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Important Current Affairs July 2017 Capsule with PDF

Awards & Honors

- **Australia's highest civilian award**
 - Guruswamy Jayraman has been awarded Order of Australia for community work, the highest civilian award in Australia.
 - He works as a senior accountant with Woollahra Municipal Council for a living and has been devoting most of his spare time in community work for the last 25 years.
 - He was also awarded for his contributions for seniors in Western Sydney by the Minister for Ageing & Disability.

Books & Authors

- **Book On 'Mann Ki Baat'**
 - Governor of Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu C. Vidyasagar Rao and Chief Minister of Maharashtra Devendra Fadnavis released the book 'Mann Ki Baat - A Social Revolution on Radio'.
 - The book, among other things, includes transcripts of the first 23 episodes of 'Mann Ki Baat'.
 - The book enables citizens to read and understand Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision and his ideas of development.
- **Arundhati's novel in Man Booker longlist**





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- Arundhati Roy's latest work of fiction, "The Ministry of Utmost Happiness", has made it to the longlist of this year's Man Booker Prize.
- The book came after a 19-year-long hiatus since her debut novel "God of Small Things" that won the Booker Prize in 1997.
- The shortlist of six books will be announced on September 13, and the 2017 winner will be finally announced on October 17.
- **Future of Indian Universities**
 - President Pranab Mukherjee was handed over the first copy of the book 'Future of Indian Universities: Comparative and International Perspectives.
 - Book has been compiled by Professor (Dr.) C. Raj Kumar, Vice Chancellor of Jindal Global University and has been published by Oxford University Press
 - It was presented by Nobel Laureate Professor Amartya Sen at Rashtrapati Bhavan during an event.
- **First copy of book "President's Lady"**
 - President Pranab Mukherjee received the first copy of a book on his late wife, Suvra Mukherjee.
 - The book, 'President's Lady' (Pranaber Preyosi), was released by vice president Hamid Ansari on a day that marked President's wedding anniversary.
 - The book has been written by Sangeeta Ghosh.
 - Late Suvra Mukherjee was essentially a private person with a strong interest in music and paintings.
- **Book on Modi 'The Making of Legend'**
 - BJP President Amit Shah and RSS Chief Mohan Bhagwat released a coffee table book on PM Modi's life in New Delhi.
 - The book – Making of A Legend, has been compiled by Sulabh International Founder Bindeshwar Pathak.





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- Amit Shah outlined the achievements of PM Modi when he was the CM of Gujarat for 12 years.
- He also highlighted other achievements of Modi govt & also outlined future plans of it.

Days and Events

• World Day against Trafficking in Persons

- The United Nations World Day against Trafficking in Persons is observed annually across the world on July 30.
- This year the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime has chosen 'act to protect and assist trafficked persons' as the focus of the World Day.
- This day highlights importance of prevention of trafficking in persons and to protect victims, whether in ordinary time or in crisis.

• International Tiger Day

- International Tiger Day is an annual celebration to raise awareness for tiger conservation, held annually on 29 July.
- It aims to promote a global system for protecting natural habitats of tigers and raise public support for tiger conservation issues.
- According to WWF there are only 3,890 tigers left in the world. Of them, India has the highest number. Till last year, India had 2,500 tigers.

• World Hepatitis Day

- World Hepatitis Day is observed on July 28 every year to create awareness about Hepatitis & minimize burden of hepatitis.
- Hepatitis is a viral infection which causes inflammation in liver. Hepatitis A, B, C & E are some of the common ones caused due to viruses.
- WHO estimates that 4 cr people in India live with chronic Hepatitis B.
- Theme for World Hepatitis Day 2017 is 'Eliminate Hepatitis'.

• Nation celebrates Kargil Vijay Diwas





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- The country is celebrating 18th Anniversary of Kargil Vijay Diwas today.
- Kargil Vijay Diwas, celebrated on 26th July, commemorates India's emphatic victory against Pakistan & honours war heroes.
- On this day in 1999, Indian Army successfully took control of posts at a treacherous high altitude & glaciated terrain across Himalayas in Ladakh region of Jammu & Kashmir after fighting for 60 days.
- **200 years of Paika Rebellion**
 - President Pranab Mukharjee inaugurated the "Bicentenary celebration of the heroic Paika Rebellion of Odisha, a valiant uprising of Paikas against the British rule".
 - The Paika uprising was in the nature of a rebellion by people of Odisha in 1817.
 - Paikas were essentially the peasant militias of the Gajapati rulers of Odisha who rendered military service to the king during times of war.
- **Nelson Mandela International Day**
 - Mandela Day celebrated on July 18, is an annual international day adopted by the UN.
 - In November 2009, UNGA declared 18 July as "Nelson Mandela International Day" in recognition of his contribution to the culture of peace and freedom.
 - Objective of Mandela Day is to inspire individuals to take action to help change the world for the better, and in doing so build a global movement for good
- **World Day for International Justice**
 - World Day for International Justice is an international day celebrated throughout the world on July 17 as part of an effort to recognize the emerging system of international criminal justice.
 - July 17 was chosen because it is the anniversary of the adoption of the Rome Statute, the treaty that created the International Criminal Court.





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- The day is used to focus on many issues like genocide etc.

- **World Youth Skills Day**

- World Youth Skills Day is observed every year on July 15. It was established by the UN General Assembly on November 11, 2014.
- Theme of this year's World Youth Skills Day is "Skills for the Future of Work".
- The day is observed to create awareness about training and development of skills for the youth of today.

- **India to Host 8th Theatre Olympics**

- India will host Theatre Olympics in 2018, 1st since event's inception in 1993.
- Running from 17 Feb to 8 April, event will see over 500 plays & 700 ambience performances by artistes from across the globe.
- It will simultaneously be held in Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata, Chennai & 10 other cities.
- National School of Drama will organise the event in coordination with Union Culture Ministry.

- **Malala Day**

- Malala Day is being celebrated today across the world commemorating Malala Yousafzai's 20th birthday.
- July 12th has been declared as Malala Day by UN as it commemorates not only her birthday, but also the day when she delivered a powerful speech at UN to call for worldwide access to education.
- She is a Pakistani activist for female education and the youngest-ever Nobel Prize laureate.

Committees and Recommendations

- **India to join New GXFC**





- India will soon get a seat on the Global Foreign Exchange Committee.
- It is a newly-constituted forum of central bankers and experts working towards promotion of a robust and transparent forex market.
- Committee has been set up under the guidance of the Bank for International Settlements.
- GXFC will seek to promote collaboration and communication among local foreign exchange committees.

International Affairs

- **Constitutional Assembly election**

- The Venezuelan Constituent Assembly elections of 2017 took place on 30 July 2017 on the presidential decree of President Nicolás Maduro.
- It was the first election of a Constituent Assembly, which has the power to rewrite the constitution, since the Constituent Assembly elections of 1999 called by referendum.
- President Maduro called for the Assembly on May 1 amid a political crisis.

- **755 US diplomats to depart Russia**

- Russian President Vladimir Putin has announced that 755 staff must leave US diplomatic missions, in retaliation for new US sanctions against Moscow.
- This is thought to be the largest expulsion of diplomats from any country in modern history.
- The new US sanctions were in retaliation both for Russia's annexation of Crimea in 2014 and Russian interference in the US election.

- **China produces gas from 'flammable ice'**

- China has produced natural gas from methane hydrate, also known as flammable ice in an experimental project in South China Sea.



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- A drilling platform deployed off the coast of Zhuhai for 60 days produced 309,000 m³ of natural gas.
- Flammable ice consists of methane trapped within water crystals, has been identified as a new gas source for China.
- Japan reported a similar production test in May.
- **Counter-terrorism meeting**
 - Indonesia and Australia co-hosted a counter-terrorism meeting to address the rising threat of foreign fighters.
 - The one-day gathering brought together 6 countries including Malaysia, Philippines and New Zealand.
 - Ministers will discuss the challenges posed by growing terrorism in Southeast Asia as well as concerns that IS is trying establish a regional caliphate in Philippines.
- **Sri Lanka, China sign \$1.5 bn port deal**
 - Sri Lanka's govt has signed a long-delayed agreement to sell a 70% stake in the \$1.5 billion Hambantota port to China.
 - The Agreement has been signed in a bid to recover from the heavy burden of repayment of loans obtained to build the port.
 - It is seen as part of Beijing's so-called "string-of-pearls plan" for a line of ports stretching from its waters to the Persian Gulf.
- **Russia to Stay in Syria for 50 Years**
 - Russian President Vladimir Putin has signed a law ratifying a deal with Syrian govt to allow Russia to keep its airbase in Syria for almost half a century.
 - Russian forces will be deployed at Hmeymim base for 49 years with the option of extending that arrangement for 25-year periods.
 - Russia has previously used the base to conduct strikes against forces opposing President Bashar al-Assad.
- **BRICS sign memorandum on taxation**





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- Tax authorities of the five BRICS countries signed a landmark document to establish a mechanism for taxation cooperation.
- The authorities agreed to cooperate on taxation information exchange, improve consultation procedures efficiency and plan paths for coordination of taxation policies
- BRICS nations total share in global economy has risen from 12% to 23% in the past decade.
- **UK to ban sale of petrol and diesel cars**
 - Britain is going to ban all new petrol and diesel cars and vans from 2040 in a bid to cut air pollution.
 - Ban follows a similar proposal by the French govt, and will also include hybrid vehicles that have an electric motor and a petrol or diesel engine.
 - Ministers have also unveiled a £255m fund to help councils tackle emissions, including potential for charging zones for dirtiest vehicles.
- **BRICS Youth Forum opens in Beijing**
 - 2017 BRICS Youth Forum opened in China to discuss youth development in BRICS member-nations.
 - Themed "Enhance BRICS Partnership, Promote Youth Development," the forum gathered 50 youth representatives working as civil servants, scholars, entrepreneurs & journalists from BRICS countries.
 - BRICS countries first came up with the idea of establishing a dialogue mechanism for BRICS youth in 2014.
- **Independence from World Bank & IMF**
 - Bolivia's President Evo Morales has declared "total independence" from the International Monetary Fund and World Bank.
 - Bolivia's past dependence on the agencies was so great that the IMF had an office in govt headquarters and even participated in their meetings.
 - Bolivia is now in the process of becoming a member of the Southern Common Market, Mercosur and Morales.





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National Affairs

- **Scheme for IPR Awareness**

- A 'Scheme for IPR Awareness – Creative India; Innovative India' has been launched by CIPAM.
- It aims at raising IPR awareness amongst youth, authors, artists and inventors to inspire them to create, innovate & protect their creations and inventions across India.
- It aims to conduct over 4000 IPR awareness workshops/seminars in academic institutions and industry including MSMEs and Startups.

- **NBFCs to offer NPS**

- RBI has allowed systematically important non-banking finance companies to offer new pension scheme.
- NBFCs with asset size of Rs 500 cr & above, that have made a net profit in preceding year will be permitted to offer NPS after registration with the pension regulator.
- They will have to deposit the subscription collected from public on the day of collection itself with the trustee bank.

- **GST Rates Finder app**

- Centre has launched an app - GST Rates Finder to verify the accurate tax rate on commodity and services under the GST regime.
- This app will not only benefit tax payers but also every citizen of the country will be able to find out how much GST is charged on a particular good and service.
- The app can be downloaded on any smart phone and can work in offline mode, once downloaded.

- **Jail term for not printing new MRP**





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- Consumer Affairs Minister Ram Vilas Paswan warned of a fine of up to Rs 1 lakh, including a jail term, if new, post-GST rates are not printed on the inventory in the interest of consumers.
- Manufacturers have been allowed to clear the unsold stocks by September with new MRP.
- Under the GST regime, he said some prices of goods have fallen and some have risen.
- **JIGYASA programme launched**
 - Jigyasa, a student- scientist connect programme was officially launched in New Delhi.
 - Council of Scientific and Industrial Research has joined hands with Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan to implement this programme.
 - The focus is on connecting school students and scientists so as to extend student's classroom learning with that of a very well planned research laboratory based learning.
- **Garib Nawaz Skill Development Centre**
 - Minister of State for Minority Affairs, Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi has said that Garib Nawaz Skill Development Centres will be established in 100 districts of the country.
 - They will effectively ensure employment oriented skill development of youth belonging to Minority communities.
 - In next 6 months, Garib Nawaz Skill Development Centres will be established at Hyderabad, Noida, Lucknow etc.
- **Anti-Hijacking Law Comes Into Force**
 - India's new anti-hijacking law which prescribes capital punishment in the event of death of "any person", has come into force.
 - It replaces a 1982 law, according to which hijackers could be tried only in event of death of hostages, such as flight crew, passengers.





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- The law mandates central govt to confer powers of investigation, arrest and prosecution on any officer of central govt or NIA.
- **Customers should report fraud in 3 days**
 - According to RBI, Customers will not suffer any loss if unauthorised online banking transactions are reported within 3 days.
 - The amount involved will be credited in the accounts concerned within 10-days.
 - In case the third party fraud is reported with a delay of four to seven working days, a customer will face liability of up to Rs25,000.
- **India declared free from H5N1 & H5N8**
 - India has declared itself free from highly pathogenic Avian Influenza (H5N1 & H5N8) after surveillance in the states showed no evidence of its presence.
 - India reported outbreaks of Avian Influenza at epicentres in Delhi, Gwalior, Rajpura among others during Oct 2016 to Feb 2017.
 - The move will help India to resume export of poultry products to countries which had banned trade in such items.
- **EC to tally paper trail slips with EVMs**
 - Election Commission has decided to mandatorily tally paper trail slips with the results of EVMs in 5% of polling stations in each assembly seat, for all state and Lok Sabha elections.
 - Counting of paper trail slips, however, will not take place in more than 14 polling stations and less than five polling stations in each assembly seat.
 - The stations will be selected or identified at random.
- **Target of constructing 57,000 km of road**
 - Govt has set a target of constructing 57 thousand kilometers of roads under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana during 2017-18.
 - According to the Rural Development Ministry, the roads will be constructed at an average rate of 156 kilometers per day.





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- Pace of construction of PMGSY roads reached a 7 year high of 130 km per day in 2016-17s against an average of 73 km during the period 2011 to 2014.
- **J&K assembly passes resolution for GST**
 - Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly has finally adopted the GST resolution during a special session on 5th July.
 - The resolution moved by state finance minister Haseeb Drabu was adopted through a presidential order calling on the Centre to safeguard the special status and exclusive taxation powers of the state.
 - With this J&K has become the last state to pass the GST bill in the state.
- **MERIT app and e-Bidding portal launched**
 - Piyush Goyal launched the MERIT app and e-bidding portal for offering an e-Bidding solution to States.
 - It will help States to select Independent Power Producers for procurement of power by transferring their domestic coal under the scheme of flexibility in utilization of domestic coal.
 - It would result in optimum utilization of Coal which would save consumer close to Rs. 20,000 cr in 5 years.
- **Electric Buses in Gurgaon**
 - Haryana govt will set up an environment-friendly transportation system in Gurgaon on the pattern of Poland.
 - In the first phase, 75 to 100 electric buses would be operated.
 - Each electric bus would help save about 4.25 lakh litres diesel & reduce carbon emissions by 1150 tonnes in 10 years of operation.
 - JBM Group would soon begin manufacturing electric buses under the Make in India programme.
- **July 19 as Save public sector banks day**





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- United Forum of Bank Unions has decided to observe July 19, the 48th anniversary of nationalisation of major banks, as 'Save public sector banks' day.
- Members will wear a commemorative badge on the day, display posters in front of all branches, distribute leaflets & hold rallies at all centres across the country.
- The main challenge that PSB face today is the alarming increase in bad loans.
- **UDAY covers 97% of discom debt**
 - The Union Ministry of Power has announced that about 97% of the total outstanding debt of all state power distribution companies has been covered under the Ujwal DISCOM Assurance Yojana.
 - As on September 2015, the total debt of all state-owned discoms was Rs 3.95 lakh crore.
 - The 26 states and 1 UT which have joined the UDAY scheme accounted for total outstanding debt of Rs. 3.82 lakh crore.
- **India's tallest ATC tower**
 - The new 101.9-metre air traffic control tower at the Delhi airport -- touted to be the country's tallest -- is likely to start operations by December.
 - The tower, among the tallest structures in Delhi, will give a 360-degree view of the airport to the controllers who will be able to see all the three runways, aprons and taxiways.
 - The tower, built at a cost of Rs 350 crore.
- **President clears bill banning hookah bar**
 - President Pranab Mukherjee has approved a Legislative Bill to ban the hookah bar in Gujarat.
 - Violation of this law will attract Minimum 1 year and maximum 3 year sentence, provision of Rs 20,000 to Rs 50,000 fine is also mentioned in this amendment.





