



Current Affair Capsule February 2017

Awards and Honors

- Sehgal bags "Entrepreneur of the Year"
 - Vivek Chaand Sehgal of Motherson Sumi Systems Ltd has been awarded the Entrepreneur of the Year 2016 award by assurance, tax, transaction and advisory services firm Ernst & Young (EY).
 - Sehgal will now represent India at the EY World Entrepreneur of the Year Award in Monte Carlo from June 7 to 11, 2017.
 - Infosys Co-founder Nandan Nilekani was honored with the Lifetime Achievement Award.
- Haryana gave Bhim Awards
 - Haryana government gave away the Bhim awards to 42 sports persons of the state, spotting them for their outstanding performance at the national and international fronts.
 - The awards were given by the CM Manohar Lal Khattar and Governor Kaptan Singh Solanki at a function held at Haryana Raj Bhawan on 19 February.
 - A total prize money of Rs 2.10 crore was distributed among the 42 sports persons
- Katamati Mine Wins Best Green Org Award
 - Katamati Iron Mine, owned by Tata Steel, was conferred with the Best Green Organisation of the Year Award, at the Global Green Future Leadership Awards.
 - Prize was honored to Katamati Iron Mine in recognition of its environmental protection measures.













- The Global Green Future Leadership Awards is awarded to any organization that participates in environmentally friendly or green activities.
- EDII wins International Mercury Award
 - Ahmedabad-based EDII, an acknowledged national resource institute for entrepreneurship education, research, training and institution-building, has received the prestigious International Mercury Awards for the year 2016-17.
 - o International Mercury Awards is the world's only independent awards org.
 - o It is given to honor outstanding achievement in professional communications in around 80 countries
- Newton wins Art Cinema honour
 - Raj Kummar Rao and Anjali Patil-starrer political satire Newton, which had its world premiere at the 67th Berlin International Film Festival (also called Berlinale), has won the CICAE award in its Forum segment.
 - Rao shared the news on Twitter by congratulating the entire team of the Amit Masurkar-directed movie.
 - o The movie, revolves around the story of a rookie clerk on election duty.
- Panaroma Film Festival
 - The five-day 'Indian Panorama Film Festival' is being organised in Port Blair.
 - o 15 popular as well as award winning films, of different languages and genre will be screened at two different venues.
 - The Directorate of Film Festivals in India is an organisation that initiates and presents the International Film Festival of India, the National Film Awards and the Indian Panorama.
- Adele creates history at Grammys
 - o Adele grabbed all five awards she was nominated in.











- She's the first artist in Grammy history to sweep the top three categories twice, and now has a total of 15 Grammys.
- She beat Beyonce in the top three categories with her comeback album 25, and repeated her accomplishments of 2012.
- Surgeon Raghu Ram wins B C Roy award
 - o Dr P Raghu Ram, has won the prestigious Dr B C Roy national award for 'outstanding service in the field of socio medical relief' for 2016.
 - o The award is the highest recognition for medical practitioners in India
 - It would be conferred on Ram by President Pranab Mukherjee on July
 1,which is observed as Doctors day
- Indian-origin artist wins Genesis prize
 - Indian-origin British sculptor Anish Kapoor was honored with the prestigious \$1 million 2017 Genesis Prize for his utmost contribution for Jewish community.
 - The Genesis Prize was founded in 2012 with a prize of \$1 million & is given to people who inspire the next generation of Jews worldwide.
 - o Anish will however donate the money to help the Syrian refugees.
- PM Modi to be 'Guest of Honour'
 - Prime Minister Narendra Modi will attend the St. Petersburg International Economic Forum in Russia, scheduled from June 1 to 3, as the 'Guest of Honour'.
 - o The forum is an annual Russian business event for the economic sector that witnesses more than 4,000 people from over 60 different countries every year.
 - The key purpose of the forum is to provide a practical tool for business.











Books and Authors

- Book on Judicial Reforms
 - PM Narendra Modi inaugurated book named 'Judicial Reforms Recent Global Trends' (February 22, 2017) at Rashtrapati Bhavan.
 - The book 'Judicial Reforms Recent Global Trends' brought out by the India International Law Foundation is the outcome of a Seminar on 'Recent Trends in Judicial Reforms: A Global Perspective' held in January 2013 in New Delhi.
- Braille Atlas for visually impaired
 - Science and Technology Minister Dr Harsh Vardhan today released Braille
 Atlas for visually impaired persons in New Delhi
 - o The Atlas will be distributed free of cost to various schools across the country for educating the students with visual challenges
 - About 20 maps on different themes of physical, socio-economic and cultural aspects of the country have been incorporated in the Atlas.

Business and Economy

- TCS Ranked Among Top Three IT Brands
 - o India's largest software services firm Tata Consultancy Services has been rated as one of the top three 'most-valuable brands' in the Information Technology service sector by Brand Finance, the leading global brand valuation firm.
 - As IBM and Accenture are on the top two positions.
 - o However, the overall global position of the company dropped down by one spot to 25th from 2016 when it was 24th.











- AAI, IATA launch e-billing solution
 - Airports Authority of India, along with International Air Transport
 Association launched its e-billing solution for airport operators and air navigation services providers across the world
 - The e-billing solution, "SKYREV360" will help airport operators and air navigation services providers worldwide to overcome the issues of revenue leakages, besides reducing redundancies
- India, ADB ink \$375 mn loan pact
 - India and Asian Development Bank (ADB) have signed USD 375 million pact for loans and grants to develop 800 km Visakhapatnam,—Chennai Industrial Corridor, which is the first phase of a planned 2,500-km East Coast Economic Corridor.
 - ADB had last September, 2016 approved USD 631 million in loans and grants for the industrial corridor.
- Rajasthan 2nd largest crude oil producer
 - Rajasthan has become the second largest crude oil producer in the country after the offshore field Bombay High, Governor Kalyan Singh said in the Assembly by highlighting the achievements of the state government.
 - o Mr. Singh stated that oilfields in the state were producing nearly 90 lakh tones oil annually, which is 24% of the total domestic crude oil production.
- Series IV sovereign gold bond scheme
 - The government is set to issue series IV sovereign gold bond scheme on 17
 March.
 - o The tenure of the bond will be for a period of eight years with an exit option from the fifth year to be exercised on the interest payment dates.













An individual can minimum invest one gram in the scheme per fiscal year while maximum limit according to the scheme is set at 500 grams for the same period.

