They were presented with the award recently by UNMISS Force Commander General Frank Mushyo Kamanzi.

Prabha Varma chosen for Padma Prabha Puraskaram

A jury headed by ace novelist M Mukundan chose Varma for the prestigious Padma Prabha Puraskaram award, considering his contribution to Malayalam literature.

- The award was instituted by Kalpetta-based Padma Prabha Memorial Trust in memory of M K Padmaprabha, a leading socialist and one of the founders of modern Wayanad.
- Varma is the winner of Kendriya Sahitya Academi, Kerala Sahitya Academi and Vayalar awards, Mahakavi Puraskaram, Mahakavi Pandalam Keralavarma Kavitha Puraskaram and Vallothol award, besides many other recognitions.

Swraj Paul honoured for contributions to manufacturing, education

Prominent NRI industrialist Lord Swraj Paul has been conferred with the Life Time Achievement Award here for his outstanding contributions in the fields of manufacturing industry, education and philanthropy.

- The 2nd British Asian Achievers Awards, organised by Jagatwani, a Hindi weekly, was held at the Grosvenor Hotel in Lonon.
- He was awarded the Padma Bhushan by the Government of India in 1983.

Gurmehar Kaur named Next Generation leader by Time magazine

Time Magazine has included Delhi University student Gurmehar Kaur in its list of Next Generation Leaders for 2017.

- Gurmehar, the only Indian in the list, is the daughter of an Indian Army captain who was martyred while fighting terrorists in the troubled region of Jammu and Kashmir.

George Saunders wins 2017 Man Booker Prize

US author George Saunders became only the second American writer to win Britain's renowned Man Booker Prize, which was awarded for his first full-length novel "Lincoln in the Bardo".

- The book chronicles the death of Abraham Lincoln's 11-year-old son Willie.
- The award, launched in 1969, was only open to writers from Commonwealth states until it began permitting authors from other English-speaking countries in 2014.
- Last year Paul Beatty became the first American to win the award for his novel "The Sellout".

Petroleum Ministry conferred with Swachh Bharat Inter-Ministerial Award

Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas (MoPNG) has been awarded with Swachh Bharat Inter-Ministerial Award by Minister of State, Ministry of Drinking Water & Sanitation Shri S.S. Ahluwalia.

- The award in the inter-Ministerial category was presented to MoPNG on the basis of the activities undertaken in the past three years and was received by Senior Adviser (PNG).

Javed Akhtar to be Honoured With Hridaynath Mangeshkar Award

Veteran writer-lyricist Javed Akhtar is being honoured with the Hridaynath Mangeshkar Award on the 28th anniversary of Hridayesh Arts and the 80th birthday of veteran music composer Hridaynath Mangeshkar.

- Akhtar will receive Rs 100,000 along with a memento.
- Hridayesh Arts is organising a music programme titled 'Amrut Hriday Swar Lata' to salute and celebrate 75 glorious years of the musical journey of Bharat Ratna awardee and songstress Lata Mangeshkar.
CSS Corp wins NASSCOM customer service excellence award 2017

CSS Corp, a new-age IT services and technology support company, has been named as the winner of the Customer Service Excellence Award 2017 by NASSCOM, India's premier IT industry body.

- CSS Corp emerged as a leader in the transformation category for its proven capabilities in creating additional revenue generation opportunities for clients globally through its proprietary tech support and analytics platforms.

Environmental scientist Schellnhuber receives Blue Planet Prize

The world's most prestigious award for pioneers in environmental science was given to Hans Joachim Schellnhuber this week in Tokyo.

- He is Director of the Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research (PIK), a member of the Leibniz Association.
- The Blue Planet Prize, coming along with 50 million yen, honors outstanding thinkers who help to meet challenges of planetary dimensions.

Adesina wins 2017 World Food Prize

The World Food Prize 2017 goes to Dr. Akinwumi Ayodeji Adesina, President of the African Development Bank Group for helping Africa get it right in agriculture and making it a key player of securing food for the world.

- The official announcement of the Prize was made during a ceremony at the U.S. Department of Agriculture in Washington D.C.
- The prize was founded by Norman E. Borlaug, a native of northeast Iowa who was awarded the 1970 Nobel Peace Prize for his life’s work on feeding the world through the scientific advancements of the Green Revolution.

ISKCON’s Govardhan Eco Village gets green platinum award

The Govardhan Eco Village, set up by the International Society for Krishna Consciousness (ISKCON) in Palghar district, has won the ‘green platinum award’.

- The village’s director, Gauranga Das, received the award, instituted by Indian Green Building Council (IGBC).
- The IGBC has been established by the CII to enable sustainable built-environment for all.
- Govardhan Eco Village is a farm community and retreat centre spread over a scenic landscape of 100 acres at Galtare in Wada taluka.

Alka Yagnik and Udit Narayan to get Lata Mangeshkar Award

Noted music composers Usha Khanna, Bappi Lahiri, Anu Malik and playback singers Alka Yagnik and Udit Narayan have been selected for the Madhya Pradesh government’s prestigious National Lata Mangeshkar Award.

- The artistes will be honoured for their contribution in the field of music composition and singing.
- The award, instituted in the honour of Mangeshkar, will be presented on October 26 at a function in Indore, the birthplace of the 88-year-old legendary singer.

Cristiano Ronaldo Wins FIFA World Player Of The Year Award

Real Madrid's Portugal striker Cristiano Ronaldo was crowned the FIFA best soccer player in the world for the second consecutive year.

Here is the list of the awards:

- Cristiano Ronaldo wins Best Fifa Men's Player
- Lieke Martens wins Best Fifa Women's Player
- Celtic win Fifa Fans Award
- Sarina Wiegman wins Best Fifa Women's Coach
- Zinedine Zidane wins Best Male Coach
- Gigi Buffon wins Best Goalkeeper
- Olivier Giroud wins Puskas Award for best goal

Sharmila Tagore Honoured With Lifetime Achievement Award

Veteran actor Sharmila Tagore was bestowed with the Lifetime Achievement Award by the PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industry in New Delhi for her contribution in the field of cinema.

- Minister of State for Prime Minister's Office Jitendra Singh and Delhi BJP chief Manoj Tiwari presented the
award to Tagore at a ceremony held at Siri Fort Auditorium.

**Ram Gopal Bajaj will be conferred with National Kalidas Award**

Renowned theatre director, Ram Gopal Bajaj, will be conferred with the National Kalidas Award instituted by the Madhya Pradesh government in the field of theatre.
- It is to be noted that this award is provided for various aspects of theatre in excellence, long spiritual practice and continuous creation.
- The selection committee recommended Ram Gopal Bajaj's name with unanimous decision.
- Under this honour, cash award of Rs 2 lakhs is given to the awardee.

**AP CM Naidu receives 'Golden Peacock Award' in London**

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu has received the 'Golden Peacock Award' under the category - Global Leadership in Public Service and Economic Transformation - at a convention in London.
- Earlier eminent recipients of the award under other categories are - anti-corruption crusader Anna Hazare, agricultural scientist M S Swaminathan, Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik and former Delhi chief minister Sheila Dikshit.
- Naidu's wife and managing director of the Heritage Foods Nara Bhuvaneswari also received the award under the category - Corporate Governance and Sustainability.

**Venezuela's opposition awarded Sakharov Prize**

The democratic opposition and political prisoners in Venezuela have won the European Union's Sakharov Prize for human rights.
- The European Parliament said it wanted to reward the courage of students and politicians fighting for freedom in the face of a repressive government.
- The Venezuelan laureates follow the footsteps of last year's winners, two Yazidi women who escaped sexual enslavement by Isis group.

**Anupam Kher receives 'Pramod Mahajan Smriti Award'**

Veteran Bollywood actor Anupam Kher received Pramod Mahajan Smriti Award in Pune.
- The veteran actor was recently appointed as Chairman of Film and Television Institute of India.

**Max Verstappen wins Malaysian Grand Prix**

A commanding drive from Red Bull's Max Verstappen saw him soundly beat three-time world champion Lewis Hamilton to win Malaysian Grand Prix at the Sepang Circuit.
- Verstappen grabbed the lead from then race leader Hamilton on lap 4.
- Daniel Ricciardo held off Sebastian Vettel for third. Sebastian finished in fourth place.

**Pooja Kadian Clinches India's Maiden Gold In Wushu Worlds**

Pooja Kadian created history as she bagged India's maiden gold medal at the World Wushu Championships.
- The three-time World Championships silver medallist struck gold in the 75 kg of the women's sanda competition.
- She defeated Evgeniya Stepanova of Russia in the final.

**India's Anupama wins inaugural snooker meet**

Anupama Ramachandran of India and Dylan Emery of Wales have claimed the World Open Under-16 Snooker Championship titles in the girls and boys category, respectively, in St. Petersburg Russia.
- Federation of Billiards Sports of Russia hosted this first ever World Open championships for Under-16 boys and girls, which was a success with total participation of 73 cueists from across the world.

**Sandhu wins first Asian Tour title at Yeangder TPC**

Indian golfer Ajeetesh Sandhu fired a superb two-under 70 to clinch his maiden Asian Tour title at the USD 500,000 Yeangder Tournament Players Championship (TPC) in Taipei.
- The 28-year-old sunk three birdies against a lone bogey to return with a winning total of 12-under 276
to defeat USA's Johannes Veerman (71) by one-shot at the Linkou International Golf and Country Club.

**Hamilton roars to Japan win**
Lewis Hamilton romped to victory at the Japanese Grand Prix to close in on a fourth world title after Sebastian Vettel retired with engine failure on lap four.  
- Max Verstappen finished second and Daniel Ricciardo secured third spot.  
- Valtteri Bottas finished fourth and Kimi Raikkonen's Ferrari finished fifth.

**Ashish Nehra set to retire from International cricket on November 1**
Veteran speedster Ashish Nehra has decided to retire from competitive cricket after the first T20 International against New Zealand at his home ground, Feroz Shah Kotla, on November 1.  
- Making his India debut back in 1999 under Mohammed Azharuddin, Nehra has so far played 17 Tests, 120 ODIs and 26 T20 Internationals for the country.  
- He has picked 44 Test wickets, besides 157 ODI and 34 T20 scalps.

**FIFA suspends Pakistan from international football**
Pakistan has been suspended from international football because of what global soccer body FIFA described as undue third-party interference in the country’s football federation (PFF).  
- FIFA said in a statement that the suspension would prevent Pakistani teams, including the national side, from playing in international competition and the PFF from benefiting from FIFA development and training programmes.

**Bengaluru to host World Sudoku, Puzzle Championships**
Bengaluru will host the 12th World Sudoku Championship and the 26th World Puzzle Championship from October 15 to 21, which will witness the participation of over 33 countries.  
- After the 2008 World Sudoku Championship that was held in Goa, this is the second time that India will host the top events of the puzzle world from October 15 to 21.
- Logic Masters India, the Indian representative body of the World Puzzle Federation, has been conducting national championships since 2008 for the selection of Indian team for the world championships.

**Maria Sharapova wins Tianjin Open title**
Former world number one Maria Sharapova won her first title since May 2015, beating Aryna Sabalenka 7-5 7-6 (10-8) in the Tianjin Open final.  
- The 30-year-old Russian was playing her seventh event since she returned to the tour in April from a 15-month drug ban.  
- It is the five-time Grand Slam winner's 36th WTA tournament victory.

