Awards & Honours

- **Viazovska to receive SASTRA Ramanujan**
  - Maryna Viazovska of Swiss Federal Institute of Technology, Lausanne, will receive 2017 SASTRA Ramanujan Prize for her contribution to number theory.
  - She was awarded for her stunning & elegant resolution of celebrated sphere packing problem in dimension 8.
  - SASTRA Ramanujan Prize is awarded annually for outstanding contributions by young mathematicians to areas influenced by Ramanujan.

- **Banaj Devi to receive Sarala award**
  - Noted Odia poet and short story writer Banaj Devi will be honoured with the 38th edition of the prestigious Sarala award.
  - She will be honoured for her short story compilation 'Kathapua'.
  - The annual Sarala Puraskar, recognised as one of the foremost literary awards of the State, comprises a cash award of ₹5 lakh along with a citation.

- **Int'l honour for materials research**
  - Eminent scientist, Professor C.N.R Rao, has become the first Asian to be chosen for the prestigious Von Hippel Award for his immense contribution in materials research.
The award citation noted Rao’s immense work on novel functional materials, including nanomaterials and 2D materials and superconductivity.

The award is the US-based Materials Research Society’s highest honour.

- **India's official entry for Oscars 2018**
  - ‘Newton’ is India’s official entry in the Foreign Language Film category at the 2018 Oscars.
  - Directed by Amit Masurkar, ‘Newton’, revolves around a government clerk who tries his best to conduct free and fair voting in a Naxal-controlled town.
  - The exemplary indie drama, 'Newton', is played by National Award-winning actor Rajkummar Rao.

- **Zannah Mustapha wins UN award**
  - Zannah Mustapha won the annual Nansen Refugee Award for his ‘crucial mediating’ role and efforts to help children affected by the insurgency in the country.
  - Mustapha is the founder of Future Prowess Islamic Foundation School, a school that provides free Islamic-based education to children orphaned by insurgency.
  - The school also provides free meals, uniforms and health care to its pupils.

- **MS Dhoni for Padma Bhushan award**
  - BCCI has nominated MS Dhoni for country’s 3rd highest civilian award - The Padma Bhushan for his contribution to the game.
  - Dhoni is already a recipient of prestigious Arjuna, Rajeev Gandhi Khel Ratna & Padma Shri award.
  - If Dhoni is conferred with Padma Bhushan, he will become the 11th Indian cricketer to get the honour.
  - BCCI has not sent any other nominations for Padma awards this year.

- **Rs 100 coin released by Venkaiah Naidu**
Celebrating the legacy of Carnatic music icon M S Subbulakshmi, Venkaiah Naidu released special commemorative coins of Rs 100 & Rs 10 denominations.

She had many firsts to her credit, from being first musician to be awarded Bharat Ratna to winning Ramon Magsaysay Award, & performing at UNGA.

A nearly 2 week-long exhibition, titled ‘Kurai Ondrum Illai’, is being held in honour of Subbulakshami.

- **First Asian man to win an acting Emmy**
  - Riz Ahmed has become the first man of Asian descent to win an acting award at the Emmys. He is a British actor of Pakistani descent.
  - The actor has been very vocal about how the representation of minorities can shift negative perspectives.

- **Rajamouli receives ANR award**
  - Venkaiah Naidu, honoured SS Rajamouli with ANR National Award for his contribution to Telugu Film Industry.
  - Baahubali franchise made SS Rajamouli a name to reckon with in the entire world.
  - Naidu described Rajamouli as One of the most creative, innovative & inspiring film-maker.
  - ANR award was instituted in 2005 with an aim to recognise the contributions of stalwarts to Indian film industry.

- **Postage stamps on Indian yoga experts**
  - Japanese postal department has released postage stamps on yoga legend Bishnu Ghosh & his family members to acknowledge the role played by them in spreading Indian postural yoga in Japan.
Stamps on Bishnu Charan Ghosh, his son Biswanath, daughter Karuna & Karuna’s father in law Asutosh Ghosh were released in Japan. It is the 1st time Japan has released postal stamps on any yoga experts.