Vizag - India's first 'less cash' city

- o Global payments network Visa has signed a MoU with the Andhra Pradesh government to help transform Vishakhapatnam into India's first 'less cash' city.
- o This initiative is designed to provide the foundation for the city to emerge as India's 'Fintech Valley'.
- Another focus area of Visa will be to provide support to FinTech start-ups by providing access to Visa's APIs.

Mobile Application for GST

- o Central Board of Excise and Customs (CBEC) launches a Mobile Application for GST to inform the taxpayers of the latest updates on GST among others.
- The Mobile Application enables taxpayers to be well informed of the latest updates on GST.
- Taxpayers can also provide feedback and contact CBEC's 24x7 helpdesk "CBEC Mitra" through a toll-free number or email, at the touch of a button.

World Bank

- The World Bank (WB) is an international financial institution consists of five organizations- IBRD, IDA, IFC, MIGA, ICSID.
- The World Bank is a component of the World Bank Group, which is part of the United Nations system.
- The World Bank Group headquarters is in Washington, D.C.
- The World Bank was created at the 1944 Bretton Woods Conference.









• World Trade Organization

- o The World Trade Organization (WTO) is an intergovernmental organization which regulates international trade.
- o The WTO officially commenced on 1 January 1995 under the Marrakesh Agreement, signed by 123 nations on 15 April 1994, replacing the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), which commenced in 1948.
- The headquarters of the World Trade Organization in Geneva,
 Switzerland.
- Telangana Govt Signs MoU With NABARD
 - The Telangana Government lead by K. Chandrashekar Rao signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with NABARD for a loan of Rs 874 crore.
 - This loan will be used for Horticulture Development Corporation to cover
 3.15 lakh acres under Micro Irrigation scheme for 2016-17 and 2017-18.
 - o NABARD was founded on July 12, 1982 with headquarters in Mumbai.

Days and Events

- National Science Day
 - o In order to push science as an important subject and to develop the passion towards it among the Indian youth, India celebrates the National Science day on February 28 every year.
 - Sir Chandrasekhara Venkata Raman, a world renowned Physicist, made a path-breaking discovery which later was named as the Raman effect.
 - He was awarded the knighthood in the year 1929 & won the Nobel Prize in 1930.













- International Mother Language Day
 - UNESCO celebrates International Mother Language Day on Feb 21 under the theme 'Towards Sustainable Futures through Multilingual Education'.
 - o To foster sustainable development, learners must have access to education in their mother tongue & in other languages.
 - o It is through the mastery of the first language or mother tongue that the basic skills of reading, writing and numeracy are acquired.
- February 20: World Day of Social Justice
 - World Day of Social Justice is a day recognizing the need to promote efforts to tackle issues such as poverty, exclusion and unemployment
 - The United Nations General Assembly has decided to observe 20 February annually, approved on 26 November 2007 and starting in 2009, as the World Day of Social Justice
 - The 2017 theme is, "Preventing conflict and sustaining peace through decent work"
- Festival celebrates natural heritage
 - France based UNESCO organized the 2 day Nature Fest at the World
 Heritage Site Great Himalayan National Park at Sairopa in Kullu district.
 - o The festival was organized in collaboration with the Wildlife Institute of India and would be attended by prominent conservationists.
- PM extends greetings on World Radio Day
 - o Prime Minister Narendra Modi has extended his greetings to the nation on the occasion of the World Radio Day
 - World Radio Day is an observance day held annually on 13 February
 - It was proclaimed on 3 November 2011 by UNESCO's 36th General Conference after originally proposed by the Kingdom of Spain











- Goa to host film festival on disability
 - o International "We Care Film Festival" on disability issues will be organized in the Asia Pacific region & Oman.
 - The Disability Rights Association of Goa in association with Brotherhood,
 New Delhi will take the festival to schools & colleges in Goa from Feb 6 to
 11.
 - With 900 short films & documentaries, the festival has reached out to more than 1.5 lakh people in India, Mauritius, Dubai & France
- Bengaluru International Film Festival
 - o The 9th edition of Bengaluru International Film Festival has begun and was inaugurated at Vidhana Soudha. The film festival will go on till February 9 and will also be held in Mysuru
 - La Vache (One Man and His Cow) by Algerian film-maker Mohamed
 Hamidi was screened for the audience as the inaugural film.
 - The event will show over 240 films from as many as 60 countries.
- Surajkund International Crafts Mela 2017
 - o Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar inaugurated the 31st Surajkund International Crafts Mela in Gurgaon, Haryana.
 - o It is known as 'Cashless Mela' because all stakeholders have been provided option to opt for cashless transactions.
 - o 21 countries are expected to be participating in the fair.
 - o The fair will end on 15th February.
- World Wetlands Day celebrated
 - The 2 February each year is World Wetlands Day, marking the date of the adoption of the Convention on Wetlands on 2 February 1971 in Ramsar, Iran.
 - Established to raise awareness about the value of wetlands for humanity and the planet, WWD was celebrated for the first time in 1997.













- o The theme for this year is 'Wetlands for Disaster Risk Reduction'.
- President to open 'Udyanotsav' in Feb
 - o President, Pranab Mukherjee will open the annual 'Udyanotsav' of the Rashtrapati Bhavan on February 04, 2017.
 - The Mughal Gardens will remain open for general public from February 05 to March 12, 2017 (except on Mondays) between 0930 hrs to 1600 hrs.
 - Members of the public will also be able to visit the Spiritual Garden,
 Herbal Garden, Bonsai Garden and Musical Garden.

Person in News

- Kabir Bedi appointed brand ambassador
 - o India's most famous international actors Kabir Bedi was appointed as the honourary brand ambassador of Sightsavers India to prevent avoidable blindness by RN Mohanty, CEO of Sightsavers on February 17, 2017.
 - o Kabirs's association would help the organisation towards a focused journey with amplified impact in the coming days.
- Gopal Baglay becomes MEA spokesperson
 - o Indian Foreign Service officer Gopal Baglay will replace Vikas Swarup as the official spokesperson of the Ministry of External Affairs.
 - Swarup was on February 16 appointed as the Indian high commissioner to Canada.
 - Baglay, a 1992 batch IFS officer, has earlier served as deputy high commissioner to Pakistan.
 - o He was also a press counsellor at the Indian embassy in Kathmandu.
- Shilpa to be Swachh Bharat ambassador
 - o The government has roped in actress Shilpa Shetty as a brand ambassador for the Indian government cleanliness initiative 'Swachh Bharat Mission'.