**Mohun Bagan lift Governor's Gold Cup for 10th time**
Maidan heavyweights Mohun Bagan won the 37th All India Governor's Gold Cup football tournament for the 10th time by defeating Partha Chakra by a narrow 1-0 margin.  
- In the final match played at Paljor Stadium, Mohun Bagan's striker GA Kramah scored the lone goal in the seventh minute.  
- Chief Minister Pawan Kumar Chamling attended the final and gave away trophies and cash prize to winners and the runner-up.

**Federer brushes aside Nadal to win Shanghai Masters**
Roger Federer got one over his old rival Rafael Nadal to win the Shanghai Masters 6-4, 6-3 in a showdown between the two best players on the planet.  
- It was a 94th title for the Swiss legend, drawing him level with the great Ivan Lendl, and was a fifth victory in a row against world number one Nadal.

**Kavita Devi becomes first Indian woman wrestler to sign with WWE**
Kavita Devi has made history by becoming the first ever woman wrestler from India to be awarded a WWE developmental contract.  
- Devi is an accomplished power-lifter who won gold at the 2016 South Asian Games, representing India  
- The announcement was made by WWE Champion Jinder Mahal during his visit to the nation's capital.
• Devi also has the distinction of being the first Indian woman to compete in a WWE ring, during her participation in the Mae Young Classic.

Indian boxers win 8 medals in Balkan Open
Indian pugilists returned with an impressive haul of eight medals, including four golds, from the third Youth International Championships Balkan Open 2017 at Sofia, Bulgaria.
  • Besides four golds, the Indian boxers won one silver and three bronze medals.
  • Indian youth team was also adjudged as the best team in the championship.

India beat Malaysia 2-1 to win third Asia Cup title
India's ten-year wait for the continental title ended as they beat Malaysia 2-1 to win their third Asia Cup title in Dhaka.
  • India won the tournament twice before in 2003 and 2007 editions.
  • They finished runners-up in the last edition in 2011 after losing to South Korea in final.

Points to Remember
• The Asia Cup is an international men's and women's field hockey tournament governed by the Asian Hockey Federation (ASHF).
• It was introduced in 1982 for men's competition and the women's competition was added a year later as non-official championship until the official tournament held in 1985.
• South Korea has been the most successful team with 4 titles in Men's and 3 titles in Women's competition.

Kidambi Srikanth wins Denmark Open
It took Kidambi Srikanth just 25 minutes to finish the Denmark Open Super Series final and Korea's Lee Hyun Il.
  • Srikanth defeated his opponent 21-10, 21-5 to deservedly take away his third Super Series title of the year and fifth overall.
  • He had earlier stunned World No. 1 Viktor Axelsen to reach the semi-finals.

Gaganjeet Bhullar Lifts Macao Open Trophy For The Second Time
Indian golfer Gaganjeet Bhullar romped home to a three-shot victory at the Macao Open to bag his eighth Asian Tour title.
  • As a result, Bhullar etched his name on the Macao Open trophy for the second time having previously won the event in 2012.

Lewis Hamilton wins United States GP
Lewis Hamilton passed rival Sebastian Vettel to take a dominant victory in the United States Grand Prix but will have to wait at least one more race if he is to win a fourth world title.
  • The Mercedes driver is 66 points clear of Vettel, who finished second.
  • It means Hamilton is almost certain to win the title in Mexico next weekend.

Jitu Rai, Heena Sidhu win gold in air pistol mixed team event
Jitu Rai and Heena Sidhu combined to give India their first gold medal of the ISSF World Cup Finals, clinching the top honours in the 10m air pistol mixed team event on the opening day of competitions.
  • Rai, a Commonwealth and Asian Games gold-medallist, and Sidhu, also a former Commonwealth Games gold-winner, picked up their third gold together in the mixed team event, being held officially for the first time at an ISSF World Cup.
  • The duo shot 483.4 in the final to finish top of the podium at the Dr Karni Singh Shooting Ranges.

Manav Thakkar First Indian to Top ITTF Junior Circuit Rankings
Manav Thakkar became the first Indian to occupy the top spot on the ITTF World Junior Circuit standings, following the conclusion of the tournament in Belgrade.
  • Thakkar was previously placed at No. 5 position.
  • The players that follow him in WJC standings include American Kanak Jha at No.2, Argentina's Francisco Sanchi, Frenchman Bastien Rembert and Chinese Taipei's Feng Yi-Hsin.

FIFA U-17 World Cup: Brazil beat Mali 2-0 to finish third
Alan and Yuri Alberto scored in the 55th and 88th minutes, respectively, as Brazil defeated Mali 2-0 to finish third at the FIFA U-17 World Cup.
  • The 10-man Brazil sealed third place play-off match at the Salt Lake Stadium in Kolkata.
  • The same venue will host the final clash between England and Spain.
National Games to held next year from November 4-17 in Goa

After a lot of delay, Sports Authority of Goa finalised the dates of the 36th National Games, to be held in Goa in 2018 from November 4 to 17.

• There was uncertainty over the dates of the 30-discipline event ever since the Games were awarded to the State in 2011.
• The delays to the 34th and 35th editions of the Games, which were hosted by Jharkhand and Kerala respectively, affected Goa’s plan to hold the mega-event.

Martina Hingis announces retirement from pro tennis

Hall of Famer Martina Hingis, one of only six women’s players to hold the No. 1 ranking in both singles and doubles at the same time, announced her retirement.

• Hingis won 13 major doubles titles, along with five in singles and seven in mixed doubles.
• The Swiss star still is the youngest Grand Slam champion in history, having won the Wimbledon doubles title when she was just 15.

IFA U-17 World Cup 2017: England Crowned Champions

England made a remarkable comeback from two goals down to outclass three-time runners-up Spain 5-2 and clinch their maiden FIFA U-17 World Cup at a packed Vivekanand Yuba Bharati Krirangan in Kolkata.

• England have now done a FIFA double in the same year, having won the FIFA U-20 World Cup in June.
• Earlier Brazil beat Mali 2-0 in the third-place playoff to earn a consolation after they lost to England in the semifinal.

Pro Kabaddi League: Hat-trick for Patna Pirates

Patna Pirates beat Gujarat Fortunegiants 55-38 to clinch its third straight title in the ProKabaddi league at the Jawaharlal Nehru Indoor Stadium in Chennai in season 5.

• Raider Pardeep Narwal (19 points) starred for Patna to single-handedly dominate the match and clinch the all-important victory.
• Top-scorer: Pardeep Narwal (Patna Pirates)
• Best debutant: Sachin (Gujarat Fortunegiants)
• Best raider: Pardeep Narwal
• Best defender: Surender Nada (Haryana Steelers)
• Most valuable player: Pardeep Narwal

Kidambi Srikanth wins French Open Super Series title

Kidambi Srikanth dished out a blemish less performance in French open final to collect his fourth Super Series title of the year.

• Srikanth took just 34 minutes to ease past Japanese qualifier Kento Nishimoto in the Super Series final 21-14, 21-13.
• Srikanth surpassed Saina Nehwal as the only Indian to win four Super Series titles in a year. Saina won three in 2010.
• He clinched titles at Indonesia, Australia and Denmark earlier this year.

Johor Cup hockey: Indian junior team wins bronze medal

Indian Junior Men’s Hockey team beat hosts Malaysia 4-0 in the Bronze medal match of the 7th Sultan of Johor Cup 2017 at the Taman Daya Hockey Stadium.

• Goals from Vishal Antil (15’, 25’), Vivek Prasad (11’) and Shilanand Lakra (21’) were enough for India to finish their tournament with the Bronze medal.

ATP World Tour: Bopanna wins doubles in Vienna

Rohan Bopanna and Pablo Cuevas of Uruguay won the doubles title in the Erste Bank Open.

• They beat Marcelo Demoliner and Sam Querrey 7-6(7), 6-7(4), 11-9.
• The title here worth 500 ATP points and €132,030 for the Indo-Uruguayan pair.
• It was the third Tour title of the season for the 37-year-old Bopanna, ranked 17 in the world.

Mexican Grand Prix: Hamilton takes fourth title

Britain’s Lewis Hamilton has been crowned Formula One world champion after he finished ninth in a dramatic Mexican Grand Prix.
• The race was won by Red Bull’s Max Verstappen but Mercedes’ Hamilton clinched his fourth drivers’ championship after Ferrari’s Sebastian Vettel was unable to win the race following collisions between the trio on the first lap.

The Coalition Years: Autobiography of Pranab Mukherjee
Former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, Congress President Sonia Gandhi and some others leaders were present at the launch of the third volume of former president Pranab Mukherjee’s autobiography ‘The Coalition Years: 1996-2012.’
• The book being published by Rupa Publications tracks Mukherjee’s journey from 1996 and explores the highs and lows that characterized 16 years of “one of the most tumultuous periods in the nation’s political history”.

Hema Malini's Biography: Beyond The Dream Girl
Deepika Padukone launched the biography of veteran actress Hema Malini in Mumbai.
• The biography, titled ‘Beyond The Dream Girl’, is written by Ram Kamal Mukherjee, and was unveiled on Hema Malini’s 69th birthday (October 16).
• The biography’s foreword has been written by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Dreamnation: Uniting a Country with Handwritten Dreams: A Book on Kalam
The book ‘Dreamnation: Uniting a Country with Handwritten Dreams’ was released online by Indian women’s cricket team captain Mithali Raj recently.
• The book contains inspiring words of Dr A.P.J. Abdul Kalam.
• The book was co-authored by Saji Mathew and Jubie John.

Deaths

Former I&B Minister Purushottam Lal passes away
Former Union minister and socialist leader Purushottam Lal Kaushik died due to age-related ailments. He was 87.
• He had served as tourism and civil aviation minister in the then Prime Minister Morarji Desai’s cabinet during 1977-1979.
• He headed the Information and Broadcasting Ministry in the then Prime Minister Charan Singh’s cabinet during July 1979-January 1980.

Filmmaker Kundan Shah passes away
Veteran director Kundan Shah, best known for the dark comedy Jaane Bhi Do Yaaro, passed away at his home. He was 69.
• He had studied direction at the Film and Television Institute of India in Pune and made his feature film debut in 1983 with the cult classic Jaane Bhi Do Yaaro (1983).
• He made his directorial debut on television in 1986 with the popular series Nukkad and went on to direct sitcom, Wagle Ki Duniya, based on cartoonist R.K. Laxman’s character, the common man.

Actor and filmmaker Lekh Tandon passes away
Veteran filmmaker and actor Lekh Tandon passed away at his house in Powai, Mumbai.
• Lekh Tandon directed numerous Bollywood movies and acted in films like Swades, Rang De Basanti, Chennai Express and Chaarutiya Chhokare.
• He also shared the 1978 Filmfare Best Screenplay Award for his movie Dulhan Wahi Jo Piya Man Bhaye with Vrajendra Gaur and Madhusudan Kalekar.
• His directorial Amrapali which starred Vyjayanthimala and Sunil Dutt, was India’s submission to the 39th Academy Awards for the Best Foreign Language Film.

Thumri queen Girija Devi passes away

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Eminent classical singer Girija Devi passed away in Kolkata. She was 88.

- Known as the "thumri queen", Girija Devi popularised the genre of semi-classical Indian music. She was conferred with all three Padma awards, and was honoured with the Padma Vibhushan in 2016.

**Tamil writer Melanmai Ponnusamy passes away**
Tamil writer and Sahitya Akademi award winner Melanmai Ponnusamy passed away. He was 66.