- Most of the hookah bars in the state were running on the restaurant licence illegally and also selling products which are harmful to youngsters.
- **AFSPA in Nagaland extended**
 - Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act has been extended for 6 more months in Nagaland beginning June 30.
 - According to home ministry, Nagaland is in such a disturbed & dangerous condition that use of armed forces in aid of the civil power is necessary.
 - AFSPA has been in force in Nagaland for several decades and has not been withdrawn even after a framework agreement was signed on August 3, 2015.
- **MP plants record 6.63 crore saplings**
 - Madhya Pradesh govt has claimed that record 6.63 crore saplings were planted on the banks of river Narmada as part of its river conservation efforts.
 - The drive started at 7 am continued till 7 pm along the banks of the river covering 24 districts.
 - Drive might find a place in Guinness World Records as the current record of planting max saplings in least time is 5 cr in 24 hours by UP.
- **AIIMS to adopt 50 elderly people**
 - AIIMS in association with an NGO would adopt 50 elderly people, who are economically & physically challenged, to provide them with health care facilities.
 - They will be adopted from various old age homes and society as per their health requirements and access to health care facilities.
 - Geriatric department of AIIMS and NGO Healthy Aging India would provide free medicines at their doorstep.
- **Free education for transgenders**



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- Indira Gandhi National Open University has announced that transgender students can now study in any of the programmes offered by the university for free.
- This is set to benefit 4000+ transgenders in the state who have lost out on job opportunities as they don't have necessary qualifications.
- Vice Chancellor, Ravindra Kumar announced the initiative during the 22nd Prof G Ram Reddy Lecture.
- **Kerala CM Vijayan launches G-Ride**
 - Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan launched G-Ride, a digital ride sharing platform designed and deployed for the IT industry.
 - The platform has been developed by the Group of Technology Companies (GTech), the industry body of IT companies in the state.
 - G-Ride app automatically matches co-workers and neighbours and help them travel together to work. It is available both Android and iOS.
- **Agriculture budget from next year**
 - Telangana Chief Minister K Chandrasekhar Rao has decided to present a separate agriculture budget from next year.
 - He also asked the officials to form farmers' associations at various levels. - from villages to the state to organise the cultivators.
 - Farmers would also be provided training of modern and scientific methods of farming so as to increase the farm output.
- **Govt completes safety audit**
 - The Road ministry has completed safety audit of 1.6 lakh bridges in the country out of which 147 bridges were found to be unsafe during the audit.
 - The government had launched an Integrated Bridge Management System to create data of all bridges and culverts in the country to avert mishaps
 - Technologies using nano, laser and sensor are being introduced for real-time monitoring of bridges.
- **TN to set up Rs 2350 cr solar park**





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- The Tamil Nadu government will setup an Ultra Mega Solar Photovoltaic Power Park in Ramanathapuram district at an estimated cost of Rs 2350 crore.
- State-run TANGEDCO will establish the 500 MW power park on Engineering Procurement Construction (EPC) basis at Naripaiyur and adjoining villages in the district.
- It is one of the several new initiative launched by the government.
- **'No-Development Zone' near river Ganga**
 - National Green Tribunal has declared 100m from the edge of River Ganga as a 'No-Development Zone' in the stretch b/w Haridwar in Uttarakhand & Unnao in Uttar Pradesh.
 - An environment compensation of Rs.50,000 will be imposed on anyone who dumps waste in Ganga.
 - NGT has also directed UP and Uttarakhand govts to formulate guidelines for religious activities on ghats of Ganga or its tributaries.
- **SBI waives charge on IMPS fund transfer**
 - SBI has waived charges for fund transfer of up to ₹1,000 through its Immediate Payment Service to promote small transactions.
 - SBI had been charging ₹5 along with service tax for fund transfer of up to ₹1,000.
 - Charge will be ₹5 along GST for fund transfer in range of 1,000 to 1 lakh.
 - IMPS is an instant interbank electronic fund transfer service through mobile phones and internet banking.
- **HAL signs MoU with Defence Ministry**
 - Hindustan Aeronautics Limited has signed a MoU for 2017-18 with Ministry of Defence.
 - MoU outlines targets on various performance parameters of the company during 2017-18.





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- HAL has also laid specific emphasis on capacity building, modernization & solar plants aiming to achieve capital expenditure of 1300 cr.
- HAL's thrust is on Make-in-India projects such as HTT-40, Light Combat Helicopter etc
- **President inaugurates 'Ashiana Annexe'**
 - President Mukherjee inaugurated Ashiana Annexe in Dehradun.
 - It comprises of 12 low cost dwelling units constructed to accommodate officers & staff of Rashtrapati Bhavan.
 - The units have been constructed using Habitech-NivaraTantra - Onsite Sanitation Integrated Community Housing Technology Innovations.
 - Innovations comprise unique blocks "compacted intermeshing" which are made from local soil
- **India to Become Largest Milk Producer**
 - According to UN and Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development India will become the largest producer of milk in the world by the 2026.
 - India is also expected to triple its total milk production over the first quarter of the 21st century.
 - Milk production in India will grow by 49% in 2026.
 - India is also expected to record the biggest increase in wheat production globally.
- **NGT bans use of nylon & synthetic manja**
 - National Green Tribunal has banned use of 'Chinese' kite strings, made of nylon or any synthetic material.
 - Ban also includes cotton 'manja' coated with glass
 - They have been banned as they poses threat to life and environment.
 - State govts have been directed to prohibit "manufacturing, sale, storage, purchase and use" of synthetic 'manja' or nylon threads used for flying kites.





- **Free contraceptive injections for women**
 - Maharashtra has become the first state in the country to provide women an injectable contraceptive for free.
 - The state's public health department launched a programme called Antara to offer women an injection of Medroxyprogesterone acetate, a birth-control hormone.
 - The injection is supposed to be used within a week from the day a woman's menstrual cycle starts.
- **Committee for separate state flag**
 - Karnataka Government has constituted a 9 member committee to study the possibility of designing a separate state flag and providing it a statutory standing.
 - The committee was constituted following representation of social activists from the state urged the government to design a separate flag for Kannada 'naadu' and give statutory standing for it.
 - J&K is the only state to have separate flag
- **Govt increases import duty on sugar**
 - Government has increased import duty on sugar to 50% from 40%, to restrict cheap inward shipments and maintain domestic prices.
 - Food Ministry had proposed increase in import duty on the grounds that fall in local prices will affect millers' capacity to pay cane dues to growers.
 - In April this year, govt had allowed import of 5 lakh tonnes of raw sugar at zero duty to boost domestic supply.
- **Aaykar Setu launched**
 - Finance Minister Arun Jaitley has launched Aaykar Setu.
 - It is an e-initiative for Income tax Department to directly communicate with the taxpayers and aimed at providing information on useful tax services.



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- It compiles various tax tools, live chat facility, dynamic updated and important links to various processes within the Department in a single module.
- **Govt saves over Rs 57,000 cr**
 - Govt has saved more than Rs. 57,000 cr with its Direct Benefit Transfer scheme under which subsidies are given directly to beneficiaries.
 - DBT programme is a major reform initiative to check graft in welfare funds and is aimed at transferring benefits of various central govt-run social welfare schemes to bank accounts of beneficiaries.
 - Till March, 2017, there were 140 schemes under the DBT.
- **2nd state to accept online RTI apps**
 - Delhi has become the second state to launch e-RTI portal that will enable citizens to file online Right to Information.
 - Portal will enable citizens to file RTI and seek information related to 172 departments of the Delhi govt including the office of the chief minister and his ministers.
 - Maharashtra is the first state to launch the online RTI platform.
 - The Portal has been designed by NIC.
- **Merger of Ministries**
 - Government has merged the urban development and housing and urban poverty alleviation ministries.
 - It will now be known as Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA).
 - This is third time the ministries have been merged. With this merger, the government now has 51 ministries.
 - The merger will create synergy, better coordination and planning between housing and urban infrastructure projects.
- **International meet on social justice**
 - A 3 day Babasaheb B.R. Ambedkar international conference on social justice will be held in Bengaluru from July 21 to 23.





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- Conference will unveil 'Bengaluru Declaration' outlining specific constitutional, institutional and policy responses to concerns of equity, freedom and democracy.
- It also commemorates the 126th birth anniversary of the architect of Indian Constitution, B.R. Ambedkar.
- **No non-veg food on domestic flights**
 - The national carrier Air India has stopped serving non-vegetarian meals to economy-class passengers on all domestic flights from mid-June this year.
 - However, non-vegetarian meals would continue to be served in business and executive class on domestic as well as international flights.
 - The decision was taken to cut wastage and cost, and to avoid mix-up of vegetarian with non-vegetarian meals.
- **Digital initiatives over e-education**
 - President Mukherjee launched 3 digital initiatives - Swayam, Swayam Prabha and National Academic Depository to push e-education in the country.
 - Aim of the initiatives is to raise the Gross Enrollment Ratio in higher education from 24.5 to 30 by 2020.
 - Swayam will host courses taught in classrooms from Class 9th to post-graduation, which can be accessed by anyone, anywhere at any time.
- **Beef detection kit**
 - Directorate of FSL in Maharashtra has developed a portable kit which can determine if a meat sample contains beef or not.
 - If meat sample fed into the kit is beef, the sample turns yellow and will be sent for further confirmation to FSL.
 - Cow Meat Detection ELISA Kit can provide results within 30 mins.
 - It will help police secure more convictions in cases of beef possession or transportation.
- **Lower berth in 3AC coach to be reserved**





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- Indian Railways has fixed quota for 'Divyangs' in 3AC of mail and express trains to make the journey hassle-free. A lower berth in 3AC coach will be reserved for Divyangs.
- Currently, there is a provision for lower berth quota in sleeper class only.
- In order to facilitate smooth entry into platforms, all stations are being made accessible for differently-abled passengers.
- **First Maize based Mega Food Park**
 - Harsimrat Kaur Badal, Union Minister of Food Processing Industry laid the foundation stone for 1st Maize based Mega Food Park in Kapurthala, Punjab.
 - It is a major step for containing desertification problem of Punjab and would make farmers turn to maize cultivation which need less water for more production.
 - It will provide employment to 5,000 persons & benefit about 25,000 farmers.
- **International Aviation Security seminar**
 - NSG organised the first International Aviation Security seminar in Manesar.
 - It aimed at bringing all major stakeholders under one roof and facilitate them sharing views/opinion, discussions with the matters concerning Aviation Security.
- Weapons & equipment were also displayed showcasing the current weapons & systems used by the forces and cutting edge systems considered for future planning. **Free Hepatitis-C vaccine from next year**
 - Union Health Minister JP Nadda has announced that the government will provide Hepatitis C vaccine free from next year and would help in tackling the liver related diseases.





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- The government is planning to provide upto 3,000 crore rupees in the budget for this purpose.
- The deadly Hepatitis C virus afflicts as many as 150 million people worldwide and possibly 12 million in India.
- **Easy to clean blankets to be introduced**
 - The railways have roped in the National Institute of Fashion Design to design lightweight blankets with less wool content.
 - A trial of 'thin, cold washable blankets' is also being carried out in the Central Railway zone as a pilot project.
 - The plan envisages increasing the frequencies of washing of blankets and replacing the existing ones in a phased manner
- **Jiyo Parsi phase II campaign launched**
 - The Union Ministry of Minority Affairs has launched Jiyo Parsi Publicity Phase-2 in Mumbai, Maharashtra under the Jiyo Parsi scheme.
 - The campaign was launched in 2014, to address the issue of dwindling population of India's Parsi community.
 - The last 2011 census put the number of Indian Parsis at 57,264, dropping from 114,000 in 1941.
- **Women commission to ink pact with UNDP**
 - Maharashtra's women commission will ink an agreement with United Nations Development Programme for rescue & rehabilitation of women who are victims of sex trafficking, acid attack & domestic violence.
 - Under the pact, one of the key areas would be to impart skills to the affected women to help them sustain themselves financially.
 - An MoU with UNDP in this regard would be signed in next 15 days
- **Ban on liquid nitrogen in drinks, food**
 - Haryana govt has banned mixing of liquid nitrogen in drinks & food, days after a man burnt a hole in his stomach after drinking a cocktail containing the chemical.





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- Due to its low temperature liquid nitrogen can be extremely damaging to body tissue, causing cryogenic burning on contact.
- It releases large volume of gas on evaporation & can burst open the stomach if ingested in large quantities
- **Injection safety programme**
 - Punjab has become the 1st state in the country to introduce injection safety programme.
 - For this Punjab signed an agreement with Foundation for Innovative New Diagnostics on World Hepatitis Day.
 - It will support Punjab Health Department by providing Rapid test kits for screening of high risk patients.
 - WHO & Health Department together will work in sensitising public regarding safe injections.
- **Lok Sabha passes IIM Bill, 2017**
 - Lok Sabha has approved Indian Institutes of Management Bill 2017 that promises to grant administrative, academic and financial autonomy to the B-Schools and allow them to award degrees to their graduates.
 - The bill will grant greater autonomy to these schools and ensure they are board-driven, with chairperson & director selected by board.
 - The govt also agreed not to change the name of IIM-C.
- **Delhi Metro first to become 100% 'green'**
 - Delhi Metro has become the only completely green Metro system in the world for adhering to green building norms for its residential colonies.
 - Delhi Metro has secured platinum rating for adherence to green building norms for its 10 residential colonies from Indian Green Building Council.
 - DMRC also announced that it is now generating 20 MW of solar power after adding new solar power facilities
- **Earthquake Parameter Dissemination app**





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- Govt has launched 2 Mobile apps - 'India Quake' for dissemination of earthquake parameters and 'Sagar Vani' to disseminate ocean related information & alert users in timely manner.
- Developed by NCS, India Quake will automatically disseminate relevant parameter after occurrence of earthquakes.
- The app will make information dissemination faster with no restrictions on the number of recipients.
- **PM launches deep-sea fishing scheme**
 - Prime Minister Modi launched a deep-sea fishing scheme for fishermen of Rameswaram.
 - Under the initiative taken up under the "Blue Revolution" scheme, centre would allocate Rs 1,500 crore over a period of time for conversion of bottom trawling boats into deep sea liners.
 - it would help fishermen to get better revenue and overcome problems of fishing in the Palk Strait.
- **India's 1st mobile ticketing system**
 - Mumbai Metro One will soon launch India's first mobile ticketing system 'OnGo' for commuters to buy their tickets on their mobile phones.
 - Through 'OnGo', commuters can purchase tickets on the Mumbai Metro app and other partner apps like Ridlr.
 - A QR code will be generated that will have to be displayed before a non-protruding glass at the Automatic Fare Collection gates.
- **IRCTC to take over catering services**
 - According to railways, Catering services in all trains with pantry cars will be handed over to IRCTC by the year-end.
 - Till now, zonal railways were managing catering services in majority trains as per the catering policy 2010.
 - This is being done in order to improve onboard food quality.