- She will feature in TV and radio campaigns aimed at discouraging people from littering on roads. Soon, campaign posters featuring her will be displayed at various places across the country.
- Nobel-Winning Kenneth J. Arrow Dies
 - Nobel-winning economist, mathematician Kenneth J Arrow has died in USA.
 - He was 95.
 - Kenneth J. Arrow. Kenneth received the Nobel memorial prize in economic science for their pioneering mathematical work on general equilibrium theory in 1972.
- Sujata Mehta appointed UPSC member
 - Former diplomat Sujata Mehta and Air Marshal Ajit Shankarrao Bhonsle have been appointed as members in UPSC in New Delhi.
 - President has appointed Mehta and Bhonsle to the posts for a period of 6
 years or until they attain the age of 65 years, an order issued by Personnel
 Ministry said.
 - With these appointments, the strength of the Commission has gone upto seven.
- Shah Rukh to host Hindi 'Ted Talks'
 - Shah Rukh Khan will host the Hindi version of popular international show TED Talks.
 - Star India will air the Indian version TED Talks 'India Nayi Soch', a global first Hindi TV talk show created in partnership with TED, non-profit devoted to ideas worth spreading.
 - Uday Shankar, CEO, Star India said, In an age of high volatility, the role of ideas to fuel positive change cannot be overstated.











- Neelam Damodaran is Bank of India new ED
 - The Government has appointed Neelam Damodaran as Executive Director of Bank of India.
 - His tenor is up to November 30, 2019. Prior to his elevation as ED,
 Damodaran was General Manager with Bank of Baroda.
 - He took charge on 16 February 2017.
 - With this appointment, Bank of India now has two EDs. R A Sankara
 Narayanan has been ED of the bank since May 15, 2015.
- Edappadi Palaniswami sworn in as TN CM
 - Ending the political impasse in Tamil Nadu, Governor Ch. Vidyasagar Rao administered the oath of office to Edappadi K. Palaniswami as the 13th Chief Minister along with a Council of 30 Ministers.
 - o Mr. Palaniswami said he would take a floor test in the Assembly at 11.a.m. on Saturday to prove his majority.
 - Earlier Chief Minister O. Panneerselvam resigned from the post.
- Nilesh appointed as ICAI president
 - o The Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) elected Nilesh Shivji Vikamsey as president and Naveen N D Gupta as vice-president.
 - o They have been elected for the year 2017-18, ICAI said in a release.
 - Vikamsey, who served as vice-president, has been a member of the ICAI since 1985.
 - o Gupta has been a chartered accountant for more than 20 years.
- Al Jarreau passes away
 - Al Jarreau, the jazz-pop musician best known for the hits "Breakin' Away,"
 "We're in This Love Together" died.
 - He was 76. Nicknamed the "Acrobat of Scat", he was one of the few performers of his day who successfully bridged pop, jazz and R&B.
 - o He released more than 20 albums and won seven Grammy Awards.









Sports

- Saina to represent Olympic Committee
 - Saina Nehwal was appointed as a member of the Olympic Committee's Athletes' Commission in 2016, will represent the panel in the Badminton World Federation.
 - Saina would join the Badminton World Federation Athletes' Commission as a representative of the IOC AC.
 - o Currently, ranked world number 10 in BWF rankings, Saina is now aiming to win the prestigious All England Championship in March 2017.
- Asian Para-Road Cycling C'ship
 - India made a rousing start at the 6th Asian Para-Road Cycling
 Championship, bagging all three medals in the 12.8 Km Individual Time
 Trial on the opening day of the tournament at Bahrain.
 - Abhishek from Chandigarh won the gold medal, Divij Shah from West
 Bengal won silver and Harinder Singh from BSF bagged the bronze medal.
 - They were trained and sponsored by Aditya Mehta Foundation, Hyderabad.
- Pooja Ghatkar clinches bronze
 - o In International Shooting Sport Federation, Indian shooter Pooja Ghatkar secured India's first medal in New Delhi.
 - o She finished third in the 10m Air Rifle event. Ghatkar clinched bronze medal with a score of 228.8 in the final round.
 - China's Mengyao Shi secured gold with a score of 252.1 setting a new world record in the event.
 - The silver went to China's Lijie Dong for a score of 248.9.











- International Hockey Federation awards
 - Belgium skipper John-John Dohmen and Netherlands' Naomi van As were adjudged the international hockey federation male & female Player of the Year.
 - There were 2 Indians in the fray with Sreejesh among nominees for the best goalkeeper while 20-year-old Harmanpreet Singh, who was part of the junior World Cup-winning squad, a nominee of 'Rising Star of the Year' category.
- India gets 2019 Combined WC for shooting
 - India will be hosting the Combined World Cup for shooting in 2019, a qualifying event for the 2020 Tokyo Olympics.
 - The National Rifle Association of India's (NRAI) bid was approved by the International Shooting Sport Federation's Executive Board in its meeting held in New Delhi.
 - Combined World Cup comprises all the three categories -shotgun, rifle and pistol.
- Sandeep Kumar breaks his record
 - Sandeep Kumar of Haryana smashed his own national record en route to winning the gold medal in the gruelling men's 50km event of the National Race Walking Championships in New Delhi.
 - He clocked 3 hours 55 minutes and 59.05 seconds in a brilliant performance to win the race and qualify for the London World Championships in August.
 - o His earlier record was 3:56:22 in May 2014.
- India wins T20 Blind World Cup 2017
 - India beat Pakistan by 9-wickets to win T20 Blind World Cup at Bengaluru's M Chinnaswamy Stadium.









- Successfully defending their title in the T20 Blind World Cup, India achieved the victory target of 198-runs in the 18th over in the final of the tournament
- o India had beaten Sri Lanka by 10 wickets in the semifinal, while Pakistan defeated England by 147 runs.
- Ashwin breaks Dennis Lilees record
 - Indian off-spinner Ravichandran Ashwin created the record of claiming
 250 Test wickets in the least number of matches in his 45th test
 - He broke the record of legendary Australian fast bowler Dennis Lillee who reached 250 tests in his 48th test.
 - He is the sixth Indian bowler after Anil Kumble, Kapil Dev, Harbhajan
 Singh, Zaheer Khan, Bishan Singh Bedi to reach to 250 Test wickets.
- Haryana wins Kabaddi Championship
 - Haryana won the Pandit Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Memorial All India
 National Style Kabaddi Championship defeating Indian Railway
 - o Chief Minister Manohar Lal awarded one crore rupee first prize to the winner team and 50 lakh rupees award to the first runner up team.
 - Government has launched national championships of traditional sports
 Kabaddi and Wrestling to promote these sports.
- National Badminton championship
 - o Sourabh Verma clinched the Men's Singles title defeating Lakshya Sen in the 81st Senior National Badminton Championships tournament played in Patna.
 - Rituparna Das claimed the Women's Singles title defeating Reshma Karthik in the tournament.
 - In the mixed doubles, the duo of Satwik Sai Raj and Maneesha K won the title













Defence

- Coastal surveillance network project
 - The government has given its nod to the Phase II of coastal surveillance project to expand the coastal radar surveillance network which will strengthen the 7500 km coastline.
 - o Phase II of coastal surveillance project involves setting up 38 additional radars aimed to give gap less electronic surveillance of Indian coastline.
 - The total cost is Rs. 800 crore.