- **First African-American to win best actor**
  - Sterling K Brown created history by becoming the 1st African American to win the best actor drama Emmy awards in 19 years for his performance as Randall Pearson in “This Is Us”.
  - This was the second Emmys win for K Brown, who took home a supporting-actor trophy last year.
  - The last African American actor to win the award was Andre Braugher in 1998 for his role in “Homicide: Life on the Street”

- **President's medal for former DIG D Roopa**
  - Former DIG D Roopa, who highlighted in a report alleged irregularities at Central jail in Bengaluru, including preferential treatment to V K Sasikala, was conferred the President’s Medal.
  - The award was presented to Roopa for her meritorious service by Governor Vajubhai Vala at a ceremony at Raj Bhavan.
  - She was the only woman IPS officer to receive the medal from more than 40 award recipients

- **Salman Khan honoured**
  - Salman Khan received a Global Diversity Award at Britain’s House of Commons.
  - Salman received the award from Keith Vaz, British Parliament’s longest-serving Asian MP.
  - The Global Diversity Award is given to people of immense stature in terms of diversity in the world, and he is certainly one of them.

- **MPEDA bags Rajbhasha Keerti Award**
  - The Marine Products Export Development Authority has been awarded National level Rajbhasha Keerti Award for the third consecutive year.
• The award has been given to The Marine Products Export Development Authority for the best Implementation of Official language in the organisation.
  - MPEDA Chairman A Jayathilak received the award from President Ram Nath Kovind at Vigyan Bhawan.

• **Rajbhasha Kirti Puraskar**
  - Vijaya Bank has bagged the first prize under the Rajbhasha Kirti Puraskar (Region C) for the year 2016-17.
  - The bank got the award for active implementation of Hindi in its day-to-day activities.
  - President Kovind gave away the award to MD and CEO, R. A. Sankara Narayanan.
  - Vijaya Bank is a public sector bank headquartered at Bangalore & is one of the nationalised banks in India.

• **Container Terminal of the Year**
  - Jawaharlal Nehru Port Container Terminal was awarded “Container Terminal of the Year” Award for above 0.6 mn TEUs category at Gateway Awards.
  - JNPCT won for its proactive strategies to ease congestion, smooth delivery of containers & revamping of infrastructure to support trade amidst adverse conditions.
  - Gateway Award was instituted to recognise & promote best practices in Maritime industry.

• **Balzan Prize awardees**
  - 2 scientists, work has contributed for immunological treatments for cancer & an Indian economist are among winners of this year's Balzan Prizes.
  - James Allison & Robert Schreiber were cited for their work on antibody treatments that have increased survival of patients with metastatic melanoma.
• Bina Agarwal was recognized for her work studying women’s contributions to agriculture in India

• **Pawan Chamling honoured**
  - Sikkim Chief Minister Pawan Chamling was honoured for his pioneering work in the field of organic farming during a ceremony at Lagau on the occasion of the One World Festival.
  - Chamling was conferred the Grand Prix Award during the One World Award ceremony.
  - It took Sikkim 13 years to fully implement organic farming since the idea was mooted way back in 2003.

• **GIFT City wins ASSOCHAM Awards**
  - India’s first operational Smart City & IFSC, Gujarat International Finance-Tec City, has won the ASSOCHAM Services Excellence Award.
  - GIFT SEZ was honored for its contribution to the growth of the International Financial Services and Technology Hub in India.
  - GIFT city is operational with approximately 10 leading banks, 2 international exchanges, and around 100 capital market players.

• **Murthy receives PLuS Alliance Prize**
  - Infosys co-founder Narayana Murthy was conferred the PLuS Alliance Prize.
  - Murthy was presented the Prize for Global Leadership.
  - PLuS Alliance Prize is a prestigious honour that recognises Research Innovation, Education Innovation, Global Leadership & Global Innovation.
  - Along with Narayana Murthy, scientist Veena Sahajwalla was also conferred the PLuS Alliance Prize for Research Innovation.

• **Karnataka Bank bags IDRBT award**
Karnataka Bank has bagged the ‘best bank’ award among small banks for use of technology for financial inclusion at the 13th IDRBT Banking Technology Excellence Awards 2016-17.