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- Railways will also conduct 3rd party audit at pantry cars & base kitchens to ensure best practice.
- **Lok Sabha passes IIIT (Amendment) Bill**
 - Lok Sabha has passed Indian Institutes of Information Technology (Amendment) Bill, 2017. It amends Indian Institutes of Information Technology Act, 2014.
 - It seeks to declare Indian Institute of Technology, Design & Manufacturing at Kurnool as an institution of national importance.
 - It also permits Board of Governor of Institutes to appoint Assistant Professors & all posts above that level.
- **FSSAI bans stapler pins in tea bags**
 - Food Safety & Standards Authority of India has banned use of stapler pins in tea bags effective Jan 1, 2018.
 - Use of stapler pins in tea bags poses potential hazard to consumers since any loose staple pin consumed inadvertently with tea may cause a serious health hazard.
 - Tea bag segment is one of the fastest growing segments at 50-60% yoy.
 - Currently, tea bags are either stapled or knotted.
- **Mobile App for Road Maintenance**
 - Union Minister Narendra Tomar & Deputy Director General of ILO Ms. Deborah Greenfield have launched “Aarambh”, Mobile App for Road Maintenance.
 - It aims at use of GIS based mapping for making road inventories, condition surveys and other relevant data for monitoring of annual road maintenance plans.
 - It would help in improving service delivery for road maintenance in all States.
- **AAI and Uttarakhand Govt.inks MoU**





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- Airports Authority of India has signed a MoU with Govt of Uttarakhand Civil Aviation Development Authority.
- The scope of MoU is to identify relevant factors influencing development of civil aviation infrastructure in Uttarakhand.
- AAI will also assist UCADA in obtaining necessary clearances for airport operations starting with the upgraded airport at Pithoragarh and later at Chiniyalisaur.
- **CCEA approves stake sale of HPCL to ONGC**
 - Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs has given in-principle approval for sale of the govt's 51.11% stake along with the management control of HPCL to ONGC.
 - HPCL will continue as a public sector undertaking after ONGC acquires its stake.
 - This will give ONGC an enhanced capacity to bear higher risks, take higher investment decisions & to neutralise impact of global crude oil price volatility.
- **Govt launches 'SHe-box' portal**
 - Women and Child Development ministry has launched an online platform called "SHe-box" portal.
 - It is an online platform to enable women employees of the central government to file complaints related to sexual harassment at the workplace.
 - To begin with Central govt women employees can file complaints but it will be widened to include the private sector as well.
- **Free water, toilets at Metro stations**
 - Lucknow Metro stations will be the 1st in India to provide free drinking water at all 21 metro stations of North-South metro corridor.
 - Stations will have a kiosk providing purified, chilled water to commuters free.





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- Lucknow Metro is also going to provide free toilet facility at each of its stations.
- These will be available only for commuters who pay using token or the Go-Smart card.
- **IRCTC to install 100 vending machines**
 - Indian Railway Catering & Tourism Corporation plans to install 1100 water vending machines at 450 stations in 2017-2018 to ensure clean drinking water at low cost across the country.
 - A glass of 300 ml water dispensed through these machines will cost just Re 1.
 - Water is dispensed through Reverse Osmosis in these machines.
 - It will help in generating employment for around 2,000 people.
- **Assam to host National Handloom Day**
 - For the first time, Guwahati will play host to the National Handloom Day celebrations on August 7.
 - The ceremony will display handloom products crafted by artisans from the seven north eastern states through a fashion show and an exhibition.
 - The focus will be on the seven north eastern states so that each and every state is given due recognition by displaying their handloom and silk products.
- **1st R&D facility for high-end fuels, gas**
 - India has launched its first petroleum R&D facility for testing high-end BS-VI quality fuel emissions.
 - This first-of-its kind facility was inaugurated by Petroleum Minister Dharmendra Pradhan in Faridabad.
 - Operated by IOC, the R&D facility is designed to test all types of fuel including petrol, diesel, bio-diesel to ensure they meet BS-VI norms that are to be implemented by April 2020.
- **RIWATCH Museum in Arunachal Pradesh**





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- Union Minister of State for Home Kiren Rijiju inaugurated the Research Institution of World Ancient, Traditional, Culture & Heritage Museum at Roing in Arunachal Pradesh.
- It will serve as a place of exchange of cultural values of various tribes of the state and the North East.
- Rijiju also pressed for documentation and research to preserve age-old culture and traditions of the state.
- **Free & Compulsory Education Bill amended**
 - Lok Sabha has given its approval to a bill amending law on free & compulsory education to extend deadline for teachers to acquire the prescribed minimum qualifications for appointment.
 - Inadequately qualified teachers, working after enactment of RTE Act will have to acquire min. qualifications by March 2019.
 - There are about 6 lakh teachers with inadequate qualifications in the private sector.
- **Aajeevika Grameen Express Yojana**
 - Ministry of Rural Development will launch a new sub-scheme under Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana which will be called Aajeevika Grameen Express Yojana.
 - It will provide an alternative source of livelihoods to members of SHGs by facilitating them to operate public transport in backward areas.
 - It will provide safe & affordable rural transport services like e-rickshaws to connect remote villages.
- **India to Host Conference on Cyber Space**
 - India will be hosting the 5th Global Conference on Cyber Space in 2017, one of the world's largest conference on Cyber Space & related issues.
 - Narendra Modi will be inaugurating the conference whose theme will be based on Cyber4All: An Inclusive, Sustainable, Developmental, Safe & Secure Cyberspace.





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- The 2 day conference will see participation of around 2000 delegates from over 100 countries.
- **Now, you can text your grievance**
 - Telangana State govt has launched the 'Janahita' grievance redressal system.
 - Developed by the State Information Technology, E&C department, 'Janahitha', an integrated grievance redressal management system aims at expediting complaint resolution through continuous monitoring at a centralised cell.
 - The District Revenue Officer will head the monitoring cell.
- **Kovind elected as President of India**
 - Former Bihar governor Ram Nath Kovind has been elected as the 14th President of India.
 - He was the NDA's presidential candidate and won with over 7 lakh votes against Opposition candidate Meira Kumar.
 - He is the first President from Uttar Pradesh and the second Dalit after KR Narayanan to adorn the coveted post.
 - He is the first BJP member to be elected as President of India.
- **Petroleum institute in Andhra Pradesh**
 - A bill for setting up of Indian Institute of Petroleum & Energy in Andhra Pradesh has been introduced in Lok Sabha.
 - It would be established in Visakhapatnam district.
 - It would actively pursue research & development in fields such as LNG, biofuels & renewables.
 - Curriculum of the institute is proposed to be a specialised one and would include advanced programmes at PG & doctoral level
- **Lok Sabha clears IIIT PPP Bill**





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- Lok Sabha has passed Indian Institute of Information Technology Public Private Partnership Bill 2017 that seeks to allow 15 IIITs established on PPP model to grant degrees & get statutory status.
- It also seeks to grant institute of national importance tag to such institutes on the lines of IIT & NIT.
- UPA govt initiated opening of 20 IIITs with private partnership of which 15 are operational.
- **Odisha's longest bridge**
 - Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik dedicated to the nation Odisha's longest bridge and named it after Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose.
 - The 2.88 km bridge over the river Kathajodi will connect Bhubaneswar with Cuttack reducing the distance b/w the 2 cities by 12 km.
 - Construction work started after Patnaik laid foundation in February, 2011, the completion missed the deadline by over 3 years.
- **mAadhaar app launched**
 - mAadhaar, a new app for syncing Aadhaar data on mobile phone, has been launched by the UIDAI.
 - It will allow users to carry their Aadhaar demographic information, i.e. name, date of birth, gender, address and the photograph linked with their Aadhaar number, on their smartphones.
 - App is currently available for Android users & requires users to have their mobile numbers registered with Aadhaar.
- **Zeliang appointed Nagaland CM**
 - Nagaland Governor P.B. Acharya has appointed T.R. Zeliang as the new Chief Minister of the State.
 - This comes after CM Shurhozelie Liezietsu and his supporters failed to turn up in the Assembly for the floor test.





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- Acharya had directed Speaker Imtiwapang to summon an emergent special session of the Assembly for the CM, who is facing a rebellion from MLAs of his party to seek confidence vote.
- **SC allows Centre to replace MCI**
 - The Supreme Court allowed the Centre to replace the oversight committee set up to supervise the functioning of the Medical Council of India with a fresh panel of 5 eminent doctors.
 - A 5 judge Constitution bench, headed by Chief Justice J S Khehar, said the Centre had proposed the names of five eminent doctors to replace the oversight committee.
 - The committee was setup in May 2016.
- **PM to inaugurate Abdul Kalam's memorial**
 - PM Modi will open the national memorial for former President Dr A P J Abdul Kalam at Peikarumbu near Rameswaram on July 27.
 - The national memorial is set up by DRDO in 2.11 acres at a cost of Rs 20 crore.
 - 2nd death anniversary of Dr A P J Abdul Kalam will be observed on July 27.
 - Dr Kalam died on July 27 in 2015 at IIM Shillong where he had gone to deliver a lecture.
- **Memorial for Sikh 'Dharmi Faujis'**
 - The Shiromani Gurudwara Parbhandak Committee has announced that it would set up a memorial in the memory of 'Dharmi Faujis' – Sikh soldiers in the Indian army who committed mutiny during Operation Blue Star.
 - SGPC had recently decided to set up a gallery on the premises of Golden Temple for the militants and devotees killed.
 - Operation Blue Star was conducted between 1–10 June 1984.
- **50 monuments to have Braille signboards**





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- 50-odd protected monuments across Gujarat will soon be visually-impaired-friendly.
- This as Archaeological Survey of India, Gujarat circle, is set to install braille signboards at around 50 monuments in the state for explaining their historical and cultural significance to the visually-impaired visitors.
- The monuments include Kevda Masjid, Kabutarkhana Pavilion etc.
- **Science Express to be inaugurated**
 - Union Railway Minister Suresh Prabhu will inaugurate the Science Express Climate Action Special — Exhibition Train through video conferencing from New Delhi.
 - The exhibition train will be at Roha railway station for a day on July 18.
 - It will be on the display at the Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Terminus (CSMT), here from July 19-22.
- **India not to host G20 meet**
 - The absence of a world-class convention centre and the 2019 general elections have prompted the government to give a go-by to hosting the G20 meeting.
 - Now, Japan will be the host country in 2019.
 - It will have to compete with Indonesia to be the host, according to sources.
- **Free set-top boxes in naxal-hit areas**
 - Prasar Bharati is likely to distribute around 10 lakh free of cost DTH set-top boxes in naxal-hit areas of the country.
 - It would enable people in naxal-affected states to connect with various schemes of govt.
 - Centre will distribute 10,000 free DTH set-top boxes in remote & tribal areas of Chhattisgarh.
 - It will enable people to watch about 100 television channels free of cost.
- **Vijay Goel flags off Slum Yuva Daud**





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- Minister of State for Youth Affairs and Sports Vijay Goel flagged off Slum Yuva Daud to mark the beginning of the Adopt Slum Campaign.
- Run started from Delhi University's Shankarlal Hall and ended at the Rugby Stadium with participation of about 5000 youngsters from various slums of Delhi.
- Slum Yuva Daud & Adopt Slum campaigns aim at highlighting the govt's pro-people schemes among masses.
- **2nd Anniversary of Skill India Mission**
 - Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship celebrated the 2nd anniversary of Skill India Mission on the World Youth Skills day.
 - 100 GST training centres, 51 Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Kendras and 100 Yoga training centres were inaugurated on the occasion.
 - MSDE had launched the SKILL INDIA Campaign on the occasion of the first ever World Youth Skills Day on 15th July 2015.
- **Govt launches GST training programme**
 - Govt has launched a GST training programme to skill around 2 lakh youths in 6 months to handle tax compliance issues like invoice making.
 - People would be trained under Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana.
 - The training course would cater to the need of GST trained professionals to help businesses in areas such as registration and calculation of tax liability under the new tax regime.
- **Railways Launches 'SAARTHI' App**
 - Railways has launched an integrated mobile application to cater to various passenger requirements, including ticket booking, inquiry and ordering meal on a single platform.
 - The app, called as Rail SAARTHI has been developed by CRIS and was unveiled by Railway Minister Suresh Prabhu.
 - The app will cater to passenger needs like booking porter, retiring room, ordering food besides train tickets.





- **Indian Railways launches DEMU train**
 - Indian Railways launched its 1st solar-powered diesel electrical multiple unit train from Safdarjung station in Delhi.
 - It will run from Sarai Rohilla in Delhi to Farukh Nagar in Haryana.
 - Total of 16 solar panels are fitted in 6 coaches and has a power back-up & can run on battery for at least 72 hours.
 - This is the 1st time in the world that solar panels are being used as grid in railways.
- **New wing to provide intelligence inputs**
 - Union Govt has set up Directorate General of Analytics and Risk Management, a new wing to provide intelligence inputs taking action against tax evaders.
 - DGARM will be under Central Board of Excise and Customs to use internal & external sources for detailed data mining to generate actionable inputs.
 - It will function as an apex body of CBEC for data analytics and risk management.
- **President dedicates BML Munjal Uni**
 - President Pranab Mukherjee dedicated BML Munjal University to the nation, calling it 'one of the finest private universities in the country'.
 - President commended the University for its efforts towards research and innovation and hands-on and cross-disciplinary learning.
 - Founded by Hero Group and mentored by Imperial College London, the University has been approved by UGC.
- **MoU to set up AIIMS in Gorakhpur**
 - Uttar Pradesh government has signed an MoU with the Centre for setting up of an AIIMS hospital in Gorakhpur.
 - The hospital will have 750 free beds and the project will cost 1,750 crore rupees.



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- The foundation of the AIIMS at Gorakhpur was laid by Prime Minister Narendra Modi last year.
- The OPD of the new AIIMS will start by September, 2018 and trauma centres will be established by 2020.
- **India's first TISC in Punjab**
 - Department of Industrial Policy & Promotion has signed an agreement with Punjab State Council of Science & Technology to establish India's 1st Technology & Innovation Support Center.
 - Objective of TISC is to stimulate a dynamic & balanced Intellectual Property Rights system in India to foster creativity.
 - Establishing TISC in India will give host institutions an access to global network.
- **High speed rail training centre**
 - India's 1st high-speed rail training centre will be soon setup at Gandhinagar, Gujarat.
 - While India's 1st bullet train is proposed to hit the track in 2023, the training centre would begin its operations by 2020.
 - It will provide for advanced training modules on cutting edge technologies.
 - It will provide training to around 4000 engineers & will be built at an estimated cost of Rs 600 crore.
- **Eliminating malaria by 2027**
 - India has advanced its target of eliminating malaria by 3 years to 2027. Earlier the target was 2030.
 - Health Ministry has launched a 5 year plan which will focus at district level to strengthen the strategy to eliminate the disease.
 - Long Lasting Insecticidal nets are being used in controlling malaria from past 3 years.
 - So far 40 million LLI nets have been distributed.
- **Education qualification for polls**





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- Rajasthan has become India's 1st State to lay down the minimum educational qualifications for contesting elections to village cooperative societies & other cooperative bodies.
- State Cooperative Societies Rules, 2003, were amended for the purpose.
- It will benefit around 10,000 cooperative and agricultural credit societies.
- Educational qualifications will range from Class V to Class VIII.