• India: World's Largest Arms Importer

- According to a report released by Stockholm International Peace Research Instisstute, India emerged as the world's largest importer of major arms during 2012–16.
- o As per the report, India accounted for 13% of the global total sales.
- o India increased its arms imports by 43% between 2007–11 and 2012–16 which is far greater than the imports by its rivals China and Pakistan.
- Tarini to be Inducted into Indian Navy
 - o The Indian Navy's second ocean going sailboat Tarini will be inducted at a ceremony scheduled to be held at the INS Mandovi Boat Pool.
 - INSV Tarini is a sloop built by M/s Aquarius Shipyard Pvt. Ltd. at Divar,
 Goa.
 - The sail boat Tarini is being inducted into the Navy and is slated to be the platform for First Indian All Women Circumnavigation of the Globe expedition of the Indian Navy.

INS Viraat to 'retire'

o INS Viraat, the world's oldest aircraft carrier in active service will be decommissioned on March 6 in Mumbai.











- The ship's name is entered in the Guinness World Records for being the oldest serving warship.
- The event will see the lowering & wrap-up of the naval flag installed on the warship at sunset, marking an end to a long sea odyssey lasting 55 years, including 30 years in the Indian Navy
- 2017 Cobra Gold Exercise in Thailand
 - The 2017 Cobra Gold Military Exercise kicked off at the Sattahip Royal
 Thai Marine Corps Base in Chonburi Province, Thailand.
 - o Cobra Gold 2017 is the 36th edition of the multinational drill and is coorganized by United States and Thailand.
 - o It will expand regional cooperation and collaboration for disaster relief.
 - o As many as 30 nations are participating in the drill including China, India.
- IAF inducts indigenous warning system
 - The IAF has formally inducted the first indigenously built Airborne Early Warning and Control System 'Netra'.
 - o It is developed by the Defence Research and Development Organisation.
 - These airborne warning systems, capable of long range surveillance, are huge force multipliers.
 - o Netra is based on Embraer aircraft and three systems are to be developed.
- L&T-European firm tie up to make missile
 - L&T will own 51% stake in the JV named L&T MBDA Missile Systems and the rest 49 would be with the European partner.
 - The two companies had been working together for the last six years,
 especially on the defence offset programmes in India.
- INS Sarvekshak has gone green
 - o Indian Navy's survey vessel INS Sarvekshak, based at the Southern Naval Command in Kochi became the first naval ship to go green by installing a solar power system on board











- It has innovatively deployed the zero-maintenance solar power system,
 capable of generating 5.4KW electricity.
- o The low cost system will slash a yearly carbon emission of 60225 kg and save around 22995 litres of diesel.
- Establishment of Marine Police Academy
 - National Marine Police Training Institute (MPTI) is to be established at Pindara Village, Gujarat
 - The task for establishment of MPTI has been entrusted with Bureau of Police Research & Development (BPR&D)
 - o Ministry of Home Affair will administer this institute.
- Tropex 2017
 - The Indian Navy's Annual Theatre Readiness Operational Exercise is being conducted off the Western Seaboard. The month long exercise will see participation of all armed forces.
 - The exercise witnessed participation of over 60 ships,5 submarines & more than 70 naval aircrafts.
 - TROPEX 17 exercise is aimed at testing combat readiness of the combined fleets of the armed forces.

International Affair

- Mobile World Congress in Barcelona
 - o The 2017 Mobile World Congress (MWC) began in Mobile World Capital Barcelona on February 27, 2017 and will conclude on March 2, 2017.
 - MWC is the world's largest gathering for the mobile industry, organised by the GSMA.
 - o The global tech industry gathers to get participate in new smartphone launches, VR and AR developments, chipsets and wearables.









• Pakistan Army launches 'Radd-ul-Fasaad'

- A nationwide military operation 'Radd-ul-Fasaad' was launched by Pakistan Army to eliminate terrorists and ensure security of Pakistan's borders
- As per the Director-General of the Inter-Services Public Relations the operation aims to eliminate threat of terrorism, consolidate gains of operations made so far and ensure strengthened security of Pakistan's borders

Pink Shirt Day

- Fighting against the racism, bullying, hate crimes and discrimination, Sikhs across the UK and Canada observed 'Pink Shirt Day' on Feb 22, coming out in pink shirts and turbans to give message of kindness and tolerance.
- The campaign has also found support from Canadian PM Justin Trudeau and National Defence Minister of Canada Harjit Sajjan, a Sikh who too sporting a pink shirt day.
- Arun-3 Hydro Electric Project in Nepal
 - o The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs chaired has approved investment for generation component of Arun-3 HEP (900 MW) for an estimated cost of Rs. 5723.72 cr.
 - Project is located on Arun River in Sankhuwasabha District of Eastern Nepal.
 - The project will provide surplus power to India strengthening power availability in the country and will also strengthening economic linkages with Nepal.











- Trump Chooses H.R. McMaster as NSA
 - Army Lieutenant General H.R. McMaster(54) was appointed as National Security Adviser of the USA by the President Donald Trump on February 21, 2017.
 - o McMaster will replace Michael Flynn.
 - He authored book titled "Dereliction of Duty: Lyndon Johnson, Robert McNamara, the Joint Chiefs of Staff and the Lies That Led to Vietnam" in 1997.
- Longest elevated cycle path in the world
 - The longest elevated bike path in the world has been opened in the southeastern Chinese city of Xiamen.
 - The 5 mile long,16-feet wide bicycle-only pathway dubbed "the winding viaduct".
 - o The route can carry 2023 cyclists per hour, while 300 hire bikes are available for people who do not have one.
 - o It is built by Copenhagen-based firm Dissing + Weitling.
- Syrian govt. used chlorine gas in Aleppo
 - Syrian govt. forces carried out at least 8 chemical attacks during the battle for Aleppo, Human Rights Watch (HRW) said on Monday
 - Around 200 people were injured by the toxic gases used on oppositioncontrolled areas of the northern city.
 - The use of chlorine gas as a weapon is banned under the Chemical Weapons Convention, which Syria joined in 2013 under pressure from Russia
- Hamas chooses a new leader in Gaza
 - Hamas has named a top militant commander Yehiya Sinwar as its new leader in the Gaza Strip.