- He won the award in 2008 for his short story collection, Minsara poo.
- He had published 22 short story collections, six novels, six novellas and a collection of essays.
- His first short story was published in Semmalar, the literary magazine of the Communist Part of India (Marxist).

**Current Affairs Question**

1. On which day International Day of Older Persons is celebrated by UNO?
   (A) 1st October
   (B) 2nd October
   (C) 30th September
   (D) 29th September
   (E) 5th October

2. Which among the following gulf countries imposed new “sin” taxes on tobacco products, energy drinks and soft drinks.
   (A) Qatar
   (B) Saudi Arabia
   (C) United Arab Amirates
   (D) Kuwait
   (E) Oman

3. Defence Minister Nirmala Sitharaman inaugurated the Pratham-Shyok bridge in which of the following region?
   (A) Arunachal Pradesh
   (B) Sikkim
   (C) Manipur
   (D) Himachal Pradesh
   (E) Jammu & Kashmir

4. In which of the following city Ministry of Women and Child Development is hosting the 3rd annual ‘Women of India Organic Festival’?
   (A) Bhopal
   (B) Jaipur
   (C) Lucknow
   (D) New Delhi
   (E) Chennai

5. Consider the following statements:
   1. India has designated Zorinpui land check post in Lawngtlai district of Mizoram as an authorised immigration check post for entry into or exit from India to or from Myanmar.
   2. India has designated Kawrpuichhuah land check post in Lunglei district of Mizoram as an authorised immigration check post for entry into or exit from India to or from Bangladesh.
   3. India shares a 1,643-km-long border with Myanmar which touches Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland, Meghalaya and Mizoram.

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. President Ram Nath Kovind inaugurated the swank new Shirdi Airport in which of the following city of Maharashtra?
   (A) Satara
   (B) Ahmednagar
   (C) Latur
   (D) Nagpur
7. Who among the following has been appointed as Lieutenant Governor for Andaman and Nicobar Islands?
   (A) Shri Banwarilal Purohit
   (B) Prof. Jagdish Mukhi
   (C) Shri Ganga Prasad
   (D) Admiral Devendra Kumar Joshi
   (E) Shri Satya Pal Malik

8. Who among the following has been appointed as Governor for Bihar?
   (A) Shri Banwarilal Purohit
   (B) Prof. Jagdish Mukhi
   (C) Shri Ganga Prasad
   (D) Admiral Devendra Kumar Joshi
   (E) Shri Satya Pal Malik

9. Consider the following statements:
   1. To celebrate and promote women entrepreneurs and farmers in the organic sector from across India third edition of 'Women of India Organic Festival' held in New Delhi.
   2. The theme of this festival is 'Good for Women; Good for India; Good for You'.
   3. This festival is hosting by Ministry of Agriculture.
   Which of the above statement/statements is/are wrong?
   (A) Only 1
   (B) Only 2
   (C) Only 3
   (D) Only 1&2
   (E) Only 2 & 3

10. Which of the following state government launched 'Single Click Pension Delivery' scheme?
    (A) Rajasthan
    (B) Madhya Pradesh
    (C) Himachal Pradesh
    (D) Maharashtra
    (E) Uttar Pradesh

11. On which day International Day of Non-Violence is celebrated by UNO?
    (A) 1st October
    (B) 2nd October
    (C) 3rd October
    (D) 30th September
    (E) 30th January

12. Which of the following city is set to become the first state capital to come up with an exclusive toilet for the transgender community?
    (A) New Delhi
    (B) Shimla
    (C) Bhopal
    (D) Jaipur
    (E) Hyderabad

13. Which of the following Institution awarded in the category of religious institutions for being a Zero-waste institution?
    (A) Pemayangste Monastery
    (B) Venkateswara Temple
    (C) Vishnupad Mandir
    (D) ISKCON Temple
    (E) Somnath

14. Which of the following city awarded in the Innovative Practices category for end-to-end cycle to manage and reduce food waste?
    (A) Chennai
    (B) Coimbatore
    (C) Vishakapatnam
    (D) Indore
    (E) Ahmedabad

15. Which of the following Company awarded for leading in marketing of compost made from Municipal Solid Waste?
    (A) Nuziveedu Seeds Limited
    (B) Monsanto India
16. Which among the following temples has been adjudged the cleanest iconic place in the country under Swachhta Hi Seva (cleanliness is service) programme?
(A) Sri Meenakshi Sundareswarar Temple
(B) Golden Temple
(C) Tirupathi temple
(D) Sri Vaishno Devi temple
(E) Vishnupad Mandir

17. Who among the following player won Malaysian Grand Prix at the Sepang Circuit?
(A) Max Verstappen
(B) Lewis Hamilton
(C) Daniel Ricciardo
(D) Sebastian Vettel
(E) Magnus Carlsen

18. With which country India will undertake a joint tiger census next month in their national parks, forests and protected areas?
(A) Bangladesh
(B) Bhutan
(C) Nepal
(D) Myanmar
(E) Sri Lanka

19. At which of the following place a tall bronze statue of Mahatma Gandhi has been established on the occasion of the 148 Birth Anniversary?
(A) Gandhi Maidan
(B) Parliament
(C) Raj Ghat
(D) Sabarmati Ashram
(E) Champaran

20. Which of the following rating agency has lowered India’s economic growth forecast for the current fiscal to 6.9 percent from 7.4 percent?
(A) CRISIL
(B) ICRA
(C) CARE
(D) Moody’s
(E) Fitch

21. At which rank India’s first IFSC has been featured in the latest September 2017 edition of Global Financial Centres Index 22 (GFCI) – London?
(A) 10th
(B) 12th
(C) 28th
(D) 46th
(E) 25th

22. The first shipment of US crude oil to India arrived at which of the following port?
(A) Kandla
(B) Tuticorin
(C) Kochi
(D) Paradip
(E) Visakhapatnam

23. Which of the following article of the constitution conferred a power to President for appointing a Commission to examine the sub-categorisation of Other Backward Classes?
(A) Article 340
(B) Article 348
(C) Article 249
(D) Article 321
(E) Article 305

24. Who among the following has been appointed as chairperson of a Commission to examine the sub-categorisation of Other Backward Classes?
25. Consider the following statements:
1. Nobel assembly has decided to award the 2017 Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine jointly to Jeffrey C. Hall, Michael Rosbash and Michael W. Young.
2. Award will be given to them for their discoveries of molecular mechanisms controlling the circadian rhythm.
3. The first Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine was awarded in 1901 to the German physiologist Emil von Behring.
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

26. In which city Global Entrepreneurship Summit 2017 to be Held?
(A) Panaji
(B) Bhopal
(C) Ahmedabad
(D) Hyderabad
(E) New Delhi

27. Which of the following state has implemented 'No helmet, no petrol' rule for two-wheeler riders to reduce road accident deaths?
(A) Telangana
(B) Andhra Pradesh
(C) Maharashtra
(D) Karnataka
(E) Tamil Nadu

28. Which of the following state has launched Mathru Poorna scheme to meet the nutritional needs of pregnant and lactating women in rural areas?
(A) Telangana
(B) Rajasthan
(C) Maharashtra
(D) Karnataka
(E) Uttar Pradesh

29. Consider the following Banks:
1. Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB)
2. International Monetary Fund
3. World bank
4. Asian Development Bank
Which among the above banks will co-finance a loan for India to improve power transmission network and expand the use of solar and wind energy?
(A) Only 1 & 4
(B) Only 2 & 3
(C) Only 1, 2 & 3
(D) Only 2, 3 & 4
(E) 1, 2, 3 & 4

30. Rainer Weiss, Kip Thorne and Barry Barish have won the Nobel prize in physics for which of the following work?
(A) LIGO detector and the observation of gravitational waves
(B) Topological phase transitions and topological phases of matter
(C) Discovery of neutrino oscillations
(D) Invention of efficient blue light-emitting diodes
(E) None of these

31. Which among the following ministries has been adjudged as the best department for its contribution during Swachhta Pakhwada?
(A) Ministry of Earth Sciences
(B) Ministry of Health and Family Welfare
32. Who among the following has been chosen for the prestigious Bharatratna Pandit Bhimsen Joshi award?
   (A) Sombala Kumar  
   (B) Sumitra Guha  
   (C) Manik Bhide  
   (D) S. D. Burman  
   (E) Sanjukta Ghosh

33. Which country’s Women Police training centre will get technical and financial assistance from Government of India?
   (A) Bangladesh  
   (B) Nepal  
   (C) Malaysia  
   (D) Myanmar  
   (E) Indonesia

34. In which of the following city a Turtle sanctuary will be set up to protect the rich aquatic biodiversity of river Ganga from escalating anthropogenic pressures?
   (A) Varanasi  
   (B) Allahabad  
   (C) Haldia  
   (D) Patna  
   (E) Dehradun

35. In which of the following city Country’s first ITI for dibyangans opened?
   (A) New Delhi  
   (B) Kolkata  
   (C) Bengaluru  
   (D) Dibrugarh  
   (E) Gandhi Nagar

36. According to revised monetary policy, what is new repo rate?
   (A) 5.75%  
   (B) 6%  
   (C) 6.25%  
   (D) 6.50%  
   (E) 5.50%

37. Which of the following country has signed a third line of credit (LoC) agreement with India for its Infrastructure and Social Sector Development?
   (A) Nepal  
   (B) Malaysia  
   (C) Bangladesh  
   (D) Myanmar  
   (E) Sri Lanka

38. Who among the following has been appointed as new chairman of SBI?
   (A) B. Sriram  
   (B) Rajnish Kumar  
   (C) P.K. Gupta  
   (D) Dinesh Kumar Khara  
   (E) Sanjiv Malhotra

39. Jacques Dubochet, Joachim Frank and Richard Henderson have won the Nobel prize in chemistry for which of the following work?
   (A) Development of multiscale models for complex chemical systems  
   (B) Development of super-resolved fluorescence microscopy.  
   (C) Studies of G-protein-coupled receptors  
   (D) Improving images made of biological molecules  
   (E) Mechanistic studies of DNA repair

40. What is the theme of the World Teachers Day?
   (A) Valuing Teachers, Improving their Status  
   (B) Valuing Teachers, Improving their Status  
   (C) Teaching in Freedom, Empowering Teachers  
   (D) Empowering teachers, building sustainable societies
41. Which of the following state has become the first state to follow the Centre’s directions to cut value-added tax (VAT) on petrol and diesel?
(A) Rajasthan
(B) Haryana
(C) Madhya Pradesh
(D) Gujarat
(E) Maharashtra

42. Consider the following statements:-
1. The Ministry of Tourism is organizing a “Paryatan Parv” across the country from the 5th to 25th October 2017.
2. The programme is being organized with the objective of showcasing the cultural diversity of the country and reinforcing the principle of “Tourism for All”.
3. The Parv is being inaugurated at the Humayun’s Tomb, New Delhi.
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

43. Consider the following statements:-
1. Centre launched a six-year SECURE Himalaya project to ensure conservation of locally and globally significant biodiversity in the high Himalayan ecosystem spread over five states in India.
2. Protection of snow leopard and other endangered species and their habitats is one of the key components of the project.
3. The project - called SECURE Himalaya - was launched in association with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).
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

44. With which bank India signed the Finance Contract for lending of € 300 million for Bangalore Metro Rail Project Phase II?
(A) European Investment Bank
(B) Citibank Europe
(C) Bulgarian National Bank
(D) International Asset Bank
(E) Economic and Investment Bank