Business and Economy

• **Snapdeal terminates talks for merger**

- Snapdeal has terminated talks for merger with Flipkart and said that it will pursue an independent path.
- Decision to end discussions with Flipkart marks a big win for Snapdeal founders Kunal and Rohit Bansal, both of whom were against the sale to Flipkart.
- The deal with Flipkart for \$900-950 million, if it goes through, would mark the largest acquisition in the Indian e-commerce landscape.

• **Flipkart launches Billion**

- Flipkart has launched a new brand called Billion across categories such as home appliances & fashion.
- Flipkart has already launched mixer cookware, backpacks & irons under the brand and will expand to other categories later this year
- The brand is positioned as made-in-India & made-for-India both.
- It is being positioned as a value-for-money offering, indicating that it will be a budget brand

• **SBI slashes interest rate**

- State Bank of India has cut the interest rate on savings accounts with up to Rs1 crore to 3.5% from 4%.





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- The decline in the rate of inflation and high real interest rates are the primary considerations warranting a revision in the rate of interest on savings bank deposits.
- The cut in the savings rate by SBI is the first such move by any bank since the RBI deregulated the savings rate in 2011.
- **Max India pulls out merger deal**
 - Max India has withdrawn the proposed merger agreement b/w Max Life & Max Financial Services with HDFC Standard Life Insurance.
 - The scheme did not go well with IRDA as it was in contravention of the Section 35 of the Insurance Act that does not allow merger of an insurance business with a non-insurance firm.
 - Max India was supposed to amalgamate Max Life Insurance with Max Financial Services.
- **RBI to procure 50 note verifying machine**
 - RBI is planning to buy 50 Currency Verification & Processing Systems for its regional offices for counting & authenticating banknotes of all denominations.
 - Machine is proposed to be installed at its 18 regional offices throughout India.
 - As per the Request for Proposal, machines should be computer based & microprocessor controlled having capacity to process at least 30 banknotes per second.
- **AI solution for visually impaired**
 - Accenture has developed an artificial intelligence powered solution to help visually impaired people improve the way they experience the world & enhance their productivity in workplace.
 - Known as Drishti, It is a part of Accenture's focus on Tech4Good, which aims to apply technology to improve the way world lives.





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- Accenture plans to introduce it to 100+ visually impaired employees in India.

- **NABARD signs AMA with Green Climate Fund**

- NABARD has signed an Accreditation Master Agreement with Green Climate Fund.
- By signing this, NABARD became the 1st Indian organisation to get Direct Access Entity status & is the first step for the body to access GCF resources.
- GCF was setup in 2010 under UNFCCC's financial mechanism to channel funding from developed countries to developing countries to allow them to mitigate climate change

- **IOB goes live with Bharat Bill Payment**

- Indian Overseas Bank has started to offer Bharat Bill Payment System for its customers.
- BBPS is an integrated bill payment system that offers inter-operable online bill payments to customers.
- The services include online payments of electricity, telecommunication, DTH, water and gas bills.
- IOB is one of the three public sector banks to get approval from RBI for providing the service.

- **ICICI Pru to take over Sahara insurance**

- Insurance regulator IRDAI has asked ICICI Prudential Life Insurance to take over the business of Sahara India Life Insurance with effect from 31 July.
- ICICI Prudential shall ensure that systems are integrated within a period of one year from the appointed date
- This is not a merger between the two companies but purely a transfer of customers to ICICI Prudential Life.

- **Samsung beats Intel**





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- Samsung has surpassed Intel to become world's largest maker of computer chips.
- Intel reported \$14.8 billion in revenue in its 2nd quarter while Samsung's chip division itself posted \$16 billion in revenue.
- Samsung's chipsets are mostly consumed by smartphone market which is booming right now.
- Intel has been the leader in chipsets for 24 years now, ever since it entered the industry in 1993.

Science and Technology

• India to see launch of two moon missions

- India will witness launch of 2 lunar missions from Indian soil early next year.
- ISRO will launch its Chandrayaan-2 mission, an advanced version of its previous 2018 mission with the objective of deeper lunar surface probe.
- The other mission is by Team Indus, a group of space enthusiasts who want to unfurl the tricolour on moon's surface as part of a global lunar competition.

• AI system that can create 3D models

- Scientists including one of Indian origin have developed new artificial intelligence software called SurfNet that can create three dimensional models from 2D photographs.
- When fully developed SurfNet could have significant applications in the fields of 3D searches on the internet researchers.
- In an advance version it can allow future robots to navigate in the real world.

• Balloons to study total solar eclipse





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- NASA is collaborating with student teams across US to send balloons into the sky for eclipse observation which will help in understanding about life beyond Earth.
- NASA's 'Eclipse Balloon Project' will send more than 50 high-altitude balloons that will livestream aerial footage of the total solar eclipse.
- It will provide insight into how bacterial life responds to Mars-like conditions.
- **Launch of Satellite carrying Rocket**
 - Iran has successfully launched a new type of rocket designed to carry a satellite into space.
 - The “Simorgh” rocket is capable of carrying a 250 kg satellite as far as 500 km above Earth.
 - Iran successfully launched its 1st domestically produced satellite in 2009.
 - Launch of the rocket comes after US moved to increase economic sanctions placed on Iran over its ballistic missile program.
- **Zika Virus cure**
 - Researchers from San Antonio Catholic University of Murcia announced the discovery of a molecule that could be used as a potential drug to fight the effects of a Zika virus infection.
 - The novobiocin molecule (compound) was previously used in antibiotic drug to fend off “nosocomial” infections (those acquired inside a hospital).
 - Zika virus was first isolated in Uganda in 1947.
- **AIDS claimed 1 million lives**
 - According to a UN report, AIDS claimed a million lives in 2016, almost half the 2005 toll that marked the peak of deadly epidemic.
 - In 2016, 19.5 million of 36.7 million people living with HIV had access to treatment, 1st time more than half of infected people were receiving the treatment.





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- There is no cure for AIDS, infected people rely on anti-retroviral therapy to stop virus from replicating
- **First global robotics competition**
 - A group of 7 Indian students has bagged two awards at the first global robotics Olympiad in the US where 157 countries participated.
 - Students from Mumbai, won gold for Zhang Heng Engineering Design Award and bronze for Global Challenge Match.
 - The Afghan team won the Rajaa Cherkaoui El Moursli award for courageous achievement.
 - Mexico City would host the competition next year.
- **Govt launches low-cost screening device**
 - Indigenously developed newborn hearing screening device – SOHUM was launched in New Delhi.
 - SOHUM is a low-cost indigenous screening device to detect a congenital hearing loss in newborns.
 - It uses brainstem auditory evoked response to check for hearing response in a newborn.
 - It is developed by School of International Biodesign startup M/s Sohum Innovation Labs India.
- **ISRO battery to power e-vehicle**
 - Indian Space Research Organisation has approved commercial use of its indigenously developed lithium-ion battery.
 - Use of ISRO's indigenous battery technology is bound to reduce the cost of e-vehicles, whose manufacture is currently dependent on costly, imported parts.
 - It has been developed by Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre and is currently used in satellites & launch vehicles like GSLV, PSLV.
- **Made in India micro circuit boards**





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- The Centre for Materials for Electronics Technology (C-MET), Thrissur, has developed low-cost microwave printed circuit boards.
- The boards are required in strategic applications such as space, defence, and atomic energy.
- This is one of the major steps in the indigenisation of electronic materials drive, especially for wireless communication sectors

Sports

- **Indian shuttlers wins gold in Lagos**

- Indian shuttler C Rahul Yadav and men's doubles pair of Manu Attri and B Sumeeth Reddy clinched the men's singles and men's doubles title at Lagos International challenge in Nigeria.
- In the doubles, Manu and Sumeeth defeated local pair of Godwin Olofua and Anouluwapo Juwon Opeyori 21-13 21-15.
- 19-year-old Yadav defeated compatriot Karan Rajan Rajarajan 21-15, 21-13 in the men's singles final

- **Indian boxers at Czech Boxing Tournament**

- Indian boxers clinched 5 gold, 2 silver and 1 bronze medal at the 48th Grand Prix Usti Nad Labem in the Czech Republic.
- World Championships bronze-medallist Shiva Thapa, former Commonwealth Games gold-medallist Manoj Kumar, Amit Phangal, Gaurav Bidhuri and Satish Kumar claimed gold medals.
- Kavinder Bisht in 52 kg and Manish Panwar in 81 kg settled for silver medals.

- **Ultimate Table Tennis champions**

- Falcons TTC emerged champions of the inaugural Ultimate Table Tennis, the country's newest franchise sports league.
- They beat Shaze Challengers.





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- Li Ping put Shaze Challengers ahead with a 2-1 win over Sanil Shetty in men's singles, the opening match of the tie.
- **Katerina Siniakova wins Swedish Open**
 - Caroline Wozniacki struggled with injury as she lost the Swedish Open final to Katerina Siniakova.
 - Siniakova was playing in the Swedish Open final for the second year in a row after losing last year to German Laura Siegemund.
 - The 2017 Swedish Open was the 9th edition in women's category.
- **India bags 24 medals in Jordan**
 - India have bagged 24 medals at the Jordan Junior and Cadet Open table tennis tournament.
 - The tally includes 7 Gold, 7 Silver and 10 Bronze medals. In the event held at Amman, India ended as the second best finishers.
 - The team title was denied to India in the cadet section when Payas, Yashansh Malik and Chinmaya Somaiya were defeated by Hsu Po-Hsuan, Lin Yen-Cun & Peng Chih who claimed gold.
- **Vettel wins Hungarian Grand Prix**
 - Ferrari's Sebastian Vettel has extended his world championship lead with victory in the Hungarian GP ahead of Kimi Raikkonen & Valtteri Bottas.
 - This is his 4th win of the season and 46th of his F1 career. It was also Ferrari's first one-two in Hungary since 2004.
 - With this win, Vettel will take a 14-point lead over Hamilton into the summer break at the head of the Drivers' Championship.
- **3 gold medals in one night**
 - Caeleb Dressel of US became the 1st swimmer to win 3 gold medals in a single evening at the world championships.
 - He started with a victory in 50m freestyle, nearly broke Phelps' record in 100 butterfly & led US quartet in a world-record rout in 4x100m mixed relay.





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- He now has 6 gold medals in the championships, putting him in position to tie Phelps' record of 7 at 2007 worlds in Melbourne.

- **India wins FIBA Women's Asia Cup**

- Indian women's basketball team defeated Kazakhstan 75-73 in finals of FIBA Asia Cup 2017 held in Bengaluru.
- Both the undefeated league teams meet in finals for the first time in the tournament.
- With this win India are now promoted to Division A for the next edition of FIBA Women's Asia Cup.
- Basketball Federation of India president Govindaraj announced a cash prize of 10 lakh for the squad.

- **India finishes 6th in junior squash**

- India finished sixth overall in the girls team event of the 2017 WSF-World junior squash championship in Tauranga, New Zealand.
- In the match for the 5th-6th positions, India went down to USA 1-2.
- There was a slight improvement in the rankings this time as India had finished eighth in the last edition at the Netherlands.

- **Lovepreet Singh wins bronze**

- India's Lovepreet Singh has won bronze medal in Asian Youth and Junior Weightlifting Championships at Kathmandu.
- He got third place in 105 kg men junior category. Lovepreet lifted 151 kgs in snatch and 180 kgs in clean and jerk to clinch the bronze medal.
- This is India's fourth medal in the championships.

- **Ajay Singh wins bronze medal**

- India's Ajay Singh has won bronze medal in Asian Youth and Junior Weightlifting Championships at Kathmandu.
- He finished at the third spot in 77 kg men's junior category after lifting 143 kg in snatch and 172 kg in clean and jerk.





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- By Clinching this bronze medal, India now has 3 medals at the championships.
- **Diksha Dagar wins silver at Deaflympics**
 - Indian golfer Diksha Dagar has won a silver medal in womens individual golf event of the Deaflympics.
 - She got a bye in quarterfinals and then defeated Germanys Gonzalez in semifinals to set up a final clash with Yost Kaylin.
 - Diksha has been using a hearing aid since she was 6 & became the No.1 ranked junior in the country in amateur ranks.
 - This is the 1st time golf is a part of Deaflympics.
- **Hockey India League cancelled for 2018**
 - The 6th edition of Hockey India League has been postponed to 2019 by Hockey India.
 - This comes as the dates in 2018 clashes with the Indoor World Cup, which may bar foreign players' participation in it.
 - This will only be a temporary discontinuation and HIL will return in 2019.
 - HIL in past 5 years has given rise to players who have gone on to make a name for themselves in world hockey.
- **India gets WTA event after 5 years**
 - India will host its first WTA tournament in five years in Mumbai, giving home players an opportunity to compete with the world's top-50.
 - Maharashtra State Lawn Tennis Association has come forward to bring the tournament to India.
 - Last time India hosted a WTA event (Royal Indian Open) was in 2012 in Pune.
 - There will be 4 wild cards each on offer in main draw and Qualifiers of Mumbai Open.
- **Konsam wins gold**





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- Indian weightlifter Konsam Ormila Devi has bagged a gold medal at the Asian Youth and Junior Weightlifting Championships in Kathmandu, Nepal.
- She lifted 56kg in snatch and 70kg in clean & jerk for a total effort of 126kg in the 44kg weight category to finish on the top of the podium.
- Konsam Ormila Devi is from Manipur.
- **India to host men's World Boxing C'ship**
 - India will host men's World Championship for the 1st time in 2021.
 - International Boxing Association made the announcement at the end of its 2-day executive committee meeting in Moscow.
 - India has never conducted men's World Championship but has played host to 2006 women's mega-event.
 - Major men's boxing events hosted by India have been 1990 World Cup & Commonwealth Championships.
- **'Mission Football' launched in Meghalaya**
 - Meghalaya Chief Minister Dr Mukul Sangma launched 'Mission Football' at a grand ceremony at JN Sports Complex, Shillong.
 - Mission Football is an initiative to help develop skills of football enthusiasts and develop young footballers for the country.
 - The programme has a cost of Rs. 560 cr.
 - The plan is to develop approximately 1,400 playgrounds in all the 11 districts.
- **ICC Women's World Cup team**
 - Indian skipper Mithali Raj was chosen as the captain of the ICC Women's World Cup 2017 team by the International Cricket Council.
 - She was selected as captain after she led India to the final of the just-concluded ICC Women's World Cup.
 - Besides Mithali, Harmanpreet Kaur and Deepti Sharma were the other two Indians included in the ICC's team.