Mahabaleshwar MS, MD & CEO of the bank, received the award from Sudarshan Sen, Executive Director of RBI.

The Reserve Bank of India has designated Karnataka Bank Limited as an A1+ class Scheduled Commercial Bank.

- **CBDT gets govt-honour**
  - The Central Board of Direct Taxes was honoured by Minister of State for Personnel Jitendra Singh for successfully resolving public grievances.
  - The awards given to the CBDT was based on the theme of appreciation to the Ministries or Departments.
  - The CBDT is the apex policy making body for the Income Tax department.

- **‘Exhibitor Of the Year’ Award**
  - Ajay Bijli, Chairman & MD of PVR, will receive “Exhibitor of the Year” Award at CineAsia Awards Ceremony in Hong Kong.
  - Bijli has also been honored with E&Y Entrepreneurial Award for Business Transformation, CNBC’s Emerging India Award and Most Admired Multiplex Professional.
  - PVR currently operates a cinema circuit comprising of 597 screens at 130 properties in 51 cities.

Books & Authors

Nadella pens book on Microsoft journey

- Satya Nadella, one of the most celebrated Indians in the global technology sector, has penned the inside story of his journey of becoming the CEO of software giant Microsoft.
The book, titled ‘Hit Refresh’ is co-authored by Greg Shaw and Jill Tracie Nichols.

The title draws inspiration from the digital world where the screen is refreshed by hitting the function ‘F5’ key.

Days & Events

190th Raising Day
- The Regiment of Artillery, which has proved its mettle in various operations during war times, today celebrated its 190th Raising Day.
- The second largest arm of the Indian Army was raised on this day in 1827.
- Since 1980s, gunners - as artillery men are referred to have been fighting shoulder to shoulder with infantrymen in counter-insurgency operations in Punjab, Jammu & Kashmir & North East

World Tourism Day
- World Tourism Day is commemorated each year on 27 Sept to foster awareness among international community of importance of tourism & its social, cultural & economic value.
- The theme of this year’s World Tourism Day is ‘sustainable tourism - a tool for development’.
- The day will be dedicated to exploring the contribution of tourism to the Sustainable Development Goals.

International Day of Peace
- Each year the International Day of Peace is observed around the world on 21 September. To inaugurate the day, United Nations Peace Bell is rung at UN Headquarters.
- This year, the International Day of Peace will focus on engaging & mobilizing people throughout the world to show support for refugees and migrants.
This year's theme is “Together for Peace: Respect, Safety and Dignity for All.”

- **International Day of Democracy**
  - In 2007 the United Nations General Assembly resolved to observe 15 September as the International Day of Democracy—with the purpose of promoting and upholding the principles of democracy.
  - In September 1997 the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) adopted a Universal Declaration on Democracy.
  - The theme for 2017 is, "Democracy and Conflict prevention".

- **World Ozone day**
  - The International Day for the preservation of the Ozone Layer is being observed today.
  - The day marks commemoration of the date of signing of Montreal Protocol in 1987 on substances that deplete Ozone layer.
  - This year, the theme for the Day is 'Caring for all life under the sun'.
  - It is mainly intended to spread awareness of depletion of the Ozone Layer & search for solutions to preserve it.

- **Happy Engineer's Day**
  - Nation is celebrating Engineer's Day to mark 156th birth anniversary of Sir Mokshagundam Visvesvarayya, one of the greatest engineers India has produced.
  - Visvesvaraya was not only known for his contributions in field of engineering but was also called precursor of economic planning in India.
  - It is a significant occasion considering the fact that India produces close to 20 lakh engineers a year.

- **Hindi day celebrated**
  - Hindi Divas is an annual day celebrated on 14 September in India. It serves to promote & propagate Hindi language.
It was on this day in 1949 that the Constituent Assembly adopted Hindi written in Devanagari script as the official language of the country.

Hindi Divas is also celebrated as the birth anniversary of Beohar Rajendra Simha, who contributed in highlighting the importance of Hindi.