- o The appointment of Yehiya Sinwar, who was freed by Israel in a 2011 prisoner swap, solidifies the takeover of Gaza operations by the armed wing of the Palestinian group.
- o Mr. Sinwar replaces Ismail Haniyeh, who served as the Prime Minister of Hamas's government following the 2007 takeover of Gaza.
- Bulletproof glass around Eiffel Tower
 - o In France, the Mayor of Paris has announced the erection of a 2.5 meter wall of bulletproof glass around the Eiffel Tower.
 - o The new security measure is meant to protect France's most recognizable symbol in the event of a terrorist threat
 - o An estimated 6-million people visit the Eiffel Tower every year, and it is globally recognized as a symbol of France, and Paris.
- China to take fingerprints of foreigners
 - o China is to begin taking fingerprints of all foreign visitors as it steps up security on its borders. It will be introduced at Shenzhen airport.
 - o All foreign passport holders aged 14-70 will have to give their fingerprints.
 - o USA, Japan, Taiwan and Cambodia already have this facility.
 - The ministry said the regulation would strengthen immigration controls & increase efficiency.

National Affairs

- Rajasthan Inaugurates RAHAT project
 - Rajasthan CM Vasundhara Raje inaugurated a medical project Rajasthan
 Heart Attack Treatment programme in Jaipur.
 - o She also flagged off an ambulance fitted with equipment and trained paramedical staff required for treatment of heart disease.













• RAHAT aims to provide people in remote and rural areas with timely treatment during heart attacks.

• Darjeeling's new Himalayan cycle trail

- o India's first hill station bicycle path was inaugurated in Darjeeling, WB at an altitude of over 2,000 metres.
- o The 20 km long cycle route runs through thick pine forest and Senchal wildlife sanctuary, one of India's oldest nature reserves.
- o The route starts from near Jorebunglow, south of Darjeeling and ends at a small local First Hill Station Bicycle Patheco-village resort in Chatakpur.

• Conclave under "Hamari Dharohar" Scheme

- Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi said that India is enriched with talent in art-culture, music & literature and this rich cultural heritage can become an effective mission of "social & cultural harmony".
- The first meeting under "Hamari Dharohar" scheme of Minority Affairs
 Ministry was held.
- It is the need of the hour to provide a platform and an opportunity to these talents.
- Indian Railways unveils Antyodaya Exp.
 - Indian Railways has unveiled Antyodaya Express, a new train for the unreserved passengers. It was unveiled by Union Railway Minister Suresh Prabhu in New Delhi's Safdarjang station.
 - The first Antyodaya Express is slated to start between Mumbai and
 Tatanagar (Jharkhand) and second between Ernakulam and Howrah.
 - The facilities provided in Antyodaya coaches are similar in first class coaches.









- PM unveils 112 feet statue of "Adiyogi"
 - Extolling the ancient Indian discipline of Yoga, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday called for efforts to protect nature and mould human activities to bring them in sync with ecological surroundings.
 - He also termed unity in diversity as the speciality and strength of the Indian culture.
 - He unveiled a mammoth 112 feet bust of 'Adiyogi" Lord Shiva at Isha Yoga
 Foundation in Coimbatore.
- Rs 5,637.56 crore for Narmada Yojana
 - Maharashtra, Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh- three of the four partner
 States in Sardar Sarovar Narmada Yojana- owe total Rs 5,637.56 crore to
 Gujarat government for joint implementation of the scheme.
 - Gujarat govt. has initiated procedure to approach the Attorney General of India to resolve the dispute of payment of money for Resettlement & Rehabilitation of affected families.

International conference on 'Bharat Bodh

- The President of India inaugurated an international conference on 'Bharat Bodh' (Idea of Bharat) organized by the IGNOU and Bhartiya Shikshan
 Mandal on Feb 23, 2017 in New Delhi.
- He added that Bharat has always been recognised "as the storehouse of knowledge and discovery - knowledge which liberates, and discovery which fathoms the deepest thoughts of humanity and co-existence.
- Health Min. conducts largest drug survey
 - o Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, GOI had entrusted the work relating to carrying out a largest ever drug survey in the world for determining the quality of drugs to the National Institute of Biologicals (NIB).













- The statistical design of the Drug Survey included as many as 224 Drug molecules belonging to 15 different therapeutic categories of the National List of Essential Medicines 2011.
- Delhi to get India's first heliport
 - The first heliport in India will be inaugurated by Civil Aviation Minister Ashok Gajapathi Raju in North Delhi on Tuesday (28 February 2017).
 - The heliport, built by state-owned Pawan Hans, consists of a terminal building, nine parking bays and four hangars with a parking capacity of 16 helicopters.
 - o It was built at an investment of ₹100 crore.
- Health Secretary launches 'SAATHIYA' Kit
 - Health and Family Welfare launched the SAATHIYA Resource Kit including 'Saathiya Salah' Mobile App for adolescents.
 - This is a part of the Rashtriya Kishor Swasthya Karyakram (RKSK) program.
 - One of the key interventions under the programme is introduction of the Peer Educators who act as a catalyst for generating demand for the adolescent health services & imparting age appropriate knowledge.

India and World

- United Nations
 - It replaced ineffective League of Nations on 24 October 1945 after World
 War II in order to prevent another such conflict.
 - o At its founding, the UN had 51 member states; there are now 193.
 - o The headquarters of the UN is in Manhattan, New York City.
 - The 6 official languages of the UN are Arabic, Chinese, English, French,
 Russian, and Spanish.











• 9th BRICS Summit

- BRICS is the acronym for an association of five major emerging national economies: Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa.
- o Originally the first four were grouped as "BRIC", before the induction of South Africa in 2010.
- The 9th BRICS Summit will be held in China's Xiamen city from September 3-5.
- The theme of this year's event is 'BRICS: Stronger Partnership for a Brighter Future.
- India to open mission in Rwanda
 - India will open its resident mission in Rwanda as it seeks to broaden its outreach to the resource-rich African continent which has witnessed a surge in the Chinese investment in recent years.
 - "We are great friends & Rwanda has a good population of Indian community here" Hamid Ansari said.
 - A key partner of the African nations in the 1950s & 1960s, India has seen its influence in the region.
- 1st cargo from India reaches Bangladesh
 - o The ship, 'Shonartori Nou Kalyan-1' reached the Pangaon Inland Container Terminal at Keraniganj with 65 containers on board.
 - At an event to mark the arrival of the ship, Bangladesh Commerce
 Minister Tofail Ahmed said that cargo ships will now reach and depart
 from Pangaon to India every 15 days.
 - The link between the Pangaon terminal and India will save time and money.
- Indian genomics beacon launched in UK
 - o Global Gene Corp and Global Alliance for Genomics and Health launched ggcINDIA, the first ever beacon for Indian genomics data.