45. Who among the following is a chairman of a High-level Task Force on Public Credit Registry (PCR) for India, formed by RBI?
(A) Yeshwant M. Deosthalee
(B) Viral Acharya
(C) Chetan Ghate
(D) Vinod Rai
(E) U K Sinha

46. Which of the following company has launched Neo—a servicing bot for Twitter that uses artificial intelligence for customer service?
(A) HDFC Life Insurance Company
(B) Kotak Mahindra Life Insurance Company
(C) Bajaj Allianz Life Insurance
(D) Birla Sun Life Insurance
(E) ICICI Prudential Life Insurance

47. Who among the following has won Nobel Literature Prize 2017?
(A) Bob Dylan
(B) Svetlana Alexievich
(C) Kazuo Ishiguro
(D) Patrick Modiano
(E) Alice Munro
48. For which of the following novel British author has won Nobel Literature Prize 2017?
(A) The Jungle Book
(B) Never Let Me Go
(C) The Buried Giant
(D) An artist of the floating world
(E) The Remains of the Day

49. Who among the following will be posthumously awarded the Annual Anna Politkovskaya Award?
(A) Nidhi Razdan
(B) Mini Menon
(C) Shoma Chaudhary
(D) Gauri Lankesh
(E) Barkha Dutt

50. Who among the following has bagged India's maiden gold medal at the World Wushu Championships?
(A) Pooja Kadian
(B) Priyanka Jeet Toshi
(C) Dipa Karmakar
(D) Mary Kom
(E) None of these

51. Which of the following country has chosen its new Prime Minister bringing into focus the potential implications for diplomatic relations with North Korea as well as neighboring Russia and China?
(A) Philippines
(B) Mongolia
(C) Uzbekistan
(D) Vietnam
(E) South Korea

52. What is the theme of India Water Week which will be inaugurated by president on October 10, 2017 in New Delhi?
(A) Water for all: Striving together
(B) Water and Energy for Inclusive Growth
(C) Water Management for Sustainable Development
(D) Water, Energy and Food Security for Solutions
(E) None of these

53. In which city “Rashtriya Sanskriti Mahotsav (RSM)-2017” held?
(A) New Delhi
(B) Varanasi
(C) Ahmedabad
(D) Hyderabad
(E) Bengaluru

54. Consider the following statements:
1. Ministry of External Affairs in collaboration with Ministry of Culture will present the first ever ASEAN-India Music Festival in New Delhi.
2. The Festival is being organised to celebrate the 25th year anniversary of ASEAN-India Dialogue Relations.
3. The theme for this commemorative year is “Shared Values, Common Destiny”.
Which of the above statements are correct?
(A) Only 1&3
(B) Only 2 &3
(C) Only 1&2
(D) 1, 2 & 3
(E) None of these

55. In which city a three-day Global Medical Conference aimed at engaging industry and academic leaders to discuss current unmet medical needs held?
(A) New Delhi
(B) Lucknow
(C) Chandigarh
(D) Jaipur
(E) Indore

56. In which city Indian Space Research Organization will set up a research centre for start ups, academicians, environmentalists and entrepreneurs of North East states?
57. Which of the following bank has acquired payments wallet Freecharge for Rs 373 crore?
(A) HDFC  
(B) ICICI  
(C) AXIS  
(D) IDBI  
(E) Vijaya Bank

58. Which of the following bank has entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with HPCL for enabling all HPCL retail outlets with BHIM/UPI merchant solutions?
(A) HDFC  
(B) ICICI  
(C) AXIS  
(D) IDBI  
(E) Vijaya Bank

59. Who among the following has been awarded by Nobel Peace Prize 2017?
(A) International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)  
(B) International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN)  
(C) Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW)  
(D) Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)  
(E) International Campaign to Ban Landmines (ICBL)

61. In which country UN ends 13-year military peacekeeping mission?
(A) Western Sahara  
(B) Haiti  
(C) Mali  
(D) Cyprus  
(E) Lebanon

62. Consider the following statements:-
1. First ‘BIMSTEC Disaster Management Exercise- 2017’ (BIMSTEC DMEx-2017) will be conducted by the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) as the lead agency in Delhi.
2. This Exercise will be a platform for strengthening regional response and coordination for Disaster Management among the BIMSTEC member countries.
3. The main focus of the BIMSTEC DMEx-2017 will be on testing the region’s preparedness and resilience towards effective activation of inter-Governmental interaction/dialogue/agreements.

Which of the above statements are correct?
(A) Only 1&3  
(B) Only 2 & 3  
(C) Only 1 &2  
(D) 1, 2 & 3  
(E) None of these
63. In which city “4th Dialogue of Civilizations” is being jointly organized by the Archaeological Survey of India, Ministry of Culture and National Geographic?
(A) Ahmedabad
(B) Merrut
(C) Nagpur
(D) Bhopal
(E) New Delhi

64. What is the theme of 4th Dialogue of Civilizations conference, which is jointly organized by the Archaeological Survey of India, Ministry of Culture and National Geographic?
(A) Technology and Civilization
(B) Life Space for Humanity
(C) Exploring Civilization Beyond the Walls
(D) Socialization and Capitalization
(E) Neo-colonialism

65. In which city 9th Annual ‘World Dental Show 2017’ held?
(A) New Delhi
(B) Mumbai
(C) Kolkata
(D) Chennai
(E) Lucknow

66. Who among the following has appointed as amicus curiae to assist the court in the matter seeking reopening of the investigation into the assassination of Mahatma Gandhi?
(A) S A Bobde
(B) L Nageswara Rao
(C) Amrendar Sharan
(D) A.P. Shah
(E) Mukul Rohatgi

67. In which city Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas & Skill Development & Entrepreneurship inaugurated Saudi Aramco’s ARAMCO ASIA INDIA office?
(A) New Delhi

68. On which bank Reserve Bank of India has imposed certain restriction on banking activities?
(A) HDFC
(B) ICICI
(C) Oriental Bank of Commerce
(D) Union Bank of India
(E) Canara Bank

69. Kundan Shah Passed away, He was ______________.
(A) Film Maker
(B) Author
(C) Cricketer
(D) Musician
(E) None of these

70. What is the Tagline of Oriental Bank of Commerce?
(A) A tradition of trust
(B) One Family One Bank
(C) Where every individual is committed
(D) Good people to bank with
(E) A Friend You Can Bank On

71. According to Brand Finance’s Nation Brands 2017, what is the rank of India in the league of nations?
(A) 11th
(B) 8th
(C) 7th
(D) 6th
(E) 3rd

72. In which state President Ram Nath Kovind launched clean water initiative for rural India?
(A) Karnataka
(B) Tamil Nadu
(C) Andhra Pradesh
73. Consider the following statements:
1. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi launched the Intensified Mission Indradhanush (IMI) at Vadnagar in Gujarat.
2. Aim of this programme is to reach each and every child under two years of age and all those pregnant women who have been left uncovered under the routine immunisation programme.
3. The special drive will focus on improving immunization coverage in select districts and cities to ensure full immunization to more than 90% by December 2018.

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

74. Prime Minister Narendra Modi laid the foundation stone of Bhadbhut Barrage project. On which river Bhadbhut Barrage will be built?
(A) Narmada
(B) Tapti
(C) Mahi
(D) Chambal
(E) Yamuna

75. In how many states Reserve Bank will launch a financial literacy drive on pilot basis to educate people on e-transactions, formal sector borrowings and insurance purchases.
(A) 6
(B) 8
(C) 9
(D) 5
(E) 11

76. Which among the following NGOs have not been selected by RBI to execute the pilot project in collaboration with banks?
(A) CRISIL Foundation,
(B) Dhan Foundation
(C) Swadhaar Fin Access
(D) Indian School of Micro Finance for Women (ISMW)
(E) None of these

77. Who among the following has claimed the World Open Under-16 Snooker Championship titles in the girls’ category?
(A) Anuja Thakur
(B) Kelly Fisher
(C) Maria Catalano
(D) Anupama Ramachandran
(E) Vidy Pillai

78. In which of the following city World Open Under-16 Snooker Championship held?
(A) Berlin
(B) Istanbul
(C) Madrid
(D) St. Petersburg
(E) New Delhi

79. Who among the following golfers has clinched his first Asian Tour title at the Yeangder Tournament Players Championship (TPC) in Taipei?
(A) Ajeetesh Sandhu
(B) Anirban Lahiri
(C) Arjun Atwal
(D) Gaganjeet Bhullar
(E) Himmat Rai

80. Who among the following has romped to victory at the Japanese Grand Prix to close in on a fourth world title?
(A) Lewis Hamilton
(B) Sebastian Vettel
81. In which city Vice President will inaugurate the two-day ‘International Conference on Yoga for Wellness’?

(A) Ahmedabad
(B) Jaipur
(C) New Delhi
(D) Hyderabad
(E) Bhopal

82. Consider the following statements:-
1. National Mission for Clean Ganga has approved eight projects worth Rs. 700 crores.
2. Four project to sewage management in Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and West Bengal, three are related to treatment of drains through bio-remediation and one of inventorization and surveillance of river Ganga.
3. Project aims to strengthen environmental regulation and water quality monitoring vis-à-vis river Ganga.

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 among the following banks will available funds to Maharashtra for financing affordable housing under the State’s slum rehabilitation schemes?

(A) Union Bank of India
(B) State Bank of India
(C) Canara Bank
(D) Central Bank of India
(E) HDFC

84. In which bank government of India, has increased its stake in the company to 77.79% by acquiring 3.81% shares through preferential allotment?

(A) HDFC
(B) ICICI
(C) IDBI
(D) Canara Bank
(E) SBI

85. Which among the following banks committed a financial assistance of Rs 10 crore to the Indian Armed Forces as part of its Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiative?

(A) HDFC
(B) ICICI
(C) IDBI
(D) Canara Bank
(E) SBI

86. Who among the following is appointed as an Executive Director at Punjab National Bank?

(A) Lingam Venkata Prabhakar
(B) S. Krishnan
(C) Matam Venkata Rao
(D) Govind N Dongre
(E) Rajesh Kumar Yadhuvanshi

87. Who among the following will head the US-India Business Council, a powerful advocacy group of US companies with business interest in India?