- **International Literacy Day**
  - International Literacy Day is observed every year on 8th September to emphasize the importance of literacy to individuals, society & communities.
  - On this day, in 1965 the World Congress of Ministers of Education met in Tehran for the first time to discuss the programme of education at the international level.
  - Theme of this year's International Literacy Day, is ‘Literacy in a Digital World’.

- **National Teachers Day**
  - National Teachers Day is observed every year on 5th September in India to commemorate birthday of Dr Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan.
  - Dr Radhakrishnan was the 1st Vice President of India (1952–1962) and the 2nd President of India from 1962 to 1967.
  - The first Teachers’ Day was celebrated in India in 1962. This is the year when Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan began serving as the second president of India.

- **National Nutrition Week**
  - National Nutrition Week will be observed throughout India from 1st to 7th September.
  - Objective of this annual event is to intensify awareness generation on importance of nutrition for health which has an impact on development, economic growth & ultimately National development.
  - Theme of National Nutrition Week for 2017 is "Optimal Infant & Young Child Feeding Practices: Better Child Health".
Committees & Recommendations

- **Ways to tackle cybercrime**
  - The committee, headed by former Secretary General of Lok Sabha, T K Viswanathan, has recommended appointing cybercrime coordinators in all states & establishing cybercrime cells in each district.
  - It has also suggested replacing some clauses of IT Act and amending some sections of IPC.
  - The committee was formed after the Supreme Court struck down Section 66 A of the Information Technology Act.

- **Govt eyes 5G roll out by 2020**
  - Govt has set up a high-level 5G committee with a mandate to lay down a roadmap for roll out of the technology by 2020.
  - Under the 5G technology, the government aims to deliver about 10,000 megabit per second in urban areas and 1000 Mbps in rural locations.
  - The 5G forum will comprise secretaries from Department of Telecom, Ministry of Electronics and IT & Department of Science and Technology.

- **Debroy to head Modi's Advisory Council**
  - Niti Aayog member Bibek Debroy will head the Economic Advisory Council constituted by PM Modi.
  - The council will analyse any issue economic or otherwise referred to it by the Prime Minister and will advise him on it.
  - The council has 3 part-time members - Surjit Bhalla, Rathin Roy, Ashima Goyal.
  - Niti Aayog Principal Advisor Ratan Watal has been appointed as Member-Secretary of the council.

- **District family welfare committees**
Tripura has become the 1st state in the country to set up family welfare district committees to deal with issue of fake & biased complaints by women against their husbands, in-laws & husband's relatives.

The welfare committees have been launched in all 8 districts in Tripura.

Over 80% frivolous, fake & biased cases across the country are filed by a section of women against husband & in-laws.

- **GoM to monitor, resolve IT challenges**
  - Union Finance Minister Arun Jaitley has constituted a Group of Ministers to monitor & resolve IT challenges faced in the implementation of Goods & Services Tax.
  - The Group of Ministers has been constituted under the convenorship of Bihar deputy chief minister Sushil Kumar Modi.
  - The group will be assisted in its work by chairman & chief executive officer of the Goods and Services Tax Network.

- **Task force on employment, export**
  - Govt has constituted a task force headed by NITI Aayog vice chairman Rajiv Kumar to lay down the roadmap for employment generation through export promotion.
  - Task force consisting of senior officials of various ministries & industry representatives will seek expansion of formal sector for creation of well paid jobs.
  - It will recommend sector specific policy interventions in key employment sector.

- **Task force for Namami Gange**
  - Nitin Gadkari, who assumed additional charge of water resources has announced formation of an inter-ministerial task force to expedite implementation of Namami Gange mission.
  - Task force is expected to have ministers & officials from water resources, urban development, drinking water & sanitation among others on board.
Aim is of NMCG is to clean Ganga & its tributaries in a comprehensive manner

- **Sports Ministry to constitute ESC**
  - Sports Ministry has approved constitution of a 13-member Empowered Steering Committee which will shape & influence India’s preparation for multi-disciplinary events, including 2020 Tokyo Olympic Games.
  - Steering Committee will have the mandate to work till December 31, 2020.
  - It will have the power to recommend specific plans or packages for TOPS beneficiaries, picked by the TOPS Committee.