- o A beacon is an online web service that allows researchers to determine whether an institution has particular genomic data in its data set.
- o The aim of the beacon is to address the gap in shared Indian genomics data which helps scientists better understand disease.
- India to join Moscow meet on Afghanistan
 - o India is among 6 nations participating in a conference on Afghanistan's future in Moscow, 2 months after Russia hosted a similar conference with only China & Pakistan.
 - After India and particularly Afghanistan objected to being cut out of the discussion, Moscow agreed to expand its ambit, announcing a six-nation conference.
 - o These nations are Russia, India, Iran, Pakistan, China & Afghanistan.
- Conference on Counter-Radicalisation
 - India is planning to host a conference on counter-radicalisation with the Association of Southeast Asian Nations in October
 - It will provide common platform to countries for sharing experiences and ideas on prevention of radicalisation amid rise of Islamic State and other extremist ideologies.
 - UAE will one of such country as it has expertise in de-radicalisation.
- India signs MoU with Senegal
 - o The government has approved signing a MoU between India and Senegal in the field of Health and Medicine.
 - o Both countries will set up a Working Group to further elaborate the details of cooperation and to oversee the implementation of this MoU.
- Space Agreement -India and Vietnam
 - The government has been apprised of the Framework Agreement between India and Vietnam on cooperation in the exploration and uses of outer space for peaceful purposes











- The Framework Agreement was signed in September 2016
- o It will enable pursuing the potential interest areas of cooperation such as space science, technology and applications between both countries
- India and Norway setup CEPI
 - India and Norway have founded a Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness
 Innovations (CEPI) to accelerate life-saving research and development for epidemics
 - o The CEPI will prioritise list of diseases against which vaccines are most feasible to overcome barriers for development of vaccines
 - The government has also launched Integrated Disease Surveillance Programme to tackle outbreaks.

Government Policies and Schemes

- Kerala to launch sex offenders registry
 - The Kerala government will launch a registry of sex offenders, the first of its kind in the country.
 - o The registry will contain all identification details of sex offenders and would be kept in public domain.
 - o The announcements come days after an actress was abducted and sexually assaulted in a moving car while returning from a shooting site in Kochi.

'Namami Brahmapurta' program

- o Taking a cue from 'Namami Devi Narmade' programme of Madhya Pradesh government, Assam will now launch 'Namami Brahmapurta' campaign in the north-eastern state from March 31 to April 4.
- o The campaign will be launched across 21 districts along the Brahmaputra in its entire stretch from Sadiya to Dhubri.













- Tribal Youth Exchange Programme
 - Minister of State for Youth Affairs and Sports on Feb 23 inaugurated the
 9th Tribal Youth Exchange Programme in Delhi.
 - o In Programme youth from tribal belts of Jharkhand and Chhattisgarh will get to visit various places in the capital and know more about the culture and life style.
 - Youth will explore the walled city and get to know more about the rich history and heritage of Delhi.
- Dwarka Darshan Circuit
 - Ministry of Urban Development today approved development of 6 km long Bet Dwarka Darshan Circuit in Gujarat at a cost of Rs.16.27 cr under the Central Scheme 'Heritage City Development and Augmentation Yojana (HRIDAY)'.
 - Under HRIDAY launched on January 21, 2015, heritage related infrastructure development is being taken up in 12 identified cities including Dwarka-Bet Dwarka.
- 3 year cloud seeding experiment
 - o Maharashtra government has started a 3-year cloud seeding experiment.
 - Weather scientists will fly airplanes loaded with silver iodide over clouds hovering above Solapur, Maharashtra.
 - The ₹250-crore programme, coordinated by the Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology, will be the first controlled experiment to quantify the extent to which clouds form water drops large enough to make rain.
- Middle income group scheme
 - SC has made it easier for the people of middle and lower income groups to approach it to avail legal aid.











- The Middle Income Group Scheme, introduced by SC is self-supporting and people whose gross income does not exceed Rs 60,000 pm or Rs 7,50,000 per annum can now avail its services.
- o A sum of Rs 500 shall be payable to the SC & a stipulated fee as per the schedule attached to the scheme.
- Pandit Deendayal Krishi Shiksha Scheme
 - o Agriculture and Farmers Welfare minister, Radha Mohan Singh said that all courses up to Agricultural Graduate are being linked with employment.
 - o This will be a big help for the students in earning their livelihood.
 - o Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay Unnat Krishi Shiksha Scheme launched in the year 2016 to promote agricultural education under which 100 centres is being opened with a fund of 5.35 crore.
- Inauguration of Indian Seed Congress.
 - Shri Radha Mohan Singh inaugurates Indian Seed Congress 2017 in Kolkata
 - o The theme of Seed Congress is "Seed of Joy"
 - Agriculture Minister placed emphasis on 7 points programmes laid down by Hon'ble Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi to make the income of the farmers double.
- Gujarat to issue I-cards to skinners
 - The Gujarat government is all set to issue identity cards to dalits involved in business of cow-skinning.
 - The I-cards will be issued by talatis at village level as well as the social welfare department.
 - ID card is aimed at preventing anti-social elements from harassing and targeting dalits involved in animal skinning













- Wilson remedy available in India again
 - Months after a reported shortage of the life-saving D-Penicillamine medicine to treat Wilson's disease, the drug is now available in the country.
 - o Wilson's disease is a rare and potentially fatal genetic disorder that causes excessive accumulation of copper in vital organs, it could even cause liver failure if left untreated, leaving the patient in need of a transplant.