(A) Nisha Biswal
(B) Meenakshi Gaur
(C) Priyanka Tanwar
(D) Sumitra Sharma
(E) Swati Maliwal

88. Who among the following has been awarded by Nobel Prize 2017 in Economic Sciences?

(A) Richard H. Thaler
89. Who among the following has been selected for this year’s prestigious Vayalar award?
(A) T D Radhakrishnan
(B) Subhash Chandran
(C) K. R. Meera
(D) Dr. M. Leelavathy
(E) S. Guptan Nair

90. A psychology student Aleksandra Chichikova, was chosen Miss Wheelchair World in the first-ever. She belongs from which of the following country?
(A) Portugal
(B) Spain
(C) Belarus
(D) France
(E) Austria

91. In which city President of India inaugurated India Water Week-2017 on October 10, 2017?
(A) Jaipur
(B) Lucknow
(C) New Delhi
(D) Hyderabad
(E) Ahmedabad

92. Which of the following country will assist Indian Railways to make country's existing rail corridors semi high speed?
(A) France
(B) Germany
(C) Japan
(D) Italy
(E) South Korea

93. Which of the following International airport will be country's first Aadhaar-enabled airport by 2018?
(A) Kempegowda International Airport
(B) Calicut International Airport
(C) Indira Gandhi International Airport
(D) Lokpriya Gopinath Bordoloi International Airport
(E) Raja Bhoj International Airport

94. Which of the following International bank reduced India’s GDP growth forecast to 7% for 2017-18 from 7.2% estimated earlier in its South Asia Economic Focus?
(A) International Monetary Fund
(B) World Bank
(C) Asian Development Bank
(D) New Development Bank
(E) Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank

95. World Economic Outlook is issued by ___________.
(A) International Monetary Fund
(B) World Bank
(C) Asian Development Bank
(D) New Development Bank
(E) World Trade Organisation

96. Who among the following will be head of the Standing Committee on External Affairs, which will examine the whole gamut of Sino-Indian relations, including the border situation?
(A) Hardeep Singh Puri
(B) Shashi Tharoor
(C) Yashwant Sinha
(D) Mallikarjun Kharge
(E) R. K. Singh

97. Lal Bahadur Shastri National award is presented in which of the following field?
(A) Sports
(B) Academic
(C) Public Administration
98. Who among the following has been awarded by Lal Bahadur Shastri National Award for the year 2017?
(A) Sunil Bharti Mittal
(B) N.R. Narayana Murthy
(C) Dr. E. Sreedharan
(D) Dr. M. S. Swaminathan
(E) Dr. Bindeshwar Pathak

99. Which of the following company has been recognised as the country's best FMCG company in the food sector by the International Advertising Association (IAA)?
(A) Saras Dairy
(B) Amul
(C) Britannia
(D) Patanjali Ayurveda
(E) Haldiram’s

100. Who among the following has been crowned as Miss India Worldwide 2017?
(A) Stephanie Madavane
(B) Sarita Pattnaik
(C) Madhu Valli
(D) Eric Morley
(E) None of these

101. What is the theme of International Day of the Girl Child 2017?
(A) Empower Girls: Before, during and after crises
(B) Ending Child Marriage
(C) Girls’ Progress = Goals’ Progress: What Counts for Girls
(D) The Power of the Adolescent Girl: Vision for 2030
(E) Innovating for Girl’s Education

102. With which county Union Cabinet has approved the signing of “Memorandum of Cooperation (MoC)” on the “Technical Intern Training Program (TITP)?
(A) South Korea
(B) China
(C) France
(D) USA
(E) Japan

103. Consider the following statements:
1. Union Cabinet has given its approval for International Association of Marine Aids to Navigation and Lighthouse Authorities (IALA) to change its status.
2. It will change from Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) to Inter-Governmental Organization (IGO).
3. The move will facilitate “to foster the safe, economic and efficient movement of vessels”.
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. Consider the following statements:
1. Cabinet has approved SANKALP & STRIVE Schemes to boost Skill India Mission.
2. SANKALP and STRIVE are outcome focused schemes marking shift in government's implementation strategy in vocational education and training from inputs to results.
3. Both schemes will be supported by International Monetary Fund.
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

105. Which of the following bank has launched its first ‘Digital Banking Branch’ in Bengaluru?
106. Which of the following bank will set country's largest innovation centre at Mumbai?
(A) State Bank of India  
(B) Canara Bank  
(C) PNB  
(D) Union Bank of India  
(E) Axis Bank

107. Who among the following has been appointed as Chairman of Film and Television Institute of India (FTII)?
(A) Gajendra Chauhan  
(B) Amitabh Bachchan  
(C) Anupam Kher  
(D) Prasoon Joshi  
(E) Sidharth Roy Kapoor

108. Film and Television Institute of India (FTII) under which of the following ministry?
(A) Electronics and Information Technology  
(B) Information and Broadcasting  
(C) Social Justice and Empowerment  
(D) Skill Development and Entrepreneurship  
(E) Human Resource Development

109. Who among the following cricketer has decided to retire from competitive cricket after the first T20 International against New Zealand?
(A) Mahendra Singh Dhoni  
(B) Ashish Nehra  
(C) Yuvraj Singh  
(D) Suresh Raina  
(E) Ishant Sharma

110. Which of the following country has been suspended from international football?
(A) Pakistan  
(B) Bangladesh  
(C) Germany  
(D) Spain  
(E) Argentina

111. Consider the following countries:
1. United Kingdom  
2. United State of America  
3. Iraq  
4. Israel  
Which among the above countries have announced they will withdraw from the United Nations Scientific and Cultural Organization?
(A) Only 1 & 3  
(B) Only 2 & 3  
(C) Only 1 & 4  
(D) Only 2 & 4  
(E) Only 1 & 2

112. Who among the following countries has overtaken the US as the world's largest ice cream producer?
(A) Canada  
(B) France  
(C) Russia  
(D) China  
(E) Germany

113. According to Global Hunger Index of International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), India at which rank?
(A) 87  
(B) 68  
(C) 100  
(D) 72  
(E) 93
114. In which of the following city Make in India: Sweden 2017, organized by the Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion to enhance Indo-Swedish cooperation and explore new areas of partnership?
(A) Stockholm
(B) New Delhi
(C) Mumbai
(D) Gothenburg
(E) Hyderabad

115. Consider the following statements: -
1. On the occasion of its 85th anniversary, the Indian Air Force has launched an innovative mobile health App named 'MedWatch'.
2. 'MedWatch', available on the IAF's AFCEL network, comprises a host of features that will provide authentic health information to all IAF personnel.
3. 'MedWatch', the first mobile health app in the three-Armed Services, was launched by Air Chief Marshal BS Dhanoa.
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 the these

117. Which of the following company acquires telecom business of Tata's?
(A) Vodafone India
(B) BSNL
(C) Bharti Airtel
(D) Reliance Communication
(E) Reliance Jio

118. Who among the following cricketers has been named as first brand ambassador of Mercedes-Benz and Laureus Sport in India?
(A) Virat Kohli
(B) Sachin Tendulkar
(C) Mahendra Singh Dhoni
(D) Ravindra Jadeja
(E) Yuvraj Singh

119. Who among the following has been appointed as next ambassador of India to China?
(A) Gautam Bambawale
(B) Vijay Gokhale
(C) Pankaj Saran
(D) Yashvardhan Kumar Sinha
(E) Jaideep Sarkar

120. In which city 12th World Sudoku Championship and the 26th World Puzzle Championship from October 15 to 21 will be organised?
(A) Chennai
(B) Bengaluru
(C) Cochin
(D) Hyderabad
(E) Vishakhapatnam

121. International Day for Disaster Reduction is observed on______________.
122. In which city this year’s G-20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors (FMCBG) Meeting held?
(A) Paris
(B) Madrid
(C) Washington D.C.
(D) Moscow
(E) New Delhi

123. Which of the following city has topped the list of The Economist's Safe Cities Index 2017 which is issued by The Economist Intelligence Unit?
(A) London
(B) Stockholm
(C) New York
(D) Tokyo
(E) Melbourne

124. Consider the following statements: -
1. DoP launched the Sampoorna Bima Gram (SBG) Yojana and an initiative for expansion of clientele base of Postal Life Insurance.
2. Under Sampoorna Bima Gram (SBG) Yojana, at least one village (having a minimum of 100 households) will be identified in each of the revenue districts of the country.
3. All villages under the Saansad Adarsh Gram Yojana will be brought under its ambit.
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

125. Which of the following ministry organized the Deep Dharohar Program?
(A) Ministry of Culture
(B) Ministry of Women and Child Development
(C) Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment
(D) Ministry of Human Resource Development
(E) Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change

126. Which among the following joint Military Exercise is organized between India & Sri Lanka?
(A) Mitra Shakti
(B) Hand in Hand
(C) Sampriti
(D) Indra
(E) Garuda Shakti

127. Who among the following has been chosen for Mathrubhumi Literary Award for 2016 in recognition of his rich contribution to the Malayalam literature?
(A) Punathil Kunjabdulla
(B) Sugathakumari
(C) T. Padmanabhan
(D) C. Radhakrishnan
(E) M K Sanu

128. Which of the following is an autobiography of former president Pranab Mukherjee?
(A) The Dramatic Decade: The Indira Gandhi Years
(B) The Coalition Years: 1996-2012
(C) Matters of Discretion
(D) My Country My Life
(E) India 2020: A Vision for the New Millennium

129. In which country ‘International AYUSH Conference and Exhibition 2017’ with the theme of ‘Lifestyle diseases: Prevention and management through AYUSH’ will be organized?
(A) United Arab Emirates
(B) Saudi Arabia
130. Who among the following is Minister of State (Independent charge) for Tourism & Culture?
(A) Suresh Prabhu  
(B) Jagat Prakash Nadda  
(C) Rao Inderjit Singh  
(D) Manoj Sinha  
(E) Dr. Mahesh Sharma

131. What is the theme of World Standards Day 2017 which is observed on 14 October?
(A) Standards make cities smarter  
(B) Standards, A common language  
(C) Standards Build Trust  
(D) Standards level the playing field  
(E) None of these

132. Consider the following statements:
1. World Students’ Day is celebrated on 15 October every year on the occasion of birth anniversary of A. P. J. Abdul Kalam.
2. APJ Abdul Kalam was a scientist who made India proud with his missile defense programme.
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

133. Consider the following statements:
1. Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced a corpus of Rs 10,000 crore to 10 private universities and an equal number of government ones for a period of five years.
3. The top 20 universities will be selected through a challenge which will be judged by a third party.
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. Which of the following state assembly has become the first in India to call attention and adjournment motions and proposals online from legislators to send them to the state government?
(A) Uttar Pradesh  
(B) Karnataka  
(C) Rajasthan  
(D) Tamil Nadu  
(E) Gujarat

135. Which of the following bank will take over micro finance company Bharat Financial?
(A) ICICI Bank  
(B) IndusInd Bank  
(C) Canara Bank  
(D) HDFC Bank  
(E) IDBI Bank

136. Which of the following state government’s Directorate of Treasuries and Inspection and the State Bank of India have signed an MOU for integration of SBI e-Pay with cyber treasury?
(A) Uttar Pradesh  
(B) Karnataka  
(C) Rajasthan  
(D) Odisha
137. Who among the following will be next chief of UN cultural agency UNESCO?
(A) Irina Bokova
(B) Audrey Azoulay
(C) Hamad bin Abdulaziz al-Kawari
(D) Saleh al-Hasnawi
(E) Juan Alfonso

138. Who among the following has been nominated for the first Centenary National Award for Literature?
(A) Apurba Sharma
(B) Namita Gokhale
(C) Atulananda Goswami
(D) Nilamani Phookan
(E) Nirupama Borgohain

139. Who among the following will be awarded by the Jnanarima Manad Alankaran 2017 which is conferred by Jnanpith Board?
(A) Dr. Adinath Neminath Upadhye
(B) Pt. Phoolchandra Shastri
(C) Sahu Shanti Prasad Jain
(D) Elangbam Sonamani Singh
(E) None of these

140. Elangbam Sonamani Singh associated with which of the following literature?
(A) Assamese Literature
(B) Malayalam Literature
(C) Tamil Literature
(D) Manipuri Literature
(E) Bengali Literature

141. World Food Day in honour of the founding of the Food & Agriculture Organization of the UN in 1945 is observed on which of the following date?
(A) 14-Oct
(B) 15-Oct

142. What is the theme of World Food Day 2017?
(A) Change the future of migration. Invest in food security and rural development
(B) Feeding the world, caring for the earth
(C) Social Protection and Agriculture: Breaking the Cycle of Rural Poverty
(D) Achieving food security in times of crisis
(E) United against hunger