**International Affairs**

- **Iran tests new ballistic missile**
  - Iran has "successfully" tested a new ballistic missile that can carry multiple warheads and can travel up to 2,000km.
  - The move was a direct challenge to US President Donald Trump, who in August signed a bill imposing mandatory penalties on those involved in Iran’s ballistic missile programme.
  - This is the third Iranian missile with a range of 2,000 km.

- **World's fastest bullet train launched**
  - China began the process to restore the world’s fastest bullet train, running at 350 km/hr, from Beijing to Shanghai, 6 years after it reduced the speed of its trains.
  - A ‘Fuxing’ bullet train, which will enjoy the high-speed, departed Beijing South Railway for Shanghai.
  - The Fuxing has a 30-year life, 10 years more than the existing model, and consumes 10% less power when running at 350 km/hr.

- **Afghan Air Force receives helicopters**
The Afghan Air Force took delivery of its first four US made UH-60 Black Hawk helicopters.

The U.S. plans to supply a total of 159 Black Hawks to Afghanistan in the coming years as it boosts the capacity of the Afghan Air Force.

The helicopters will replace the Russian made Mi-17 helicopters.

- **Bangladesh nuclear plant**
  - India said it is collaborating with Russia to build the Rooppur nuclear power plant in Bangladesh. This will be India’s first atomic energy venture abroad.
  - The Rooppur project, which is being built by the Russians near Dhaka, will be Bangladesh’s first atomic energy project.
  - According to the 2014 Indo-Russia agreement, both countries can supply materials to third countries for nuclear energy.

- **50 Nations Ink UN Nuclear Ban Treaty**
  - Brazil was the first country to sign onto the ban, followed by nations from Algeria to Venezuela.
  - Before the day was out, 50 states as different as Indonesia and Ireland had put their names to the treaty.
  - The U.S., Britain and France said the prohibition wouldn’t work and would end up disarming their nations while emboldening “bad actors”.

- **Military cooperation deal**
  - Britain and Saudi Arabia have signed a framework deal on military and security cooperation as the Riyadh regime intensifies its ongoing campaign against Yemen.
  - The agreement comes as Britain seeks to explore lucrative trade deals outside Europe, after voting to leave the European Union.
  - The deal comes just 2 days after Gulf rival Qatar agreed to purchase jet fighters from the European nation.

- **Countries that faced natural disasters**
According to UN secretary-general Antonio Guterres, India ranked 3rd among the countries that have faced the most natural disasters in the last half century.

- U.S, followed by China, India, Philippines and Indonesia, have experienced most disasters since 1995 - more than 1,600, or once every 5 days.
- Climate change was among the 7 global threats that he listed needing immediate global action.

**Saudi Arabia to unblock internet calling**
- Saudi Arabia has decided to lift ban on internet calling apps as it faces criticism over censorship.
- All online voice & video call services like Skype & WhatsApp that satisfy regulatory requirements will become accessible.
- It is aimed at improving business confidence as kingdom transitions into a post-oil era, access to VoIP will reduce operational costs & spur digital entrepreneurship.

**First US military base in Israel**
- For the first time in history, U.S. has established a permanent military base in Israel.
- The base will be located within Israel Defense Forces Air Defense School in southern Israel.
- It will include barracks & several other buildings for U.S. troops to be stationed in the country, as well as systems to identify & intercept aerial threats.
- It will operate under Israeli military directives.

**China opens dual-use highway**
- China has opened a strategic highway in Tibet to Nepal border which could be used for civilian & defense purposes.
The highway will shorten the journey from an hour to 30 mins b/w dual-use civil & military airport & Tibet’s 2nd-largest city.

The highway will enable China to forge a route into South Asia in both economic & defense terms.

National Affairs

- **World Congress on Adolescent Health**
  - India will next month host the World Congress on Adolescent Health, billed as the biggest global event in adolescent health this year.
  - Tobacco, alcohol & other substance use which contribute to health concerns among adolescents along with unemployment, depression & suicide will be discussed.
  - The theme of the congress this year is 'Investing in Adolescent Health the Future is Now'.