Art and Culture

- Liker & Leh Dosmochey festival begins
 - The centuries old two-day long Liker and Leh Dosmochey festival started in Ladakh Region of Jammu and Kashmir
 - Dosmochey is the major monastic festival held annually in the Ladakh region during the winter season to mark the destruction of evil spirit.
 - The Liker Dosmochey is celebrated by the Liker Monastery in western Ladakh.
- Khajuraho Dance Festival begins in MP
 - o In Madhya Pradesh, the world famous Khajuraho Dance Festival has begun
 - Eminent Indian classical dancers will perform during the 7 day event.
 - o This Dance Festival presents colourful and brilliant Indian dances in the backdrop of the famous Khajuraho temples.
 - Live performances of classical dances like Kathak, Kuchipudi, Odissi,
 Bharatnatyam, and Mohniattam will be major attraction this time.
- Maramon Convention to be held in Kerala









- o In Kerala, the Pampa riverbed in Pathanamthitta district is all set for the century-old annual Christian religious congregation Maramon Convention beginning on Feb 12
- The week-long event, considered as Asia's largest Christian religious retreat, is organised by the Mar Thoma Evangelistic Association, the missionary wing of the Malankara Mar Thomas Syrian Church of Malabar and Government agencies
- International Coin fair from Feb 13
 - More than 2500 coins from around 500 regions from different eras will be on display at the 3 day international Coin fair in Thiruvanthapuram, Kerala
 - It will also show collections of Justin Gilbert Lopez, who holds a Guinness world record for the largest coin collection
 - The coin released by Subhash Chandra Bose during British rule, Princess Diana tribute coins, etc. will be the major attractions
- Pattnaik creates Guinness World Record
 - Sand artist Sudarsan Pattnaik has created a Guinness World Record by creating a 48.8 feet tall sand castle at Puri beach in Odisha.
 - The record-breaking sculpture was built with a message of world peace, and featured sculptures of Mahatma Gandhi, Gautama Buddha and Nelson Mandela.
 - o Patnaik achieved this rare feat in four days.
- India's first riverfront global Fest
 - A stellar line-up of Indian & international artistes will enthrall over 10000 spectators at the maiden Amaravati Global Music and Dance Festival from Feb 10-13
 - o It will be directed by globally acclaimed violin virtuoso L Subramaniam
 - It will be India's first music & dance festival











- 12th century Vishnu sculptures unearthed
 - Several ancient sculptures were unearthed from an archaeological site in
 Bijbehara area of south Kashmir's Anantnag district.
 - o The treasure trove was found by the Department of Archives, Archaeology and Museums from Semthan village recently and included three fragmented sculptures of Lord Vishnu (without face, legs and arms) which date back to the 12th century C.E.
- Prehistoric rock art found
 - An important prehistoric rock art site has been spotted in the foothills of the Ambukuthi hills in Kerala
 - The site has been discovered by independent researcher, writer & national award-winning filmmaker OK Johnny, whose efforts had earlier attracted leading historians & archaeologists to the Edakkal Caves
 - The Stone Age carvings are rare & are the only known examples from south India
- Nagoba Jatara concludes
 - The Nagoba Jatara concluded on February 1.
 - Nagoba Jatara is a tribal festival held in Keslapur village, Inderavelly Mandal Adilabad district, Telangana. It is the second biggest tribal carnival and celebrated by Mesaram clan of Gond tribes for 10 days.
 - o Tribal people from Maharashtra, Chhattisgarh, Orissa & Madhya Pradesh belonging to the Mesram clan offer prayers at the festival.

Science and Technology

Tool to filter out 'toxic' comments









- o Google and Jigsaw have launched a new tool that uses artificial intelligence to filter 'toxic' comments online.
- o The tool has been designed to crack down on online harassment by letting creators and readers identify abusive comments.
- o The Perspective tool reviews comments and scores them based on how similar they are to comments people said were 'toxic'.
- 7 new Earth-like exoplanets discovered
 - Astronomers of NASA have discovered 7 Earth-sized planets orbiting a star called TRAPPIST-1.
 - o 3 of them are in the habitable zone the happy place where liquid water can exist on the surface of rocky planets, as it's not too hot or cold.
 - The 3 planets in the habitable zone, also known as the Goldilocks Zone, are called TRAPPIST-1e, f, and g.
 - o Exoplanet "e" is about the same size as Earth.
- World Forum on Homeopathic Medicine
 - AYUSH will inaugurate the World Integrated Medicine Forum on Regulation of Homeopathic Medicinal Products,
 - o This is the first-of-its-kind forum considering the increased perception of the international world towards India as a key player.
 - o The aim is to develop and harmonise homoeopathic pharmacopoeias and to strengthen regulatory provisions for homoeopathy in the whole world.
- First stretchable integrated circuit
 - Researchers from US based Michigan State University have developed the first stretchable integrated circuit (IC) made entirely using an inkjet printer.
 - o This elastic material is made up of several materials fabricated from nanomaterials and organic compounds.











- o These compounds are dissolved in solution to produce different electronic inks, which can easily run through printer to make devices.
- First artwork created in space
 - o A 'laugh star' a 3D-printed representation of sound waves generated from human laughter created aboard the International Space Station has become the first-ever piece of art to be produced outside Earth.
 - o The artwork was printed using Additive Manufacturing Facility, a gravity independent 3D printer.
 - o The work was conceptualised by Israeli contemporary artist Eyal Gever.
- High-quality graphene from soybean
 - In a breakthrough, scientists have used the humble soybean to make the world's strongest material graphene commercially more viable.
 - o Graphene is a carbon material that is one atom thick.
 - o Its thin composition and high conductivity means it is used in applications ranging from miniaturised electronics to biomedical devices.
- Project Loon can now predict weather
 - o Researchers at Google have a network of huge balloons to provide Internet connectivity to billions of people in the world.
 - o Project Loon team, part of the company's X research lab, said it can now use machine learning to predict weather systems.
 - Google has much more control over where its balloons reach, making it possible to focus on a specific region, rather than circumnavigating the globe.
- Thubber, a stretchable rubber discovered
 - Scientists from Carnegie Mellon have developed a thermally conductive rubber material that represents a breakthrough for creating soft, stretchable machines and electronics









- The new material, nicknamed "thubber," is an electrically insulating composite that exhibits an unprecedented combination of metal-like thermal conductivity
- Zealandia a new continent
 - Zealandia, a new continent submerged in the southwest Pacific is a step closer to being recognised a new continent
 - Zealandia covers nearly 5m square km, of which 94% is under water, and encompasses not only New Zealand but also New Caledonia, Norfolk Island, the Lord Howe Island group & Elizabeth & Middleton reefs
 - o The continent sank between 65-80 million years ago
- New malaria vaccine found 100% effective
 - A new vaccine called Sanaria PfSPZ-CVac for malaria is up to 100% effective when assessed at 10 weeks after last dose, according to the results of a clinical trial.
 - Malaria parasites are transmitted by the bite of female Anopheles mosquitoes.
 - The research was published in the journal Nature.