143. In which of the following Institution world's largest combustion research centre was inaugurated which will impart a major boost to the Indian scientific community?
(A) IIT Guwahati
(B) IIT Madras
(C) IIT Bombay
(D) IIT Delhi
(E) IIT Kharagpur

144. Which among the following banks has launched an Android app, as part of its drive to digitise customer-facing banking services?
(A) State Bank of India
(B) UCO Bank
(C) Oriental Bank of Commerce
(D) Union Bank of India
(E) Punjab National Bank

145. Who among the following will be conferred with the Indira Gandhi Award for National Integration for 2015-16?
(A) A R Rehman
(B) Mohan Dharia
(C) T M Krishna
(D) Balraj Puri
(E) M S Swaminathan
146. In which of the following field Raman Magsaysay Award is not given?
(A) Community Leadership  
(B) Journalism, Literature, and Creative Communication Arts  
(C) Peace and International Understanding  
(D) Emergent Leadership  
(E) None of these

147. Who among the following players won her first title since May 2015, in the Tianjin Open final?
(A) Maria Sharapova  
(B) Aryna Sabalenka  
(C) Serena Williams  
(D) Martina Hingis  
(E) Simona Halep

148. Which of the following team won the 37th All India Governor's Gold Cup football tournament?
(A) Simla Youngs Football Club  
(B) Minerva Punjab Football Club  
(C) North Imphal Sporting Association  
(D) Gangtok Himalayan Football Club  
(E) Mohun Bagan Football Club

149. Who among the following players have won Shanghai Masters?
(A) Rafael Nadal  
(B) Roger Federer  
(C) Andy Murray  
(D) Novak Djokovic  
(E) Kevin Anderson

150. 39th Academy Award winner Lekh Tandon passed away. He was __________.
(A) Writer  
(B) Scientist  
(C) Politician  
(D) Actor and filmmaker

151. Which of the following Joint Exercise will be conduct between Indian and Russian Armed Forces?
(A) MAITRI  
(B) Hand in Hand  
(C) Surya Kiran  
(D) Indra  
(E) Garun Shakti

152. Which of the following indigenously-built anti-submarine warfare stealth corvette has been commissioned?
(A) INS VIKRANT  
(B) INS TARINI  
(C) INS SHAKTI  
(D) INS SAMUDRAM  
(E) INS Kiltan

153. According to credit ratings agency Standard & Poor’s, which of the following bank are the most exposed to new bad loan rules proposed by the European Central Bank?
(A) Italian bank  
(B) HSBC France  
(C) Deutsche Bank  
(D) European American Investment Bank  
(E) KBC Bank

154. Consider the following statements: -
1. SEBI reorganised its committee on Market Infrastructure Institutions (MII).
2. It will advise on reviewing norms related to stock exchanges, clearing corporations and depository participants.
3. The five-member expert committee on MII is now chaired by R Gandhi.
Which of the above statements are correct?
(A) Only 1 & 2  
(B) Only 1 & 3  
(C) Only 2 & 3  
(D) 1, 2 & 3
155. Which of the following company has launched a programme, Prerna, to empower women working in the agriculture sector by promoting efficient and ergonomic farm tools and equipment?
(A) Mahindra & Mahindra
(B) Tafe Motors & Tractors Ltd
(C) ACE Tractors
(D) Crossword Agro Industries
(E) Eicher

156. In which of the following country 50 Indian peacekeepers have been awarded with the UN Medal for their professionalism and service in protecting civilians?
(A) Liberia
(B) Nigeria
(C) South Sudan
(D) Chad
(E) Syria

157. Who among the following has been chosen for the prestigious Padma Prabha Puraskaram award 2017, considering his contribution to Malayalam literature?
(A) M Mukundan
(B) Prabha Varma
(C) M K Padmaprabha
(D) Vijayalakshmi
(E) C. Radhakrishnan

158. Who among the following has been conferred with the Life Time Achievement Award for his outstanding contributions in the fields of manufacturing industry, education and philanthropy?
(A) Lord Swraj Paul
(B) Lord Narendra Babubhai Patel
(C) Mihir Bose
(D) K. Bhagyaraj
(E) Dr. Raghbir Bains

159. Who among the following has been included in Time Magazine’s list of Next Generation Leaders for 2017?
(A) Umesh Sachdev
(B) Gurmehar Kaur
(C) Piyush Tewari
(D) Shobhana Bhartia
(E) Shivraj Bhatia

160. Who among the following has made history by becoming the first ever woman wrestler from India to be awarded a WWE developmental contract?
(A) Geeta Phogat
(B) Sakshi Malik
(C) Kavita Devi
(D) Vinesh Phogat
(E) Kusum Kaur

161. On which day International Day for the Eradication of Poverty is observed?
(A) 16-Oct
(B) 18-Oct
(C) 17-Oct
(D) 19-Sep
(E) 23-Jun

162. In which of the following city first ever All India Institute of Ayurveda (AIIA) is opened?
(A) Kolkata
(B) Ahmedabad
(C) Bhopal
(D) New Delhi
(E) Chennai

163. Consider the following statements: -
1. Ministry WCD launches campaign on 'women for women': #IamThatWoman.
2. It is an attempt to end Gender bias in women against women.
3. Ministry of WCD has urged people to shun stereotypes associated with women harming other women.
Which of the above statements are correct?
(A) Only 1 & 3
(B) Only 2 & 3
(C) Only 1 & 2
(D) 1, 2 & 3
(E) None of these

164. Which of the following state government has launched the ambitious ‘Bhavantar Bhugtan Yojna’?
(A) Uttar Pradesh
(B) Rajasthan
(C) Madhya Pradesh
(D) Chhattisgarh
(E) Bihar

165. According to survey of Thomson Reuters Foundation, which of the following Indian city is world’s worst megacities when it comes to women safety?
(A) New Delhi
(B) Mumbai
(C) Kolkata
(D) Lucknow
(E) Chennai

166. According to an Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) report, which of the following state recorded 39 percent of all cancer cases in India?
(A) Punjab
(B) Haryana
(C) Tamil Nadu
(D) Karnataka
(E) Maharashtra

167. Which of the following Institutes has emerged as the only Indian institute to better its performance among the top 100 universities in the latest Quacquarelli Symonds (QS) Asia University Rankings 2018?
(A) AIIMS, New Delhi
(B) IIT Delhi
(C) IIT Madras
(D) IIT Guwahati
(E) IIT Bombay

168. Results revealed by Cohn & Wolfe, which of the following company is top in the list of authenticity race, Globally?
(A) Google
(B) Microsoft
(C) Amazon
(D) Apple
(E) Maruti Suzuki

169. ‘Beyond the Dream Girl’ is a biography of which of the following veteran actress?
(A) Jaya Prada
(B) Sri Devi
(C) Padmini Kolhapure
(D) Rekha
(E) Hema Malini

170. Who among the following is writer of a biography “Beyond the Dream Girl”?
(A) Ram Kamal Mukherjee
(B) Saira Banu
(C) Jhumpa Lahiri
(D) Vikram Seth
(E) Aravind Adiga

171. Which two countries have not been invited by India to attend the first global conference on consumer protection?
(A) Sri Lanka and North Korea
(B) North Korea and Afghanistan
(C) North Korea and China
(D) Pakistan and China
(E) Pakistan and North Korea

172. Who among the following won Denmark Open 2017?
(A) Viktor Axelsen
(B) Lee Hyun Il
(C) Kidambi Srikanth
173. Banks to now match original IDs with photocopies for any financial transaction of ………….. and above.
(A) Rs 50,000
(B) Rs 100,000
(C) Rs 70,000
(D) Rs 20,000
(E) Rs 25,000

174. Which state government will organise an international seminar and ayurveda expo in Kochi in February next year?
(A) Assam
(B) Gujarat
(C) Maharashtra
(D) Kerala
(E) Punjab

175. At which place the first global conference on consumer protection to be inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in next week?
(A) New Delhi
(B) Mumbai
(C) Jaipur
(D) Chennai
(E) Chandigarh

176. Which state government has passed an ordinance that seeks to protect both serving and former judges, magistrates and public servants from being investigated for on-duty action without its prior sanction?
(A) Gujarat
(B) Rajasthan
(C) Maharashtra
(D) Punjab
(E) Himachal Pradesh

177. Who has been removed as a WHO goodwill ambassador?
(A) Peng Liyuan
(B) James Chau
(C) Michael Bloomberg
(D) Yohei Sasakawa
(E) Robert Mugabe

178. Who is Consumer Affairs Minister?
(A) Piyush Goyal
(B) Narendra Singh Tomar
(C) Kalraj Mishra
(D) Ram Vilas Paswan
(E) Maneka Gandhi

179. Gaganjeet Bhullar is related to which of the following game?
(A) Tennis
(B) Badminton
(C) Golf
(D) Hockey
(E) Archery

180. What is the Capital of Zimbabwe?
(A) VIENNA
(B) SOFIA
(C) HAVANA
(D) SUVA
(E) HARARE

181. Which company has won NASSCOM customer service excellence award 2017?
(A) TCS
(B) Infosys
(C) L&T
(D) Wipro
(E) CSS Corp

182. In which coastal city a Gandhi museum has been inaugurated on a small piece of land once owned by Mahatma Gandhi?
(A) Cape Town
### Questions

183. Who among the following won the Man Booker Prize 2017?
- (A) Paul Beatty
- (B) Ali Smith
- (C) Paul Auster
- (D) George Saunders
- (E) Deborah Levy

184. In which city 8th IBSA trilateral Ministerial Commission Meeting held?
- (A) New Delhi
- (B) Mumbai
- (C) Cape Town
- (D) Johannesburg
- (E) Durban

185. Which Airport has been ranked No. 1 in the Airports Council International’s (ACI) service quality survey in the category of 5 to 15 million passengers per annum?
- (A) Rajiv Gandhi International Airport
- (B) Jaipur International Airport
- (C) Srinagar International Airport
- (D) Chaudhary Charan Singh International Airport
- (E) None of the above

186. Which Ministry has been awarded with Swachh Bharat Inter-Ministerial Award?
- (A) Ministry of Defence
- (B) Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas
- (C) Ministry of Home Affairs
- (D) Ministry of Railways
- (E) Ministry of Law and Justice

187. Who among the following will be honoured with Hridaynath Mangeshkar Award?
- (A) Vishwanathan Anand
- (B) A R Rahman
- (C) Gulzar
- (D) Javed Akhtar
- (E) Priyanka Chopra

188. Which Airport has been rated the Best Airport in the World in the traffic volume of 2 to 5 million passengers per year?
- (A) Srinagar Airport
- (B) Jaipur Airport
- (C) Mumbai Airport
- (D) Lucknow Airport
- (E) Chandigarh Airport

189. Who is Minister of State for External Affairs?
- (A) S.S. Ahluwalia
- (B) Sushma Swaraj
- (C) V K Singh
- (D) Anant Geete
- (E) Hardeep Singh Puri

190. Which Environmental scientist will be awarded with Blue Planet Prize?
193. Who will be next Prime Minister of New Zealand?
   (A) Bill English
   (B) Jacinda Ardern
   (C) Mike Moore
   (D) Jim Bolger
   (E) Helen Clark

194. Who has been appointed as the new Chairman of WBCSD from 2018?
   (A) Sunny Verghese
   (B) John Key
   (C) Jenny Shipley
   (D) Palmer
   (E) Mike Moore