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- **Siwach wins gold at Commonwealth Games**
 - World youth boxing champion Sachin Siwach clinched a gold medal at the Commonwealth Youth Games in the Bahamas.
 - Siwach defeated Welsh boxer James Nathan Probert 4-1 in the final to claim the gold in the light flyweight (49kg) category.
 - Siwach, who won gold last year, was the only one of the 103 boxers to have clinched a gold so far in the tournament.
- **Froome wins fourth Tour de France**
 - Britain's Chris Froome won the Tour de France for the fourth time as Dylan Groenewegen sprinted to victory in Paris on the 21st and final stage.
 - The Team Sky rider is now second in the all-time list after completing his third successive victory.
 - Only the legendary Jacques Anquetil, Eddy Merckx, Bernard Hinault and Miguel Indurain - all with five wins - stand above Froome.
- **India ends Championship with 5 medals**
 - India ended their World Para Athletics Championship campaign with five medals, including a gold medal in London.
 - India collected five medals with a gold, two silver and two bronze medals to finish outside top-30 in the medal standings.
 - Sundar Gurjar had clinched the lone gold for India in men's javelin throw F-46.
 - India were represented by 29 para-athletes, including five women.
- **England wins Women's World Cup**
 - Indian women suffered a heartbreaking nine-run defeat as hosts England won the ICC Women's World Cup final at Lord's.
 - Chasing a total of 229, Indian middle-order collapsed like a pack of cards, being bowled out for 219 in 48.4 overs.
 - It is England's 4th World Cup win – 2017 joining 1973, 1993 and 2009 on the mantelpiece.





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- Anya Shrubsole took the player-of-the-match award for her six wickets.
- **Prannoy clinches US Open title**
 - Indian Shuttler H S Prannoy has won his maiden US Open Grand Prix Gold badminton tournament title defeating his compatriot Parupalli Kashyap.
 - This was Kashyap's first final in 21 months. With this, Prannoy clinched his third Grand Prix Gold title.
 - It was the second time this season that two Indians fought out for the title at international badminton.
- **Atletico de Kolkata renamed**
 - 2 time Indian Super League champion Atletico de Kolkata has been renamed before the forthcoming season.
 - This comes after Spanish giant Atletico Madrid terminated their association with the Kolkata side.
 - The team has been renamed to 'Amar Tomar Kolkata'.
 - Atletico Madrid provided technical support and facilitated the pre-seasons in Madrid and were a major help in recruiting foreign players.
- **Harmanpreet Kaur scores Ton**
 - The 2017 ICC Women's World Cup semi-final witnessed one of the finest innings ever in the sport after India's Harmanpreet Kaur slammed a 115-ball 171 against defending champions Australia.
 - India won the match by 36 runs.
 - The final will be held between India and England on 23 July.
- **FIFA U-17 World Cup 2017**
 - Kolkata will play host to the proverbial 'Group of Death' in the tournament, which begins in October this year.
 - Group F, which will be played in the 'City of Joy', comprises of teams like England, Mexico, Chile and Iraq.





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- The city also will host one last-16 match between the toppers of Group F and the second-placed team from Group E and a quarter-final on 22 October.
- **Chennai Open renamed**
 - India's lone ATP tournament, the Chennai Open, will now be held in Pune next year and would be henceforth called "Maharashtra Open".
 - The Chennai Open, owned by IMG and organised by IMG-Reliance, has been held in Chennai for the last 21 years.
 - The Chennai Open became an important fixture on India's international sporting calendar, drawing top players from across the world.
- **Manpreet Kaur fails dope test**
 - Asian champion shot-putter Manpreet Kaur has been caught in the dope net after testing positive for a banned stimulant.
 - Manpreet, who won a gold medal in the recently-concluded Asian Athletics Championships in Bhubaneswar, tested positive for stimulant dimethylbutylamine.
 - India will lose the gold medal she won in Bhubaneswar if her confirmatory urine sample 'B' test also returns positive.
- **Team India's new bowling coach**
 - BCCI has named former Indian cricketer Bharat Arun as the Indian cricket team's bowling coach.
 - He will join Indian team on a 2 year period until end of the 2019 ICC World Cup.
 - He had previously served in same capacity during Shastri's tenure as team director from 2014 to 2016.
 - He has been handed a full-time role as bowling consultant Zaheer Khan will only be available for 150 days a year.
- **Kargil International Marathon concludes**





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- The first ever Kargil International Marathon 'Run for Sarhad' concluded with more than 800 runners from all over the world participating in the event.
- The marathon was organised by Sarhad Pune, Run Buddies, SEWAK, All Kargil Tour and Travel Association with support from LAHDC Kargil and Indian Army.
- Sarfaraz Rahman won the 120 km & Zaheer Abbas won the 60 km marathon respectively.
- **Manudev wins National Masters**
 - Karnataka's Manudev has won the first National Masters snooker tournament title in Chennai.
 - Manudev got better of Alok Kumar of PSPB by 4 frames to 1 in the finals.
 - Earlier in the semifinals, Manudev knocked out former Asian Games gold medallist Rafath Habib of RPSB 4-2
 - Manudev, Alok Kumar, Chirag Ramakrishnan and Rafath Habib have qualified for world 6 red & team championship snooker.
- **Lewis Hamilton wins British Grand Prix**
 - Lewis Hamilton took a dominant victory at Silverstone to tie the all-time record of five career wins in the British Grand Prix.
 - Valtteri Bottas was second and Kimi Raikkonen was third.
 - It was first held in 1926.
- **2017 Wimbledon Tournament**
 - Martina Hingis clinched her 23th Grand Slam title as the Swiss star and Scottish partner Jamie Murray beat Henri Kontinen and Heather Watson in the Wimbledon mixed doubles final.
 - This was the second Wimbledon mixed doubles title for both Murray and Hingis.
 - Hingis has now amassed 6 mixed doubles Grand Slam titles, 12 Grand Slam women's doubles crowns and also won 5 major singles titles.





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- **Harinder Pal Sandhu wins squash title**
 - Harinder Pal Sandhu won the Victorian Open squash tournament held in Melbourne, Australia. He defeated Rex Hedrick.
 - It was Sandhu's 9th title at the PSA level and the 4th of this season after winning 2 in Malaysia.
 - It was also his second title in two weeks after he had won South Australian Open by defeating Rhys Dowling of Australia.
- **Roger Federer wins Wimbledon title**
 - Roger Federer won the 2017 Wimbledon title in the men's single category. In the final match he defeated Marin Cilic of Croatia.
 - It was Federer's record 8th Wimbledon title and overall 19th Grand Slam.
 - With this victory, 36-year old Federer also became Wimbledon's oldest champion, succeeding Arthur Ashe.
- **Muguruza wins first Wimbledon title**
 - Garbine Muguruza won a maiden Wimbledon title after defeating 5 time champion Venus Williams under the roof on Centre Court.
 - She is now a double Grand Slam champion, having won the French Open last year.
 - Muguruza became the 2nd Spanish woman to win the Wimbledon singles title after her coach, Conchita Martinez.
 - She is also the 1st woman to beat both Williams sisters in Grand Slam finals.
- **Misbah gets honorary life membership**
 - Former Pakistan Test captain Misbah-ul-Haq has been honoured with Honorary Life Membership by Marylebone Cricket Club for his services to the game.
 - He was presented with the membership at Lord's Cricket Ground.
 - Misbah is the 22nd Pakistani to receive the honour and joins the likes of Zaheer Abbas, Imran Khan, Wasim Akram.





- Last Pakistani to receive the honour was Ramiz Raja in 2015.
- **BCCI retains IMG as IPL service provider**
 - BCCI has renewed a 5 year deal with International Management Group as the service provider of IPL.
 - IMG was the service provider for IPL over the last 10 years.
 - The renewed deal will see BCCI pay IMG close to 40% more of the previous one for services to be rendered over next 5 years.
 - Other bidders in race for the contract were Rhiti Sports, Wizcraft and a company with logistical expertise.
- **CSK and RR are back into the IPL**
 - Board of Control for Cricket in India has welcomed the IPL franchises- Chennai Super Kings and Rajasthan Royals back into the League.
 - Both the franchises have completed 2 year suspension imposed by Supreme Court appointed justice (Retd.) Lodha Committee and will now participate in next year's IPL.
 - The 2 teams were found guilty of being involved in betting activities during 2013 IPL season.
- **Sundar Singh Gurjar wins gold**
 - Sundar Singh Gurjar has opened India's account at World Para Athletics Championships by clinching gold in the men's javelin throw event.
 - In the F46 category, Sundar recorded his personal best effort of 60.36m and took the top honour.
 - He was disqualified last year at Rio Paralympics after he had missed his announcement call by a minute because of failure to understand the accent.
- **Brand ambassador of Indoor cricket team**
 - Former Indian batsman Sandeep Patil has been named as the brand ambassador of the Indian Indoor Cricket Team.



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- He will be the face of the team in the lead-up to the 10th edition of World Indoor Cricket Federation World Cup to be held in Dubai.
- Patil played 29 Tests and 45 ODI for India from 1980-1986.
- Tournament will be held in partnership with Cricket Australia and Emirates Cricket Board.
- **Highest run-scorer in women's ODIs**
 - Indian women's cricket team captain Mithali Raj became the highest run-scorer in women's ODI cricket.
 - She achieved the feat against Australia in the ICC Women's World Cup 2017 match at Bristol.
 - She surpassed Charlotte Edwards to become the highest run-getter, became the first women cricketer to score 6000 runs in ODI.
 - Earlier, she achieved the feat of scoring 7 consecutive fifties in ODIs.
- **New Head coach of Team India**
 - Ravi Shastri has been named as Team India's head coach till 2019 World Cup. He will replace Anil Kumble.
 - He was selected ahead of Virender Sehwag & Tom Moody who were also interviewed for the post.
 - He who was also the team director of the Indian team from Aug 2014 to April 2016.
 - Zaheer Khan was appointed the bowling coach while Rahul Dravid was named batting consultant for overseas tours.
- **Tsotsobe has been banned for 8 year**
 - Former SA bowler Lonwabo Tsotsobe has been banned for 8 year for match-fixing.
 - He was charged in April with contriving to fix or improperly influence matches in domestic Twenty20 Series.
 - Tsotsobe admitted 1 charge of contriving to fix a match & 9 separate charges of failing to co-operate properly with various investigations.





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- Total 7 players have been banned for being a part of this scandal.
- **International Standard Sports City**
 - Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik has announced to set up an international standard sports city.
 - Kalinga International Sport City will be set up in Bhubaneswar, making eligible to bid for most international competitions including Commonwealth and Asian games.
 - Odisha will also have satellite stadia with world class infrastructure in Cuttack, Sambalpur, Berhampur and Rourkela.
- **India finishes fifth in U-18 rugby**
 - The Indian girls U-18 rugby team finished fifth in rugby sevens (7-a-side) event at the Paris World Games 2017.
 - Seven teams took part in the event, held as part of France's bid to host the 2024 Summer Olympics.
 - The 12-member team won two of the five matches it played.
 - India in its first match defeated the United Arab Emirates with a completely one-sided score of 50-0.
- **India tops medal tally for first time**
 - India have topped the medal tally for first time in the history of Asian Athletics Championships.
 - India ended on top with their highest ever medal haul of 29 medals pushing China to 2nd spot with 8 gold, 7 silver & 5 bronze.
 - India's best came in 1985 Jakarta edition where they had won 22 medals.
 - China finished at 2nd position followed by Kazakhstan & Iran at 3rd & 4th position respectively.
- **Youngest winner of professional event**
 - 14 years old amateur Atthaya Thitikul has become the youngest known winner of a professional golf tour event with victory at Ladies European Thailand Championship.





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- She defeated Ana Menendez of Mexico by 2 strokes to achieve this milestone.
- She broke the previous record of Lydia Ko, who at 14 years and 8 months won her first professional event at New South Wales Open in 2012.
- **Wayne Rooney rejoins Everton**
 - Manchester United record goalscorer Wayne Rooney has rejoined Everton for an undisclosed fee after having spent 13 years at United.
 - Rooney departs Manchester United as the club's all-time leading scorer with 253 goals in all competitions.
 - Rooney's return comes as United look set to sign Everton striker Romelu Lukaku.
 - Rooney moved from Everton to United for 27 million pounds in 2004.
- **Bottas wins Austrian Grand Prix**
 - Mercedes' Formula One driver Valtteri Bottas has won the 2017 Austrian Grand Prix.
 - Bottas finished ahead of Sebastian Vettel and Daniel Ricciardo, who finished second and third respectively.
 - Vettel continues leading the Championship with 171 points, 20 points ahead of Hamilton.
 - This was the second victory of Bottas' career.
- **Sudha bags gold in steeplechase**
 - India's Sudha Singh has won gold in women's 3000m steeplechase event on Day 3 of the Asian Athletics Championships at the Kalinga Stadium.
 - She had held the national record in 3000m steeplechase for seven years, but could never make it to the top of podium in the Asian Championship.
 - She clocked an impressive 9:59.47 to win Gold and qualify for the World Championship scheduled next month.
- **Sandhu wins South Australian Open**





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- India's Harinder Pal Sandhu defeated Rhys Dowling of Australia in the final to lift South Australian Open squash title.
- He had yesterday upset top-seed Pedro Schweertman of the Netherlands 11-9 14-12 7-11 11-9 in the semifinal of the PSA World Tour event.
- It was Sandhu's eighth title at the PSA level and the third this season after winning two in Malaysia in the month of May.
- **Kohli breaks Tendulkar's record**
 - Virat Kohli has surpassed Sachin Tendulkar's record for most hundreds in chases during the 5th ODI against West Indies. This was Kohli's 28th ODI hundred.
 - While Sachin took 232 innings to score 17 hundreds, Virat has taken just 102 innings to score 18 ODI tons while batting second.
 - Sri Lanka's Tillakaratne Dilshan and West Indies' Chris Gayle are joint third with 11 tons each.
- **2017 Asian Athletics Championships**
 - Manpreet Kaur and Govindan Laxman have managed to win gold medals on the opening day of Asian Athletics Championships held at Kalinga Stadium of Bhubaneswar.
 - The Asian Athletics Championships is an event organised by the Asian Athletics Association. It is held once in every two years.
 - The 2017 Asian Athletics Championship is the 22nd edition and will be held from 6 July to 9 July 2017
- **India 96th in FIFA World ranking**
 - India has moved four places up to the 96th position in the FIFA World ranking released on 6th July.
 - This is India's second best ranking, its previous best was the 94th position in February 1996.
 - India has been averaging at the 134th rank since the creation of the world ranking system. Among Asian nations, Iran leads at No. 23.





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- Germany topped the rankings followed by Brazil and Argentina.
- **India wins Asian Snooker Championship**
 - Pankaj Advani-led Indian team demolished Pakistan in the finals to clinch the Asian Team Snooker Championship.
 - Advani remained the only player to not lose a single individual match in the team event.
 - This title brings up Advani's second Asian title this season and 8th overall while it was the first title for Advani's teammates Rawat and Singh.
- **Ivory Coast International tournament**
 - Ritika Thaker defeated Simran Singhi to win the singles title in the Ivory Coast International badminton tournament at Abidjan.
 - Later, Ritika and Simran paired together to beat the Nigerian duo of Zainab Momohand Peace Orji in the women's doubles final.
 - Ritika became only the second player from Nagpur after Arundhati Pantawane to clinch the women's singles crown.
- **Kambala is now legal in Karnataka**
 - President Pranab Mukherjee has given his assent to the bill passed by Karnataka Assembly to legalise traditional buffalo race 'Kambala'.
 - In February, Karnataka govt had passed a bill to legalise Kambala, the traditional buffalo race as well as bullock cart race in the state.
 - Kambala is a folk sport, held traditionally under the auspices local land lords and households, in coastal Karnataka.
- **First Indian to win FIA F3 Championship**
 - Jehan Daruvala became the first Indian driver to win in the FIA Formula 3 European Championship.
 - His victory in race 3 comes 18 years after Narain Karthikeyan won in the British F3 Championship.