<u>Polity</u>

- Gujarat Assembly passes Aadhaar Bill
 - The Gujarat Assembly passed Aadhaar (Targeted Delivery of Financial and Other Subsidies, Benefits and Services) Bill, 2017.
 - o This is to empower the state government to use Aadhaar number as the sole identifier for the delivery of various subsidies and benefits.
 - o This bill will help the government create a credible system to authenticate the identity of actual beneficiaries.













- Bill to legalise Kambala
 - Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (Karnataka Amendment) Bill, 2017 was passed in the Karnataka legislative Assembly
 - o It seeks to amend the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960, in its application to Karnataka.
 - This was passed to facilitate the conduct of traditional buffalo race
 "Kambala" and bullock cart races in South Kanara and Udupi district.
- 3.5 lakh cases settled in Lok Adalats
 - About 3.5 lakh cases were settled in the National Lok Adalat held at all levels ranging from district to high courts across the country in a day.
 - National Legal Services Authority, said that as per the figures received till
 5 in the evening, more than 3.5 lakh cases, including 1.9 lakh pending and
 1.6 lakh pre-litigation cases, have been settled.
 - National Lok Adalat is organised by the NALSA
- Lok Sabha passes Motion of Thanks
 - The Lok Sabha passed a Motion of Thanks on President Pranab
 Mukherjee's address to the joint sitting of Parliament.
 - Motion was passed by the House by a voice vote.
 - Motion of Thanks is a motion in Indian Parliament which follows the address of the President to the joint sitting of Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha at the commencement of first session of a new Lok Sabha and first session of every year
- SC invokes proceedings against HC Judge
 - o The Supreme Court has issued a notice of contempt to a high court judge for writing letters, levelling allegations of corruption against several sitting and retired apex court and high court judges.











- o It charged Calcutta High Court judge CS Karnan regarding this.
- A high court judge can be removed only through impeachment by the Parliament after both the Houses pass resolution.

• 'Pink' polling stations for women

- In its effort to encourage women voters to cast their votes for the Goa
 Assembly polls, the authorities have set up several pink polling stations in the state.
- o It will be one-phase polls. Results will be declared on March 11.
- As many as 11 lakh voters will cast their votes to elect new MLAs for the
 40-member Assembly.
- o The voting will begin from 7 am and will continue till 5 pm.

Environment

- Rare butterfly varieties spotted
 - o Ayyanarkoil Falls, which is situated within the Grizzled Squirrel Wildlife Sanctuary in Srivilliputhur, is also a habitat for very rare butterfly species.
 - The Rajapalayam Butterfly Club, a wing of Wildlife Association of Rajapalayam has identified 220 species of butterflies here including the highly uncommon Silver Royal and Fluffy Tit.
 - The Silver Royal is a rare species that we have spotted

• Pests eat away India's 35% of yield

- According to Indian Council of Agricultural Research scientist, pests eat away about 30-35% of the annual crop yield in India.
- Such large-scale crop-loss is having an adverse effect on the agricultural biosafety which is paramount to food security of the country.
- Key Facts Among such pests, nematodes have emerged as a major threat to crops in the country.











- Olive Ridley turtles lay 3.55 lakh eggs
 - The endangered Olive Ridley turtles have laid a record 3.55 lakh eggs in the coast of Odisha within a span of one week, an official said Monday, adding the figure could touch four lakh mark this year.
 - Over 3,55,000 eggs have been laid by Olive Ridley sea turtles within a
 week of mass nesting in Rushikulya river mouth of Ganjam coast, which is
 an all-time record.
- National Biodiversity Congress 2017
 - The National Biodiversity Congress (NBC) 2017 was held in Thiruvananthapuram, capital of Kerala.
 - NBC is one of the significant biodiversity mega events of the country. It
 aims to identify practical, evidence-based case studies at the regional level
 to support the plan of action.
 - The focal theme of 2017 NBC was "Mainstreaming Biodiversity for Sustainable Development".
- Tiny frog species found in Western Ghats
 - Scientists exploring the forests of the Western Ghats have come across four new species of tiny frogs no bigger than a human thumbnail.
 - These species are among the seven new 'Night Frogs' discovered by a team
 of researchers from the University of Delhi and the Kerala Forest
 Department.
 - Night Frogs belong to the Nyctibatrachus genus endemic to the Western Ghats.
- Informational cascades in honeybee
 - A study has analysed the highly co-ordinated behaviour in honeybees, interpreting their communication pattern as an informational cascade process.











- The study was done by Nicole Carver & Damian Kelty-Stephen, of Grinnell College, USA published in Physical Review E.
- Swarming behaviour in honeybees is unique and interesting because it is a flexible and distributed decision-making process.
- Wild sanctuary to grow Muga cocoon
 - The Assam government will raise a wild sanctuary to grow Muga cocoon
 - o Under this 25 lakh trees will be planted to get Eri and Muga cocoons.
 - To promote products made of muga, silk and Eri, Assam government has set up Assam Silk Outreach Mission
- Centre permits Assam Govt. to use drones
 - Centre has permitted the Assam government to use drones for vigilance at the Kaziranga national park.
 - This step has been taken to prevent rhino poaching at the Kaziranga National park
 - Other step taken to protect rhino poaching is appointment of 112 members
 Rhino Protection Force.
- Delhi's air quality was worse in 2016
 - As per pollution data shared by Union Environment Minister that the concentration of PM rose steadily in Delhi since 2014, while 2016 stands out for a rapid buildup compared to the previous years.
 - The Minister informed that the Centre has notified the Graded Response Action Plan and empowered the Environment Pollution (Prevention and Control) Authority to implement it.
- New species of Ghost Shark found
 - o Scientists have discovered a new species of Ghost Shark.
 - It is the 50th species of ghost shark discovered & has rabbit-like teeth with bulky head.













- It is 3 feet in length & the second largest species of ghost shark ever discovered.
- o The new discovery, now called H. Erithacus, was made between South Africa and Antarctica, in the Atlantic and Indian Oceans.

Committees and Recommendations

- HR ministry constitute Sub-panel of CABE
 - The Union HRD Ministry has constituted a sub-committee of Central Advisory Board of Education under Chairmanship of Telangana's Deputy Chief Minister Kadiyam Srihari to look into issues of girl's education.
 - It will analyse girls participation at all levels of school education across socio-economic groups in rural-urban areas and reduce existing educational disparities among them.
- Panel to strengthen cyber security
 - In a bid to strengthen cyber security system, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) decided to set up an inter-disciplinary panel on cyber security to examine various threats and suggest measure.
 - The decision to form panel has been taken based on the recommendations of the expert panel on information technology examination and cyber security headed by Meena Hemachandra.