195. Attorney General for India is appointed by the President under Article ......... of the Constitution.
   (A) 67
   (B) 66
   (C) 76
   (D) 78
   (E) 57

196. Which of the following organization has committed Rs10 crore for the conservation and restoration of the Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Terminus (CST) of Mumbai?
   (A) TCS
   (B) Infosys
   (C) BOB
   (D) HDFC Bank
   (E) SBI Foundation

197. Which of the following a comprehensive digital platform has been launched by Kotak Mahindra Bank (“Kotak”) and Zeta to manage multiple employee benefits?
   (A) KoZa
   (B) Paymint
   (C) PhonePe
   (D) MoneyPe
   (E) None of the above

198. Which of the following is the partner country at the 23rd iteration of the Tech Summit, knowledge and technology conference and exhibition from 14 – 15 November, 2017 in New Delhi?
   (A) Germany
   (B) China
   (C) Canada
   (D) Japan
   (E) USA

199. Who is the Chief Minister of Arunachal Pradesh?
   (A) Pema Khandu
   (B) N. Chandrababu Naidu
   (C) Raghubar Das
   (D) Pinarayi Vijayan
   (E) Mukul Sangma

200. What is the currency of New Zealand?
   (A) Euro
   (B) Pound
   (C) Dollar
   (D) Shekel
   (E) Franc

201. Who among the following won the World Food Prize 2017?
   (A) Dr Sanjaya Rajaram
   (B) Sir Fazle Hasan Abed
   (C) Dr. Howarth Bouis
   (D) Dr. Akinwumi Ayodeji Adesina
202. World Statistics Day is observed on which date?
(A) 24-Jul
(B) 15-May
(C) 20-Oct
(D) 18-Nov
(E) 25-Oct

203. Which country has been ranked No. 1 in pollution related deaths according to a report by The Lancet Commission on pollution and health?
(A) India
(B) China
(C) Syria
(D) Japan
(E) Iraq

204. In which state International Gita Mahotsav will be inaugurated by the President Ram Nath Kovind?
(A) Punjab
(B) Rajasthan
(C) Madhya Pradesh
(D) Goa
(E) Haryana

205. Which state govt has prohibited using 'Dalit', 'Harijan' in official communications?
(A) Gujarat
(B) Kerala
(C) Punjab
(D) Arunachal Pradesh
(E) Andhra Pradesh

206. What is the capital of Assam?
(A) Guwahati
(B) Dispur
(C) Raipur
(D) Panaji
(E) Itanagar

207. Which of the following has been given green platinum award?
(A) Rampur Eco Village
(B) Jayapur Eco Village
(C) Jaitpur Eco Village
(D) Govardhan Eco Village
(E) None of these

208. In which state Global Investors Summit will be held in February, 2018?
(A) Manipur
(B) Mizoram
(C) Meghalaya
(D) Punjab
(E) Assam

209. Who is the chief minister of Kerala?
(A) Manik Sarkar
(B) Naveen Patnaik
(C) N. Biren Singh
(D) Pinarayi Vijayan
(E) Siddaramaiah

210. By whom World Food Prize was founded?
(A) Prof. M. S. Swaminathan
(B) Dr Verghese Kurien
(C) Norman E. Borlaug
(D) Dr Henry Beachell
(E) Dr B. R. Barwale

211. Which ministry with an aim of making India open defecation free by October 2, 2019 is overseeing the implementation of Swachh Bharat Mission in villages?
(A) Ministry of Home Affairs
(B) Ministry of Railways
(C) Ministry of Law and Justice
(D) Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas
(E) Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation

212. What is the Capital of Bulgaria?
213. Who has been appointed as the next Ambassador of India to Switzerland?
   (A) Smita Purushottam
   (B) Sibi George
   (C) Manpreet Vohra
   (D) Vijay Gokhale
   (E) Navdeep Suri

214. Who is the director-general of WHO?
   (A) Tedros Ghebreyesus
   (B) Michael Møller
   (C) Irina Bokova
   (D) Anthony Lake
   (E) Guy Ryder

215. Who among the following have not been selected for the Madhya Pradesh government’s prestigious National Lata Mangeshkar Award?
   (A) Usha Khanna
   (B) Bappi Lahiri
   (C) Anu Malik
   (D) Alka Yagnik
   (E) Javed Akhatar

216. How many medals Indian boxers have won in Balkan Open 2017?
   (A) 10
   (B) 6
   (C) 8
   (D) 4
   (E) 12

217. Which of the following country has won Asia Hockey Cup 2017?

218. In which country Asia Hockey Cup 2017 held?
   (A) South Korea
   (B) Malaysia
   (C) Bangladesh
   (D) China
   (E) Japan

219. What is the currency of Switzerland?
   (A) Euro
   (B) Franc
   (C) Dollar
   (D) Shekel
   (E) Pound

220. Who is the governor of Gujarat?
   (A) Jagdish Mukhi
   (B) Balram Das Tandon
   (C) Acharya Dev Vrat
   (D) Vajubhai Vala
   (E) Om Prakash Kohli

221. Who has been appointed as Managing Director & Chief Executive Officer of India Post Payments Bank (IPPB)?
   (A) Suresh Sethi
   (B) A.P. Singh
   (C) Alok Kumar Pateria
   (D) Rajesh Ranjan
   (E) AP Maheshwari

222. Who is the head of a task force set up by RBI to develop public credit registry?
   (A) Viral Acharya
   (B) Y. M. Deosthalee
   (C) Rakesh Asthana
223. With which bank the Engineering Export Promotion Council (EEPC) of India has signed an MoU to provide access to finance for the small and medium enterprises and merchant exporters of the council?
(A) Bank of Baroda
(B) Allahabad Bank
(C) HDFC Bank
(D) Punjab National Bank
(E) State Bank of India

224. Who has been appointed as the special director of the CBI?
(A) Rakesh Asthana
(B) Deepak Kumar Mishra
(C) Sudeep Lakhtakia
(D) Gurbachan Singh
(E) Dineshwar Sharma

225. Who won the United States Grand Prix 2017?
(A) Sebastian Vettel
(B) V. Bottas
(C) M. Verstappen
(D) Lewis Hamilton
(E) L. Stroll

226. Who has been appointed as Additional Director General, CISF on deputation basis?
(A) Suresh Sethi
(B) Alok Kumar Pateria
(C) Rajesh Ranjan
(D) AP Maheshwari
(E) A.P. Singh

227. In which city 20th International Children's Film Festival (ICFFI) to be held between November 8 and 14?
(A) New Delhi
(B) Mumbai
(C) Chennai

228. Who has been appointed as the Representative of Government of India to initiate and carry forward a dialogue with the elected representatives, various organizations and concerned individuals in the State of Jammu and Kashmir?
(A) Rakesh Asthana
(B) Deepak Kumar Mishra
(C) Sudeep Lakhtakia
(D) Gurbachan Singh
(E) Dineshwar Sharma

229. Which state has emerged as the top state in terms of digital initiatives undertaken by Coeus Age Consulting report?
(A) Maharashtra
(B) Andhra Pradesh
(C) Madhya Pradesh
(D) Chhattisgarh
(E) Karnataka

230. Who is the Skill Development and Entrepreneurship Minister?
(A) Prakash Javadekar
(B) Smriti Irani
(C) Dharmendra Pradhan
(D) Narendra Singh Tomar
(E) Ravi Shankar Prasad

231. For which state the Asian Development Bank and the Government of India has signed a $300 million loan to continue a series of fiscal reforms to improve the quality of public service delivery?
(A) Assam
(B) Manipur
(C) Punjab
(D) West Bengal
(E) Himachal Pradesh
232. United Nations Day is celebrated on which date?
(A) 24-Oct  
(B) 20-Oct  
(C) 12-Oct  
(D) 14-Oct  
(E) 18-Oct  

233. Who has been appointed the chief executive officer of The Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation (HSBC) for India?
(A) Jayant Rikhye  
(B) Prannoy Roy  
(C) R. N. Malhotra  
(D) Reetika Khera  
(E) Mihir Shah  

234. Who among the following won the Best Fifa Women's Player award for 2017?
(A) Carli Lloyd  
(B) Marta  
(C) Lieke Martens  
(D) Tobin Heath  
(E) Rosana  

235. On which bank Reserve Bank of India has imposed a monetary penalty of Rs 2 crore for contravention of regulatory restrictions pertaining to loans and advances?
(A) HDFC Bank  
(B) IDFC Bank  
(C) SBI  
(D) ICICI Bank  
(E) Axis Bank  

236. Which of the following Indian brand is only to feature among the top five in the India's most attractive brands index?
(A) Infosys  
(B) MDH  
(C) Amul  
(D) Mahindra Group  
(E) TATA  

237. Who has been appointed as chief executive of the Association of Mutual Funds in India (AMFI)?
(A) Abhijit Banerjee  
(B) NS Venkatsh  
(C) Amit Mitra  
(D) Sui Mehta  
(E) Kishor Kharat  

238. Who has been crowned the FIFA best soccer player in the world for 2017?
(A) Neymar  
(B) Lionel Messi  
(C) Cristiano Ronaldo  
(D) Lieke Martens  
(E) Luis Suarez  

239. Girija Devi passed away recently. She belongs to which field?
(A) Singing  
(B) Literature  
(C) Sports  
(D) Poliics  
(E) Economics  

240. Who among the following has won gold in air pistol mixed team event at ISSF World Cup?
(A) Jitu Rai and Heena Sidhu  
(B) Vijay Kumar and Heena Sidhu  
(C) Manavjit Singh Sandhu and Anjali Bhagwat  
(D) Sanmresh Jung and Heena Sidhu  
(E) Anjali Bhagwat and Jitu Rai  

241. Which country's Passport has been declared the world's "most powerful" passport by global financial advisory firm Arton Capital?
(A) Germany  
(B) Sweden
242. Which country has been named the best country to visit next year by Lonely Planet in its 'Best in Travel 2018' list?
(A) Chile
(B) South Korea
(C) Portugal
(D) Malta
(E) New Zealand

243. Which Indian Naval ship has reached Belawan port, Indonesia to take part in the 30th edition of joint exercise – CORPAT?
(A) Subhadra
(B) Suvarna
(C) Savitri
(D) Sukanya
(E) Sharada

244. The deadline for mandatory linking of Aadhaar to avail benefits of various government schemes would be extended till........ next year.
(A) 31-Mar
(B) 31-Jan
(C) Feb. 28
(D) 16-Mar
(E) Apr-31

245. Who is the Chief Justice of India?
(A) Jagdish Singh Khehar
(B) T. S. Thakur
(C) Dipak Misra
(D) Kurian Joseph
(E) Jasti Chelameswar

246. India has granted USD 585,000 aid to which country's university as part of its development partnership with the country in the field of higher education?