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- FIA F3 is the toughest junior racing category in the world, having produced some of the best talents like Michael Schumacher and Lewis Hamilton.
- He now stands 5th in the 2017 championship standings.
- **Germany wins FIFA Confederations Cup**
 - World champions Germany won the 2017 FIFA Confederations Cup by defeating Chile 1-0 in the finals at St Petersburg.
 - This is the first time Germany has won the Confederations Cup in 8 editions of pre-World Cup tournament.
 - The match winning goal was scored by Lars Stindl in the 20th minute.
 - Despite dominating for long spells, Chile failed to turn 61% possession and 20 shots into a single goal

Defence

- **South Korea to deploy 4 more THAAD units**
 - South Korea will proceed with deployment of 4 additional Terminal High Altitude Area Defence units.
 - This comes after North Korea's latest launch of ICBM.
 - Deployment of additional THAAD units had been delayed after South Korean President Moon Jae-in ordered an environmental assessment.
 - THAAD is an American anti-ballistic missile defense system designed to shoot down ballistic missiles.
- **India's first unmanned tank**
 - India's 1st unmanned tank developed by DRDO has been rolled out of the Chennai lab.
 - Muntra has 3 variants - surveillance, mine detection & reconnaissance in areas with nuclear & bio threats.





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- Muntra-S has been developed for unmanned surveillance missions, whereas Muntra-M is built for detecting mines.
- It's surveillance radar has an integrated camera that can be used to spy on ground target.
- **UK to send aircraft carrier to China Sea**
 - UK will send its 2 new aircraft carriers to freedom of navigation exercises in world's busiest waters in South China Sea.
 - It is aimed to demonstrate UK's support for free navigation in international waters at a time when China is trying to claim the area as its own.
 - Biggest warships ever commissioned by Royal Navy, HMS Queen Elizabeth & HMS Prince of Wales are being sent to South China Sea.
- **Reliance Defence launches patrol vessels**
 - Reliance Defence and Engineering Limited has announced launch of its first two Naval Offshore Patrol Vessels at their shipyard in Gujarat.
 - 2 NOPVs -- 'Shachi' and 'Shruti' -- are among five ships being constructed by RDEL under the P-21 project of the Indian Navy.
 - Reliance Defence is the 1st private shipyard in India to obtain defence production licence & sign a contract for defence ships.
- **Sweden to hold biggest military drills**
 - Sweden is preparing to hold the "first and largest" exercise of its kind in over 20 years involving all of its military branches as well as troops from several NATO countries.
 - The exercise, Aurora 17 is designed to strengthen Sweden's defense capabilities.
 - 19,000 soldiers from all military branches are expected to participate, which will be conducted in the air, on land and at sea.
- **Boeing signs \$1 billion contract**





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- US aerospace giant Boeing has signed a billion-dollar contract with French industrial software company Dassault Systemes to modernise its production system.
- Boeing has signed a 30-year contract worth a billion dollars, renewable every 10 years.
- Partnership will focus on the use of 3D software "to design future products, to modernise the entire production system and to deploy new services".
- **China & Russia start naval drills**
 - China and Russia have started their large-scale naval drills - "Joint Sea 2017" in the Baltic Sea.
 - Chinese-Russian military drills have been held every year since 2012, but they are conducting them in the Baltic for the first time.
 - The Chinese destroyer, frigate and supply ship will spend a week training with the Russian navy off Kaliningrad.
- **Food for armed forces in high-altitude**
 - DRDO has developed nutritious & protein-rich food for armed forces deployed in high-altitude & snowbound areas.
 - Major food products developed by DRDO include chicken biscuits, protein-rich mutton bar, tulsi bar among others.
 - There is no food production unit in DRDO. However after developing these products production technologies have been transferred to various industries for bulk production
- **LCU Mark IV vessel**
 - The second of the eight Mark IV LCU vessels, built by Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers Limited, Kolkata, was formally handed over to the Indian Navy at a ceremony in Kolkata.





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- The L52 ship was handed over to the ship Cdr Kaushik Chatterjee. Brigadier S Y Deshmukh, Chief Staff Officer (Technical) of Andaman and Nicobar Command
- It is designed for multipurpose amphibious operations.
- **Indian Army and DRDO sign pact**
 - Defence Research and Development Organisation has signed a pact with the Army for developing a medium-range surface to air missile.
 - The missile will be produced by the DRDO in collaboration with the Israel Aerospace Industries.
 - The missile will be capable of engaging multiple aerial targets at a range of more than 50 kms. It is also capable of shooting down ballistic missiles and aircraft.
- **World's First Drone Destroyer Laser**
 - U.S. Navy successfully tested world's 1st laser gun system that has been designed to target drones.
 - Laser Weapons System gun was tested by the USS Ponce, an amphibious transport ship on a mock enemy drone.
 - The laser moves at the speed of light, is "more precise than a bullet" and is expected to be used in combat by the year 2020.
 - It is operated by electricity derived from a small generator.
- **Air Chief Marshal to visit France**
 - Air Chief Marshal Birender Singh Dhanoa will be on an official visit to France from July 17- 20 to further strengthen the existing defence cooperation between the two countries.
 - The areas of cooperation presently include exchanges in the military training courses, mutual visits by the subject matter experts & the joint air exercises.
 - He has also planned to fly a sortie in Rafale.
- **Government empowers Army**





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- Govt. has given Army vice-chief Sarath Chand full financial powers to procure critical ammunition and spares to maintain an optimum level to fight a short intense war.
- The procurement of critical ammunition will be done for most of 46 types of ammunition the Army uses.
- The Army faces severe shortage in ammunition, mainly for artillery guns, tanks, air defence and certain infantry weapons.
- **Delhi Police to get 'super cop' belts**
 - Delhi police will be the 1st state police who will get 'super cop belt' .
 - It is a specially designed belt used by Police in UK, USA, Russia and para-military forces like CRPF, CISF, NSG.
 - These belt will help cops to keep things like Gun, Security Batten, Wireless Set Pouch & ammunition pouch.
 - Delhi Police has flouted a tender for 10,000 belts for its officers performing ground duties.
- **NATO countries begin military drills**
 - NATO countries have begun their major military drills in southern Bulgaria.
 - 25,000 military personnel from 22 NATO allied & partner countries are participating in The Saber Guardian 17 exercise.
 - It aims to increase interoperability of participating countries and demonstrate readiness to act in support of security and stability.
 - It is being led by U.S. Army Europe and will run till July 20.
- **Malabar naval exercise begins**
 - US, Japanese and Indian navies have began Malabar Naval Exercise-2017 in Bay of Bengal, off the Chennai coast.
 - Aim of this exercise is to increase inter-operability amongst the 3 navies as well as develop common understanding for maritime security operations.





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- 16 warships including the world's largest aircraft carrier USS Nimitz, more than 95 aircraft and 2 submarines are joining the drill.
- **Pakistan test fires short-range NASR**
 - Pakistan has successfully test-fired short-range surface to surface ballistic missile named Nasr.
 - NASR is a high-precision weapon system with the ability to be deployed quickly.
 - The test was conducted to validate missile's new technical parameters including enhanced range from 60 km to 70 km and flight maneuverability.
 - Pakistan is planning to conduct several such tests over next few days.
- **India successfully test-fires QRSAM**
 - India successfully test-fired an indigenously developed short range and Quick Reaction Surface to Air missile from Chandipur along the Odisha coast.
 - The missile has a strike range of 25-30 km and is capable of engaging multiple targets.
 - It has been developed by DRDO and other establishments.
 - The missile was tested for 2nd time to evaluate the performance of its canister version.
- **North Korea fires another missile**
 - North Korea has successfully tested a new intercontinental ballistic missile capable of hitting anywhere in the world.
 - The Hwasong-14 missile reached an altitude of 2,802km and hit its target precisely after flying for 933km in 39 minutes.
 - It is a game-changing development in North Korea's push to militarily challenge US.
 - Weapons analyst says missile could be powerful enough to reach Alaska
- **India-Thailand military exercise begins**





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

India and World

- **India becomes export country in Steel**

- According to Minister for Steel Chaudhary Birender Singh India for the first time has become a net export country in Steel.
- He said the steel imports in the country has gone down by 39% and exports has gone up by 102% last year.
- The crude steel production has registered 3.5 per cent growth during April-June 2017-18.

- **India to Become Biggest Milk Producer**

- According to a report by FAO & OECD, India is projected to become world's biggest milk producer over the next decade.
- India tripled its output during the first quarter of 21st century.
- India's milk output which was 160 million tonnes in 2016, is expected to reach 227 million tonnes by 2026.
- India's milk output in 2026 would be 1/3rd higher than that of 2nd largest producer, European Union.

- **India World's 3rd biggest beef exporter**

- According to a report by FAO and OECD, India is the world's 3rd biggest exporter of beef and is projected to hold on to that position over the next decade.





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- India exported 1.56 million tonnes of beef last year and is expected to account for 16% of global exports in 2026 by exporting 1.93 tonnes that year.
- The Outlook report ranked Brazil as world's top beef exporter, followed by Australia.
- **India to be 2nd largest 4G phone base**
 - According to a report by Counterpoint, with an estimated installed base of 340 million 4G devices, India will displace the US as the second largest market by next year.
 - With a base of 150 million users, India is currently placed behind China and the US.
 - Indian market is expected to grow at a faster pace, driven by increasing adoption of mobile Internet.
- **Assistance for construction of school**
 - India has extended Nepalese Rupees 66.44 million as financial assistance for construction of school buildings in Nepal.
 - Assistance under Small Development Programme Scheme is for infrastructure development for education.
 - New infrastructure would provide much-needed classroom space and would create an improved environment for learning and contribute to the development of education facilities.
- **Waterways to connect India & Bangladesh**
 - Bangladesh and India have signed a memorandum of Understanding to connect the North-East and West Bengal with Bangladesh through new waterways.
 - The new waterways would be set up by using major rivers of Bangladesh, West Bengal and Brahmaputra in Assam.
 - The project would be operational in the current year and boost the trade and passenger movement between the countries.





- **India 3rd largest terror target**
 - According to data compiled by US state department, India is 3rd largest terror target in 2016.
 - India stood at 3rd position displacing Pakistan behind Iraq & Afghanistan in terms of terror attacks.
 - Out of the 11,072 terror attacks across the world in 2016, 927 took place in India.
 - The US analysis labelled Naxals as the 3rd most deadly terror organisation in the world after ISIS and Taliban.
- **India and US collaboration in R&D**
 - India is collaborating with US on research and development of traditional medicines for various diseases including cancer.
 - It is for the first time India has successfully engaged with US in the field of traditional medicine.
 - An India-US workshop on traditional medicine with special focus on cancer was organized on March last year at New Delhi.
- **Agreement on N-energy comes into force**
 - India-Japan agreement for Cooperation in the Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy has come into force from today.
 - The agreement was signed on 11th November last year in Tokyo during Prime Minister Modi's visit to Japan.
 - The agreement seeks to promote full cooperation b/w the 2 countries in the development and uses of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes on a stable, reliable and predictable basis
- **Cabinet nod to tax MOC with BRICS nation**
 - Union Cabinet has approved signing of a memorandum of cooperation in respect of tax matters b/w India & revenue administrations of other BRICS countries.



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- It aims to promote cooperation among BRICS revenue administrations on common areas of interest in tax matters and in capacity building & knowledge sharing.
- It also accords confidentiality & protection to information exchanged under the MoC.
- **Bill on defence co-operation with India**
 - US House of Representatives has passed a \$621.5 billion defence policy bill that proposes to advance defence cooperation with India.
 - The National Defense Authorisation Act, 2018, was passed with 344 to 81 vote.
 - Following the passage of the NDAA, the Secretary of Defence and Secretary of State will have 180 days to develop a strategy for advancing defence cooperation between the 2 countries.
- **EU, India set up fund for investments**
 - European Union and India has announced establishment of an Investment Facilitation Mechanism for EU investments in India.
 - It will allow for a close coordination b/w EU and Govt of India with an aim to promote and facilitate EU investment in India.
 - EU Delegation to India and DIPP will hold regular high level meetings to assess and facilitate ease of doing business for EU investors in India.
- **Planning to migrate to other countries**
 - According to a report by the UN migration agency, India has the second highest number of adults planning to migrate to other countries.
 - Most popular destinations for those planning to migrate is US followed by UK, Saudi Arabia, France, Canada and Germany.
 - Half of those planning to migrate live in 20 countries, led by Nigeria and followed by India, Congo, Sudan, Bangladesh and China.
- **\$1 million to UN partnership fund**





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- India has contributed an additional million dollars to UN partnership fund launched to support sustainable development projects.
- The Fund was set up last month as a partnership b/w India & UNOSSC.
- India had made an initial contribution of a million dollars when the fund was created.
- Fund will support Southern-owned and transformational sustainable development projects across the world.
- **MoU between India & Palestine**
 - Union Cabinet has give its ex-post facto approval for signing a MoU b/w India & Palestine on cooperation in the field of Health & Medicine.
 - It will cover capacity building of health staff,prevention & control of communicable diseases ,rehabilitation & drugs, pharmaceuticals & medical equipments.
 - Cabinet was apprised of MoU b/w India & Palestine on Cooperation in the field of IT & Electronics
- **MUN Regional Conference begins in Nepal**
 - A Model United Nations Regional Conference is being held at Kathmandu.
 - It is organised by the US Embassy in partnership with the Youth Thinker's Society.
 - Youths from 12 South and Central Asian countries including India are participating in 5 day conference.
 - Aim of the MUN is to provide a platform to young minds to channelise energy and resources for a more prosperous and peaceful world.
- **Meeting of SAARC Minister of Law & Order**
 - 8th meeting of the SAARC Ministers of Law and Order has started in Colombo.





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- The 3 day meeting will focus on the issue of tackling terrorism apart from discussing liberalization of visa, illegal trafficking in narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances and small arms.
- Indian side is being led by a senior official in Ministry of Home affairs.
- Last meeting of SAARC Ministers was held in Pakistan.
- **ASEAN countries for 2018 Republic Day**
 - Centre is planning to invite leaders of 10 ASEAN nations for the Republic Day parade next year.
 - It is being seen as a major step towards the govt's 'Act East' policy.
 - India & ASEAN are marking 25 years of dialogue partnership this year.
 - Move is particularly significant considering India's current relationship with China. At least 4 of 10 ASEAN nations are involved in South China Sea dispute
- **India new global growth pole**
 - According to a Harvard University research, India will be the base to the economic pole of global growth over the coming decade with a 7.7% growth rate annually.
 - The study says India has made inroads in diversifying its export base to include more complex sectors like chemicals, vehicles and certain electronics.
 - The study warns of a continued slowdown in global growth over the coming decade.
- **India, Bangladesh to construct bridge**
 - India & Bangladesh have decided to construct a bridge over Mizoram's Khawthlangtuipei river to facilitate trade & improve communication.
 - The bridge has been proposed to be made as closer as possible to the nearest land custom station in Bangladesh side.
 - It would not only improve road connectivity but also strengthen ties b/w people of the 2 countries living both sides of the borders.





- **Srei joins hands with Russian Govt Bank**
 - Srei Infrastructure Finance has joined hands with Russian Govt-owned Vnesheconombank to create a \$200 Mn fund.
 - Fund aims to facilitate innovation in the field of IT.
 - The fund will serve as a two-way bridge between the Indian and Russian markets and create opportunities for India-Russia cross-border technology cooperation.
 - This MoU provides for a credit line to Srei of up to \$500 million
- **India slips to be 4th largest investor**
 - India has slipped by one spot to become the fourth-largest foreign investor into the UK.
 - India lost its position as the third largest investor in the UK to France which set up 131 projects last year while India could set up 127 new projects.
 - US remains on the top, investing in 577 projects in the UK, with China (including Hong Kong) remaining in second place with 160 projects.
- **India, Israel ink 7 agreements**
 - India and Israel signed as many as seven agreements on areas including space, tech, water and agriculture.
 - A MoU was signed for setting up of USD 40 million worth India-Israel Industrial Research and Development and Technical Innovation Fund.
 - Separate MoUs were signed on cooperation in GEO-LEO optical link and cooperation in Electric Propulsion for small satellites.
- **10th Session of the TEJC**
 - 10TH India-Jordan Trade and Economic Joint Committee Meeting was held in New Delhi.
 - India and Jordan discussed ways to increase cooperation in diverse areas like customs taxation and visa to promote trade and investments between the two countries.



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- Discussions were also held on ways to increase ties in sectors like maritime, air and rail transport, renewable energy, smart grid development.
- **5th Meeting of BRICS Education Ministers**
 - Meeting of BRICS Ministers of Education was held on 5th July, 2017 at Beijing, China.
 - Indian delegation was led by Prakash Javadekar, Minister of HRD.
 - He highlighted some of the initiatives of the Govt. of India in education like National Institutional Ranking Framework which provides a relative ranking of Indian institutions, India's indigenous MOOCs platform and SWAYAM among others.
- **A new Israeli flower named after Modi**
 - Commemorating Modi's visit to Israel, Danziger Flower Farm named the flower Chrysanthemum as Modi.
 - Modi visited the farm along with his Israeli counterpart Netanyahu where they were briefed about the latest technologies being used for floriculture.
 - The farm is one of Israel's leading floriculture companies with 80,000 m² of state-of-the-art greenhouses specialising in reproduction of plants.
- **65 MoUs signed at Textiles India 2017**
 - 65 MoU's in the textiles sector were signed on the 2nd day of mega textiles trade fair, Textiles India 2017 held in Gandhinagar, Gujarat.
 - MoUs were signed b/w various domestic & international organizations from industry and govt, 3 of the MoUs signed were G2G MoUs.
 - MoUs relate to exchange of information and documentation, Research & Development, commercialization of handloom products etc.
- **Highest GST rates in the world**
 - GST rates in India are highest in the world among the 140 countries that have implemented it so far.





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- India has 4 tax slabs: 5%, 12%, 18% and 28% which makes it the country with highest GST rate going past Argentina that levies 27% tax on goods and services.
- India has chosen the Canadian model of dual GST as it has a federal structure.
- France was the first country to implement GST
- **India asks Pak for consular access**
 - India has once again asked Pakistan to grant full and early consular access to its national Kulbhushan Jadhav who has been sentenced to death by a Pakistani military court.
 - India also requested early consular access to Hamid Nehal Ansari who was caught for illegally entering Pakistan from Afghanistan in 2012.
 - Jadhav has been sentenced to death on charges of espionage and sabotage activities.
- **\$500,000 to UN Peacebuilding Fund**
 - India has contributed 5 lakh US Dollars to the UN Peace Building Fund.
 - India has been a member of the Peacebuilding Commission since its inception in 2005 and has so far contributed \$5 million to the Peacebuilding Fund.
 - The fund was launched to support activities, actions, programmes and organisations that seek to build a lasting peace in countries emerging from conflict.

Resignation and Appointments

- **UK supreme court's 1st female president**
 - UK govt has appointed Brenda Marjorie Hale as the first female president of the Supreme Court, the senior-most judge of the country.





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- She will take charge as the head of Britain's top judging panel in September following the retirement of current President, Lord Neuberger.
- She was the first woman to be appointed to the Law Commission in 1984 and has served as a counsel to Queen Elizabeth.
- **Baglay appointed Joint Secretary in PMO**
 - Senior diplomat and external affairs ministry spokesperson Gopal Baglay has been appointed as Joint Secretary in the PMO.
 - He has been appointed in place of Vinay Mohan Kwatra, who has been already named as India's ambassador to Paris.
 - Appointments Committee of the Cabinet has approved Baglay's appointment to the post for 3 years.
 - Baglay is a 1992 batch Indian Foreign Service officer.
- **Secretary to new President**
 - Sanjay Kothari, Chairman of Public Enterprises Selection Board, has been appointed as Secretary to President-elect Ram Nath Kovind.
 - The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet, headed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has cleared the appointments for an initial period of two years.
 - Kothari, a 1978-batch IAS officer of Haryana cadre, retired in June last year as DoPT secretary.
- **Natarajan as MD of India operations**
 - Adobe Systems has appointed Shanmugh Natarajan as the managing director for Adobe Systems in India.
 - Natarajan, who was formerly the executive director, will continue to lead Adobe operations in India, in addition to his ongoing responsibility as vice president.
 - Natarajan has been instrumental in leading product development of products like Adobe Illustrator, InDesign & Lightroom.
- **Smriti Irani Gets Additional Charge**





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- Textile minister Smriti Zubin Irani has been given the additional charge of information and broadcasting.
- She gets additional charge as Venkaiah Naidu resigned from the post following his nomination as National Democratic Alliance's vice-presidential candidate.
- She will be the 4th I&B minister appointed in 3 years by the Modi government.
- Prior to textile ministry, Irani held HRD ministry.
- **Limaye to take over as NSE CEO**
 - Vikram Limaye will take charge as Managing Director & Chief Executive Officer of National Stock Exchange of India.
 - Limaye had been relieved by Supreme Court of his responsibilities on the committee of administrators of the Board of Control for Cricket in India with immediate effect.
 - He was shortlisted as the chief executive of NSE after Chitra Ramkrishna resigned as chief executive officer.
- **UNICEF's Global Goodwill Ambassador**
 - UNICEF has appointed Indian-origin Canadian YouTube Lilly Singh as its newest Global Goodwill Ambassador.
 - Lilly who has around 11.9 million subscribers on YouTube, will use her channel to showcase the organisation's work and urge millions of her followers to work for children's rights.
 - She has also started a new initiative on social media #GirlLove - which aims to end girl-on-girl hate.
- **Tata Sons appoints Chief Digital Officer**
 - Tata Sons has appointed Aarthi Subramanian to a newly-created post of Chief Digital Officer.





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- Subramanian will continue to serve on TCS' board as a non-executive director and will report to Tata Sons' Executive Chairman N. Chandrasekaran.
- Subramanian has over 26 years of experience in the global technology sector and has worked in diverse roles in India, Sweden, US and Canada.
- **Iran Air appoints first female CEO**
 - Iran has appointed a female CEO to lead its national airline, Iran Air, for the first time since its inception in the 1940s.
 - Iran's Transport minister appointed Farzaneh Sharafbani as the CEO of Iran Air.
 - Farzaneh Sharafbani holds a PhD in aerospace engineering and has previously served on the board of Iran Air.
 - Iran is in the process of revamping its ageing passenger fleet.
- **DHFL Insurance appoints Sinha as MD**
 - DHFL General Insurance has appointed Vijay Sinha as managing director and chief executive effective from June 1.
 - Prior to this, Sinha has worked at organisations like Life Insurance Corporation of India, Tata AIA Life Insurance Company and Bajaj Allianz Life Insurance Company.
 - DHFL General Insurance is a general insurance venture promoted by Wadhawan Global Capital.
- **Twitter names Ned Segal as new CFO**
 - Twitter has named former Goldman Sachs investment banker Ned Segal as its new chief financial officer.
 - Segal takes over Anthony Noto, who has been doing double duty as both COO and CFO since November.
 - The move comes as Twitter is trying to renew interest in its service.
 - Segal had been working at Goldman Sachs for nearly 17 years before serving as CFO for RPX.





- **GST intelligence agency gets new chief**
 - Senior bureaucrat John Joseph has been appointed as the Director General of Goods and Services Tax Intelligence (DG GSTI).
 - Joseph is a 1983 batch officer of IRS, has worked in Finance Ministry's important departments, including the DRI.
 - DG GSTI is the new name given to Directorate General of Central Excise Intelligence, mandated to check service tax and central excise duty evasion.
- **Raninder Singh re-elected NRAI president**
 - Raninder Singh has been re-elected as president of the National Rifle Association of India for another 4 year term.
 - He defeated Shyam Singh Yadav, president of Uttar Pradesh Rifle Association with an overwhelming 89-1 margin.
 - He is an active trap shooter and has participated in ISSF World Cups and National Championships.
 - Raninder is the son of Punjab Chief Minister Capt Amarinder Singh.
- **Battulga wins presidential election**
 - Former martial arts star and businessman Khaltmaa Battulga has won Mongolia's presidential run-off election.
 - Battulga of the Democratic Party won with 50.6% of the vote on a 60.9% turnout and defeated Miyeegombo Enkhbold of the ruling Mongolian People's party.
 - The poll was seen as a referendum on the government's economic recovery plans and the role of southern neighbour China in Mongolia.
- **Microsoft CIO Jim DuBois resigns**
 - Microsoft's chief information officer, Jim DuBois has decided to quit the company amid a broader reshuffling of its global sales organization to focus on cloud services.
 - DuBois had been with Microsoft since 1993 and was named CIO in 2013.



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- News came after Microsoft announced nearly 4000 job cuts from its global sales force outside US.
- Kurt DelBene will replace DuBois as Chief Digital Officer
- **Saima as goodwill ambassador for autism**
 - Saima Wazed Hossain has been appointed as the WHO goodwill ambassador for autism in South-East Asia.
 - She has been appointed as the goodwill ambassador for a period of 2 years.
 - As a Goodwill Ambassador she will be promoting Thimphu declaration which also emphasises on integrating the needs of autism affected people, into national health and socioeconomic development plans.
- **Goenka Renominated IIT-K Chairman**
 - Industrialist Sanjiv Goenka has been renominated as chairman, Board of Governors (BoG) of IIT-Kharagpur, for the second time.
 - President Pranab Mukherjee, in his capacity as visitor of the institute has nominated Sanjiv Goenka, Chairman, RP-Sanjiv Goenka Group for the role for a period of three years.
 - Mr. Goenka has served as chairman of IIT-Kharagpur from 2002-2007.
- **Non-executive chairman of Union Bank**
 - Union Bank of India has appointed Kewal Handa as its non-executive chairman.
 - The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet has approved Handa's appointment as non-official director/non-executive chairman of the bank.
 - Handa will hold the post for a period of three years.
 - Union Bank is one of the largest government-owned banks of India headquartered at Mumbai.
- **MFIN re-elects President**
 - Microfinance Institutions Network has re-elected Rakesh Dubey as its president for the second term.





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- The industry association and self-regulator for the NBFC-MFIs has also elected Devesh Sachdev, chief executive of Fusion Microfinance as vice president.
- Prior to joining the SVCL, Dubey was involved in the formation of Sonata Finance and Cashpor Micro Credit.
- **Cisco India President quits**
 - Cisco India and South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation president Dinesh Malkani has resigned at the networking solutions giant to take on a leadership role at a start-up.
 - Malkani will continue in his role until 31st July and remain associated with Cisco till the end of September.
 - He had joined Cisco in 2010 to lead the collaboration technologies team in Asia Pacific, Japan & China.
- **Signature Global's new Brand Ambassador**
 - Realty firm Signature Global, which is into development of affordable homes, has roped in Bollywood actress Vidya Balan as brand ambassador.
 - She has been signed as Signature Global's brand ambassador for two years.
 - Signature Global has launched 9 affordable housing projects, comprising about 9300 units in a price range of Rs 15-25 lakh, in Gurgaon in the last three years of operations.
- **New NDRF Chief appointed**
 - Himachal Pradesh director general of police Sanjay Kumar has been appointed as the new chief of the National Disaster Response Force.
 - The post of NDRF director general (DG) fell vacant after incumbent R K Pachnanda was appointed as the chief of the Indo-Tibetan Border Police.
 - Kumar, who is the director general of police in Himachal Pradesh, is set to retire in December next year.
- **New chief election commissioner**





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- Centre has named Election Commissioner Achal Kumar Joti as the next Chief Election Commissioner of India.
- He will succeed Nasim Zaidi and will take charge as the CEC on July 6.
- He is an IAS officer of 1975 batch from Gujarat cadre and has served as chief secretary of Gujarat during Narendra Modi's tenure as chief minister.
- He will be the 21st Chief Election Commissioner of India.
- **Chandra to be chairman of Tata Global**
 - Tata Global Beverages has appointed Tata Sons chairman N Chandrasekaran as chairman of its Board with immediate effect.
 - He will replace Harish Bhat as the chairman of Tata Global Beverages, the No. 2 tea player in the world.
 - Chandrasekaran also chairs the Boards of several group operating companies, including Tata Steel, Tata Motors, Tata Power, Indian Hotels and Tata Consultancy Services.
- **Uhel to lead UN Syria war crimes probe**
 - UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres has appointed Catherine Marchi-Uhel to lead an international panel tasked with gathering evidence of war crimes in Syria's 6 year war.
 - She has served as an international judge in Kosovo, Cambodia and at war crimes court for the former Yugoslavia.
 - She currently works as the ombudsperson for a Security Council committee that deals with IS group & Al-Qaeda.
- **New CEO of Syndicate Bank**
 - Melwyn Rego, former chairman of the Bank of India, has been appointed as managing director and chief executive officer of the Syndicate Bank.
 - Rego assumed the charge on 1 July.





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- He had earlier served as deputy managing director of IDBI Bank, CEO of IDBI Homefinance and as its Head- International Banking Division spearheading the overseas initiatives of IDBI.
- **Economic Relations Secretary appointed**
 - Vijay Gokhale, currently Indian Ambassador to China, has been appointed as Secretary (Economic Relations) in the Ministry of External Affairs.
 - He has served as Ambassador of India to Germany and also in Indian missions in Hong Kong, Hanoi, Beijing and New York.
 - Gokhale will replace Amar Sinha, who had held the post for over a year.
- **Pachnanda takes charge as DG of ITBP**
 - Senior IPS officer R K Pachnanda took charge as the chief of the Indo-China border guarding force ITBP.
 - Prior to his appointment, he was serving as the DG of National Disaster Response Force.
 - He is a 1983-batch police officer of West Bengal cadre and was handed over the baton of about 90,000-personnel by outgoing Director General Krishna Chaudhary.
 - He is the 29th Chief of the ITBP.
- **Shamma appointed Indian envoy to Greece**
 - Senior diplomat Shamma Jain has been appointed as India's ambassador to Greece.
 - She will succeed M Manimekalai as Indian envoy in Greece.
 - Shamma is a 1983-batch Indian Foreign Service officer and is currently serving as Indian envoy to Panama.
 - She had earlier served as ambassador to Cote d'Ivoire and has served in Indian missions in Italy, Philippines, Washington DC, Turkey and Argentina.
- **Infy names Sundaram Independent Director**





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- Infosys has appointed TVS Capital Funds Vice Chairman and MD D Sundaram as an independent Director of the company, with effect from July 14.
- The decision was taken on the basis of recommendations by the Nomination and Remuneration Committee of the Board.
- Sundaram is a fellow of the Institute of Cost and Management Accountants, India and a Post Graduate in Management Studies.
- **New CEO & MD of L&T**
 - SN Subrahmanyam will take charge as the chief executive officer and managing director of Larsen & Toubro.
 - The appointment marks a major change in leadership positions at L&T where Naik has served for over 52 years.
 - Subrahmanyam is currently the deputy managing director and president of L&T.
 - He will assume the new role of non-executive chairman for a period of 3 years beginning 1 October.