247. RBI has imposed a penalty of Rs 6 crore on which bank for not complying with the directions of the central bank?
(A) ICICI bank
(B) Yes Bank
(C) HDFC Bank
(D) Axis Bank
(E) SBI

248. Who has been bestowed with the Lifetime Achievement Award by the PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industry in New Delhi for her contribution in the field of cinema?
(A) Aishwarya Rai
(B) Sharmila Tagore
(C) Deepika Padukone
(D) Madhuri Dixit
(E) Mahira Khan

249. Who is the First Indian to Top ITTF Junior Circuit Rankings?
(A) Mudit Dani
(B) Manav Thakkar
(C) Siddhesh Pande
(D) Archana Kamath
(E) Manika

250. What is the currency of Chile?
(A) Franc
(B) Euro
(C) Dollar
(D) Pound
(E) Peso

251. Which of the following country offered citizenship to the robot, designed by entrepreneur David Hanson?
252. In which city first International Day of Diplomats was celebrated on October 24?
(A) Dhaka
(B) New Delhi
(C) Ankara
(D) Brasilia
(E) Paris

253. Which of the following bank has been shortlisted for the adoption of - Jantar Mantar, Delhi under ‘Adopt a Heritage Scheme’ of Ministry of Tourism?
(A) ICICI
(B) State Bank of India
(C) Union Bank of India
(D) HDFC
(E) UCO bank

254. Which of the following day ‘Adopt a Heritage Scheme’ of Ministry of Tourism was launched by President of India?
(A) 27 September, 2017
(B) 24 October, 2016
(C) 14 October, 2017
(D) 19 September, 2016
(E) None of these

255. Which of the following Institution organized 3rd Global Investors’ India Forum in New Delhi?
(A) Ministry of Power and New & Renewable Energy
(B) SAARC
(C) ASSOCHAM
(D) BIMSTEC
(E) OPEC

256. Which of the following state will be the ‘Focus State’ in the World Food India (WFI)-2017, a mega international food event to be held at New Delhi?
(A) Chhattisgarh
(B) Rajasthan
(C) West Bengal
(D) Bihar
(E) Odisha

257. Which of the following High Court banned the use of pictures of living persons on banners and hoardings in its state?
(A) Allahabad High Court
(B) Karnataka High Court
(C) Madras High Court
(D) Kerala High Court
(E) Hyderabad High Court

258. Which of the following port in Sri Lanka will be developed with help of India?
(A) Galle Harbor
(B) Jaffna Port
(C) Hambantota Port
(D) Trincomalee port
(E) Oluvil port

259. Who among the following will be conferred with the National Kalidas Award instituted by the Madhya Pradesh government in the field of theatre?
(A) Karan Johar
(B) Ram Gopal Bajaj
(C) Vishal Bhardwaj
(D) Sanjay Leela Bhansali
(E) Ram Gopal Verma

260. Who among the following Chief Ministers has received the ‘Golden Peacock Award’ under the category - Global Leadership in Public Service and Economic Transformation?
261. According to Bloomberg Billionaires Index, who among the following became the world's richest person?
(A) Warren Buffett  
(B) Jeff Bezos  
(C) Amancio Ortega  
(D) Bill Gates  
(E) Larry Ellison

262. Which of the following country has become the first country to withdraw from the International Criminal Court?
(A) Gambia  
(B) South Africa  
(C) Burundi  
(D) Namibia  
(E) Lebanon

263. Consider the following statements: -
1. International Conference on Green Initiatives & Railway Electrification organized by Ministry of Railways through Institution of Railways Electrical Engineer (IREE) India.
2. The main objective of international conference is making Indian Railways (IR) an efficient and Greener mode of transport.
3. This conference has the aim for giving boost to ‘Make in India’ and ‘Innovative India’ campaigns of Hon’ble Prime Minister of India.
Which of the above statements are correct?
(A) Only 1 &3  
(B) Only 2 & 3  
(C) Only 1 &2  
(D) 1,2 & 3  
(E) None of these

264. According to two research firms, which of the following mobile company is expected to end Korean major Samsung’s four and-a-half year reign at the top soon?
(A) Xiaomi  
(B) Huawei  
(C) Motorola  
(D) Vivo  
(E) Oppo

265. In which city first International Consumer Protection Conference on “Empowering consumers in new markets” for the South, South East and East Asian Countries was held?
(A) New Delhi  
(B) Dubai  
(C) Paris  
(D) Bali  
(E) Colombo

266. Which of the following bank signed a $65.5 million loan agreement with government of India to continue interventions to check coastal erosion on the Western Coast in Karnataka?
(A) New Development Bank  
(B) Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank  
(C) International Monetary Fund  
(D) World Bank  
(E) Asian Development Bank

267. Which of the following country secured third position at the FIFA U-17 World Cup?
(A) Mali  
(B) England  
(C) Spain  
(D) Brazil  
(E) France
268. Which of the following stadium hosted the final clash between England and Spain?
(A) Ambedkar Stadium  
(B) Birsa Munda Football Stadium  
(C) DY Patil Stadium  
(D) Indira Gandhi Athletic Stadium  
(E) Salt Lake Stadium

269. Which of the following state will host the 36th National Games?
(A) Kerala  
(B) Jharkhand  
(C) Goa  
(D) Maharashtra  
(E) Karnataka

270. Who among the following is Secretary-General of United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)?
(A) António Guterres  
(B) Kofi Annan  
(C) Mukhisa Kituyi  
(D) José Manuel Barroso  
(E) Mário Soares

271. Which of the following country announced the immediate sacking of Catalan leader Carles Puigdemont and his government and called new elections in the region?
(A) Portugal  
(B) Spain  
(C) Uzbekistan  
(D) Lebanon  
(E) Ukraine

272. In which city 11th World Congress on Adolescent Health was held?
(A) Bhopal  
(B) Jaipur  
(C) Chandigarh  
(D) New Delhi  
(E) Gandhinagar

273. What was the theme of 11th World Congress on Adolescent Health 2017?
(A) Investing in Adolescent Health—the Future is Now  
(B) INTERACTIONS AMONG ADOLESCENTS, ENVIRONMENTS, AND HEALTHCARE  
(C) Health beliefs in adolescent and young adult  
(D) Adolescent health intensity of internet use  
(E) None of these

274. In which city, 14th Dalai Lama addressed the International Peace Conference?
(A) Guwahati  
(B) Itanagar  
(C) Kohima  
(D) Imphal  
(E) Gangtok

275. Which of the following company became the first Indian company to cross Rs6 trillion market capitalization?
(A) Reliance Industries Ltd  
(B) Hindalco Industries  
(C) Tata Steel  
(D) Indian Oil Corporation  
(E) Infosys

276. Who among the following tennis player announced her retirement from pro tennis?
(A) Serena Williams  
(B) Maria Sharapova  
(C) Martina Hingis  
(D) Angelique Kerer  
(E) Simona Halep

277. Which among the following team won FIFA U-17 World Cup?
(A) Spain  
(B) England  
(C) Brazil  
(D) France  
(E) Mali

278. Which among the following team was runner up in FIFA U-17 World Cup?
(A) Spain  
(B) England  
(C) Brazil  
(D) France  
(E) Mali

279. Which of the following team won its third straight title in the Pro Kabaddi league?
(A) Patna Pirates  
(B) Bengal Warriors  
(C) Jaipur Pink Panthers
280. Which among the following team was runner up in the Pro Kabaddi league?
(A) Patna Pirates
(B) Bengal Warriors
(C) Jaipur Pink Panthers
(D) Gujarat Fortune giants
(E) Bengaluru Bulls

281. World Stroke Day is observed on______________.
(A) 28-Oct
(B) 29-Oct
(C) 31-Oct
(D) 27-Oct
(E) 30-Oct

282. What is the theme of World Stroke Day 2017?
(A) Face the Facts: Stroke is Treatable
(B) What’s your reason for preventing stroke?
(C) Little strokes, big trouble
(D) Stroke, what can I do?
(E) None of these

283. Which of the following country will host the next United Nations (UN) global wildlife conference in 2020?
(A) Canada
(B) Japan
(C) South Africa
(D) India
(E) Brazil

284. Which of the following bank tied up with Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) to launch a Rs200 crore fund for providing loans to micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs)?
(A) Capital Small Finance Bank
(B) Janalakshmi Financial Services
(C) Suryoday Micro Finance Private Ltd
(D) Utkarsh Micro Finance Limited
(E) Au Finance Ltd

285. Who among the following has been appointed as High Commissioner of India to the Republic of Zambia?
(A) Jaideep Sarkar
(B) N.J.Gange
(C) Debnath Shaw
(D) Yashvardhan Kumar Sinha
(E) Navtej Sarna

286. Who among the following won French Open Super Series title 2017?
(A) Kento Nishimoto
(B) HS Pranoy
(C) Kidambi Srikanth
(D) Arvind Bhat
(E) Anders Antonsen

287. Johor Cup is related to which of the following sports?
(A) Badminton
(B) Hockey
(C) Tennis
(D) Football
(E) Cricket

288. Consider the following players:
1. Rohan Bopanna
2. Pablo Cuevas
3. Marcelo Demoliner
4. Sam Querrey
Who among the above players’ pair has won the doubles title in the Erste Bank Open?
(A) 1 & 4
(B) 1 & 2
(C) 2 & 3
(D) 1 & 3
(E) 3 & 4

289. Book Dream nation: Uniting a Country with Handwritten Dreams contains inspiring words of which of the following eminent personality?
(A) Atal Bihari Vajpayee
(B) Pranab Mukherjee
290. The book ‘Dreamnation: Uniting a Country with Handwritten Dreams’ was released online by ________.
(A) Sonia Gandhi  
(B) Mithali Raj  
(C) Saina Nehwal  
(D) P V Sindhu  
(E) None of these

291. Which of the following portal has been launched as MSME Delayed Payment Portal?
(A) MSME Samadhaan  
(B) MSME Sahyog  
(C) MSME Solutions  
(D) MSME Suraksha  
(E) MSME Samvridhi

292. Which of the following International Bank has signed a $200 million Loan Agreement with India for the Assam Agribusiness and Rural Transformation Project?
(A) International Monetary Fund  
(B) Asian Development Bank  
(C) Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank  
(D) New Development Bank  
(E) World Bank

293. Which of the following bank has signed an agreement with seven companies for funding solar power energy following a line of credit from World Bank?
(A) Punjab national Bank  
(B) State bank of India  
(C) Union Bank of India  
(D) Allahabad Bank  
(E) UCO Bank

294. Who among the following is head of the ministerial panel which will oversee merger proposals of state-owned banks?
(A) Narendra Modi  
(B) Vivek Debroy  
(C) Nirmala Sitharaman  
(D) Arun Jaitley  
(E) Arjun Ram Meghwal

295. With which Institution Microsoft has started working to counter Google search?
(A) IIT Delhi  
(B) IIT Kanpur  
(C) IIT Kharagpur  
(D) IIT Bombay  
(E) IIT Madras

296. Who among the following has assumed charge as the Vice Chief of Naval Staff?
(A) Ajit Kumar P  
(B) G S Pabby  
(C) G S Pabby  
(D) Karambir Singh  
(E) AK Chawla

297. Which of the following country’s democratic opposition and political prisoners have won the European Union’s Sakharov Prize for human rights?
(A) Spain  
(B) South Korea  
(C) Myanmar  
(D) Venezuela  
(E) Palestine

298. Who among the following Bollywood actors received Pramod Mahajan Smriti Award?
(A) Akshay Kumar  
(B) Anupam Kher  
(C) Nana Patekar  
(D) Amitabh Bachchan  
(E) Amir Khan

299. Who among the following players has been crowned Formula One world champion in a Mexican Grand Prix?
(A) Lewis Hamilton  
(B) Max Verstappen  
(C) Sebastian Vettel  
(D) Fernando Alonso  
(E) Daniel Ricciardo

300. Tamil writer Melanmai Ponnusamy passed away. He won Sahitya Akademi award in 2008 for which of the following work?
(A) Solaimalai Ilavarasi  
(B) Sivagamiyin Sapatham  
(C) Minsara poo  
(D) Semmalar  
(E) Kadal Pura
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