Obituaries

- **Uzhavoor Vijayan passes away**
 - Nationalist Congress Party Kerala state president Uzhavoor Vijayan passed away at a private hospital in Kochi.
 - He was known for his speech containing political wits, later joined the NCP and rose to the rank of its president.
 - He began his political career during his college days as a leader of the Kerala Students Union, the student wing of the Indian National Congress.
- **Chester Bennington commits suicide**
 - Chester Bennington, the lead singer of American rock band Linkin Park, allegedly committed suicide.





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- Bennington's death came a week before the band was due to kick off the US leg of the tour on July 27 in Mansfield, Massachusetts.
- It also came the same day as the release of Linkin Park's music video "Talking to Myself."
- He reportedly had a history of alcohol and drug abuse.
- **Maryam Mirzakhani dies at 40**
 - Maryam Mirzakhani, an Iranian- born mathematician who was the first woman to win the coveted Fields Medal, has died of cancer.
 - Mirzakhani, a professor at Stanford University in California won the Fields Medal, the equivalent of the Nobel Prize for Mathematics in 2014.
 - She was named for her work on complex geometry and dynamic systems.
 - She was born in Tehran and studied there and at Harvard.
- **MD & CEO of Oriental Bank**
 - The Centre has appointed Mukesh Kumar Jain as Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of Oriental Bank of Commerce.
 - He has been appointed to the post of MD and CEO for a period of 3 years.
 - Prior to this appointment, he was an Executive Director at Punjab & Sind Bank.
 - He comes in the place of Animesh Chauhan, who has superannuated.
- **Chinese Nobel Peace laureate passes away**
 - Chinese activist and Nobel Peace Prize laureate Liu Xiaobo has died at the age of 61.
 - He was sentenced to 11 years in prison in December 2009 for "subversion".
 - He was recently moved from prison to a hospital in Shenyang to be treated for late-stage liver cancer.
 - Chinese govt had refused to let him seek treatment overseas despite Liu's wishes and international pressure.
- **P Chandra Sekharan passes away**





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- Renowned forensic expert and Padma Bhushan awardee Prof Dr P Chandra Sekharan passed away.
- He served over 30 years as director of Department of Forensic Sciences, Govt of Tamil Nadu.
- He played a key role in numerous sensational cases including the assassination case of former PM Rajiv Gandhi in 1991.
- He was author of many books including "The first human bomb," based on Rajiv Gandhi case.
- **Mangesh Tendulkar Passes away**
 - Renowned cartoonist Mangesh Tendulkar died after brief illness at a private hospital in Pune.
 - Brother of late famous playwright Vijay Tendulkar, Tendulkar played an active life and expressed his straightforward views about various civic issues.
 - He was conferred with the president's medal in 1980, Marathi Natya Parishad Award in 1993 and Pulotsav award in 2003 among several other honours.
- **Naresh Chandra passes away**
 - Former Indian Ambassador to the United States, Naresh Chandra has passed away.
 - He passed away due to multiple organ failure at Manipal Hospitals in Goa.
 - Chandra had served as the Cabinet Secretary from 1990–92 and was the Indian Ambassador to the US from 1996 to 2001.
 - He was awarded India's second highest civil awards, the Padma Vibhushan, in 2007.
- **Sumita Sanyal passes away**
 - Veteran actor Sumita Sanyal, who had worked in both Bengali and Hindi cinema, passed away at the age of 71.
 - She was best known for her role in superhit Bollywood flick "Anand".





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- She was married to film editor Subodh Roy, and had acted in over 30 Bengali films, including the Dilip Kumar starrer Sagina Mahato.
- **Dilip Pendse commits suicide**
 - Tata Finance's dismissed managing director Dilip Pendse allegedly committed suicide at his office in Mumbai.
 - In October 2014, SEBI had found Pendse guilty of illegal trades and banned him from accessing capital markets for two years.
 - Pendse was dismissed from Tata Finance in 2001 after the company arm ran huge losses and the group filed criminal charges against him.
- **Madhukar Toradmal passes away**
 - Veteran Marathi actor-writer Madhukar Toradmal has passed away.
 - Toradmal was a writer, director and actor. He had acted in Marathi as well as Hindi films including “Simhasan,” “AapliManasa”, “Atmavishwas” and “Raakh”.
 - The Marathi play “Tarun Turk Mhatre Urk”, which he wrote and acted in, ran for as many as 5,000 shows.
- **Simone Veil passes away**
 - Simone Veil, the iconic European feminist politician, has passed away in Paris, France.
 - She played a leading role in legalizing contraception and abortion in France. She was the first female President of the European parliament since the Parliament was created in 1952.
 - She was a Holocaust survivor. She lost her entire family to the Nazis.

Global Lists/Index

- **Strong potential for digital payments**
 - According to Digital Evolution Index 2017, India exhibits a high potential in terms of digital payments.





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- India has been placed under "break out" segment among 60 countries.
- Break out segment refers to countries that have relatively lower absolute levels of digital advancement yet remain poised for growth.
- Index measures 4 key drivers - supply, demand, institutional environment & innovation
- **J&K tops list on human rights violation**
 - According to the data released by Union home ministry, Human rights violations under Armed Forces Special Powers Act are highest in Jammu & Kashmir, followed by Assam.
 - 92 complaints against the Indian Army and paramilitary forces were registered in Jammu and Kashmir in 2016.
 - AFSPA gives powers to Army & central forces deployed in disturbed areas to kill anyone acting in contravention of law.
- **Bengaluru ranks 40**
 - According to a report by Dell, Bengaluru ranks at the 40th spot among the top 50 global cities that foster high-potential women entrepreneurs.
 - The only other Indian city in the top 50 tally is Delhi at the 49th spot.
 - New York ranked topped the list, followed by Bay Area, London, Boston and Stockholm.
 - Globally, women's entrepreneurship rates are growing more than 10 per cent each year
- **Commitment to Reducing Inequality Index**
 - India has been ranked 132 out of 152 countries in an index that rates countries by their commitment to reducing inequality.
 - Report noted that govt spending on health, education and social protection was woefully low in India.
 - Sweden topped the list while Nigeria was at the bottom. US had the highest level of inequality among developed countries.
- **South India Writers Ensemble in Kerala**





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- Kerala will host the 5th edition of South India Writers Ensemble to be held at Chengannur from July 24.
- 3 day annual literary gathering is aimed at bringing about an enriching interaction between writers from different languages and regions.
- Core theme of the festival this year is "tolerance".
- Writers, journalists and film personalities will seen deliberating on tolerance at the festival.
- **Gujarat Retains Top Slot**
 - According to a report by economic think-tank NCAER, Gujarat has retained the top position in the list of 21 states and UTs with most investment potential.
 - Ranking were based on 6 pillars - Labour, Infrastructure, Economic Climate, Governance & political stability, perceptions & land.
 - While Gujarat topped in economic climate & perceptions, Delhi ranked 1 in infrastructure.
- **India tops the world in spam calls**
 - According to a report by Truecaller, India tops the list of countries most affected by spam calls.
 - India is ahead of countries like US, Brazil, Chile & South Africa with an average user receiving over 22 spam calls a month.
 - Telcos and telemarketing accounted for a major chunk of the spam calls at 54% & 13% respectively.
 - 3% of spam calls are scams, while 1% is insurance related.
- **Customer Satisfaction Index Survey**
 - Raipur's Swami Vivekananda Airport has been ranked first in Customer Satisfaction among 49 airports in the country.
 - Raipur Airport achieved 4.84 score on a 5 point scale index followed by Udaipur, Amritsar and Dehradun airports which have scored 4.75, 4.74 and 4.73 respectively.





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- Survey covers a wide range of parameters like transportation, parking, passenger facilities and cleanliness etc.
- **India ranks 116 on SDG index**
 - India is ranked 116th out of 157 nations on a sustainable development goal index with a score of 58.1.
 - India is behind Nepal, Sri Lanka, Bhutan & China. Sweden topped the list followed by Denmark & Finland.
 - SDG index is a global index that assesses performance of countries towards achieving the ambitious sustainable development goals.
 - It ranks countries on their performance across 17 SDGs
- **Abu Dhabi top choice for Indians**
 - Indians see Abu Dhabi as the top city, followed by Mumbai, Singapore, Delhi and London, according to the 2017 edition of the Ipsos Top Cities Index.
 - Globally Delhi is ranked in 40th position followed by Mumbai in 41st position out of 60 global cities.
 - People in 26 countries worldwide were asked which, from a list of 60 global cities, they felt were best to live in, do business in, and visit.
- **India ranks 23rd in cybersecurity index**
 - India is ranked a high 23rd out of 165 nations in a global index that measures the commitment of nations across the world to cybersecurity.
 - India ranked 23rd with a score of 0.683 and has been listed in "maturing" category.
 - Index has been topped by Singapore with a 0.925 score.
 - United States and Malaysia stood at second and third position respectively while Russia stood at 11th position.





Places In News

- **World's longest suspension footbridge**

- The longest pedestrian suspension bridge in the world was officially opened in Switzerland..
- At 494 metres long, it overtakes the “Titan-RT” bridge in Germany as the world’s longest pedestrian suspension bridge.
- The steel bridge which connects 2 sections of a walking trail b/w Grächen & Zermatt in the south of the country, was unveiled after a construction period of just 10 weeks.

- **29 cities vulnerable to earthquakes**

- According to National Centre for Seismology, 29 Indian cities & towns including Delhi & capitals of 9 states fall under severe to very severe seismic zones.
- Majority of these places are in Himalayas, one of the most seismically active regions in the world.
- BIS has classified different regions into zones II to V taking into consideration earthquake records, tectonic activities & damage caused

- **Mission to uncover secrets of Zealandia**

- Scientists have set sail on a mission to uncover the secrets of “lost continent” of Zealandia.
- Zealandia, which is mostly submerged beneath the South Pacific, was once part of Gondwana super-continent but broke away some 75 million years ago.
- The drill ship JOIDES Resolution is undertaking 2 month expedition to Zealandia to better understand major changes in global tectonic configuration.

- **Charging Stations Installed in Bengaluru**



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- Under Faster Adoption and Manufacturing of Electric Vehicles in India Scheme, 25 Charging Stations have been installed at 6 different locations in Bengaluru.
- These have been installed by M/s Mahindra REVA Electric Vehicles, as a pilot project.
- Based on the proposals received under FAME Scheme, charging infrastructure in selected locations would be sanctioned by Department of Heavy Industries
- **PM Modi inaugurates Kalam's memorial**
 - Prime Minister Modi inaugurated a memorial dedicated to former president A P J Abdul Kalam at Peikarumbu on his 2nd death anniversary.
 - With 'unity in diversity' as its theme, memorial features quotes of Kalam and his pictures as a scientist and as the president of the country.
 - Resembling the arch of India Gate, memorial has on display replica of rockets & missiles on which Kalam had worked.
- **Dubai named UN city data hub for region**
 - UN has selected Dubai as data hub for Middle East North Africa & South Asia region for its initiatives to mine & manage its data.
 - The designation will be part of a portfolio of local & regional data portals, analytics and reports to engage stakeholders.
 - It will also serve as a dedicated platform for city-to-city learning & solutions transfer across metropolitan, national and global contexts.
- **Okinoshima gets World Heritage status**
 - A sacred island in south-west Japan "Okinoshima" has been declared a UNESCO world heritage site.
 - Women are banned on the islands while men have to take off their clothes and undergo a cleansing ritual before setting foot on the island. Only 200 visitors are allowed each year.





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- Okinoshima is home to the Okitsu shrine, built in the 17th century to pray for the safety of sailors.
- **India's first World Heritage City**
 - Ahmedabad has been declared as a World Heritage City at the 41st session of UNESCO's world heritage committee meet in Karkow in Poland.
 - It is the first time an Indian city was declared a world heritage property.
 - With this title, Ahmedabad has joined Paris, Vienna, Cairo, Brussels, Rome & Edinburgh.
 - Nomination of Ahmedabad was supported by about 20 countries including Peru, Cuba and others.
- **Hebron in World Heritage List**
 - UNESCO infuriated Israel as it voted to list the biblical West Bank city of Hebron as a world heritage site in danger.
 - 12 countries on the world heritage committee voted in favour of the Palestinian request to name Hebron a heritage site, while only 3 voted against it.
 - The move makes Hebron's old city the 3rd Palestinian world heritage site.
- **PM Modi adopts wrestlers' village**
 - PM Narendra Modi will adopt Kakrahia, a village known for its wrestlers and wrestling arenas, under the Sansad Adarsh Gram Yojana.
 - This will be the 3rd village to be adopted by Modi in his Lok Sabha constituency of Varanasi.
 - In past 2 years, Modi adopted Jayapur and Nagpur, as his first and second villages.
 - SAGY is a rural development programme focusing upon the development in the villages.
- **India's largest fresh water aquarium**





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- Jharkhand Chief Minister has inaugurated India's largest fresh water aquarium in Bhagwan Birsa Munda Biodiversity Park premises and laying the foundation stone for the upcoming Eco Park at Ormanjhi in Ranchi.
- It houses over 1,500 fishes from 120 fish species displayed in 58 fish tanks.
- It is built at a cost of Rs. 5.67 crore
- **India's first-ever mega trade event**
 - PM Modi inaugurated Textiles India 2017, India's first ever mega textiles trade fair at Gandhinagar, Gujarat.
 - Event is organised by Union Ministry of Textiles, aimed at showcasing India as a global sourcing hub and investment destination.
 - Event is expected to see participation from 2,500 international buyers over a 1,000 international & domestic exhibitors and several top fashion designers.

Person In News

- **Raveesh Kumar to be MEA spokesperson**
 - Consul General of India in Frankfurt Raveesh Kumar will be the next Ministry of External Affairs spokesperson.
 - This comes after Senior diplomat and current MEA spokesperson Gopal Baglay was appointed as Joint Secretary in the Prime Minister's Office.
 - He joined Indian Foreign Service in 1995 and started his career at Indian Mission in Jakarta, after which he was posted in Thimpu and London.
- **Deepika to become an Academy member**
 - Deepika Padukone has been inducted as one of the newest members of the Academy of Motion Picture of Arts & Sciences, Class of 2017.
 - Deepika made her Hollywood debut with Vin Diesel's "xXx: Return of Xander Cage.





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- AMPAS has invited 774 new members from 57 countries around the world to join the organisation's ranks.
- Apart from Deepika, Priyanka Chopra has also joined the Academy Class of 2017.
- **Gill elected to key Parliament panel**
 - Britain's first woman Sikh MP Preet Kaur Gill has been elected to Home Affairs Select Committee in the UK Parliament.
 - Labour Party candidate Preet Kaur Gill became Britain's first female Sikh to be a member of parliament after she won her Birmingham Edgbaston seat in the June 8 snap general election.
 - She has also been chosen to lead the All Party Parliamentary Group for British Sikhs.
- **Ex-Brazil Prez sentenced to 9 years**
 - Former Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva has been convicted of corruption charges & sentenced to 9 & a half years in prison.
 - He was found guilty of accepting an apartment as a bribe in a corruption scandal linked to state oil company Petrobras.
 - He served 8 years as president until 2011, has expressed interest in running again in next year's elections for left-wing Workers' Party.
- **Mallya quits as India's representative**
 - Vijay Mallya has quit as Indian motorsport body's top representative in the world body FIA after intervention from the sports ministry.
 - He resigned ahead of the last meeting of FIA's World Motor Sport Council in June following ministry's directive to Federation of Motor Sports Club of India.
 - Mallya was also removed as FMSCI honorary chairman as a result of his mounting troubles.





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