- **First LPG Panchayat in Gandhinagar**
  - Union Minister for Petroleum & Natural Gas Dharmendra Pradhan will inaugurate LPG Panchayat, aimed at encouraging rural communities to turn to clean fuel.
  - The first LPG Panchayat will be held in Gandhinagar, where Pradhan will preside over interaction b/w women using LPG under PMUY & the companies.
  - The Centre plans to organise one lakh LPG Panchayats across the country.

- **'Food Street' at global food fair**
  - Government has decided to introduce a curated food experience zone 'Food Street' at the global food fair in November in New Delhi.
  - The global food event, which is being held in India for the first time, aims to attract more investment in the food processing sector.
Chef Sanjeev Kapoor will be the brand ambassador of the event at the global food fair.

**PM Modi to flag off Mahamana Express**
- PM Modi will flag off country's 3rd Mahamana Express from his Lok Sabha constituency of Varanasi.
- It will connect Varanasi with Surat & Vadodara in Gujarat.
- Built under Make in India initiative, Mahamana Express currently runs on Varanasi-New Delhi & Bhopal-Khajuraho routes.
- The train is named after former Hindu Mahasabha president Madan Mohan Malviya, who was also addressed as 'Mahamana'.

**Campaign to sensitise women about cancer**
- Union minister Anupriya Patel has launched a nationwide health campaign to sensitise women about the early screening and preventive care for cancer.
- Themed 'Nurturing the Nurturer', campaign was launched by FICCI Ladies Organisation in partnership with the Apollo Hospitals group.
- With cancer cases on the rise in the country, government plans to set up 27 cancer centres in the coming days.

**Electric Bus Service in India**
- Himachal Pradesh has become the first hill state in the country to run electric buses.
- The buses will ply on Manali-Kullu and Mandi routes during winters when the road to Rohtang is blocked with snow.
- Electricity charging points have been installed at Manali and Marhi.
- Initially, two mid-size buses with a seating capacity of 27 and 32 respectively will ply on the route.

**Udaan extended for Jammu and Kashmir**
- The Union Cabinet extended the time period for Udaan - the Special Industry Initiative for Jammu and Kashmir till 31 December 2018.
Udaan is a centrally funded skill enhancement scheme for J&K youth implemented by National Skill Development Corporation. The scheme is run by National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC).

- **Puducherry to ban plastic bags**
  - The Puducherry government decided to ban manufacture and use of plastic packaging materials of less than 51 microns.
  - The government also advised hotel and restaurant owners to abstain from packing ‘ready to eat’ food items in ‘butter paper’ or such plastic transparent sheets.
  - Alternatively, the shop owners have been asked to use plantain leaf or any such natural products for such packaging.

- **Aircraft services to hilly areas**
  - Centre is planning to start helicopter & smaller aircraft services to hilly areas, Andaman and Nicobar and Lakshadweep Islands under the second phase of UDAN scheme.
  - The 2nd phase of UDAN seeks to connect unserved & under-served airports as well as make flying more affordable.
  - UDAN is a regional airport development & Connectivity Scheme aimed at making air travel affordable.

- **Bill on fugitive economic offenders**
  - The law ministry has given its concurrence to a draft bill that will give powers to the government to confiscate property of economic offenders and defaulters who flee India.
  - The proposed law will be applicable in cases where the value of offences is over Rs 100 crore.
  - The bill also has provision for appointment of an administrator to dispose off the property to pay off the creditors.
**Amazon creates B2B marketplace**
- Amazon India has launched Amazon Business, a B2B marketplace on Amazon.in, to enable small and medium businesses to procure products through the platform.
- Amazon Business will act as a pure marketplace and will have over 100 million products across all categories.
- The B2B business will ensure free shipping on eligible purchases for business customers as well as doorstep delivery.

**HDFC partners top education institutes**
- HDFC Bank will be partnering with 50 technology & business schools to tap into emerging fintech ideas.
- The objective is to identify potential fintech ideas at incubation & entrepreneurship cells in the institutes at a nascent stage & help them evolve into a consumer-ready product.
- Start-ups will get bank’s platform to test their ideas in real world, in addition to expert insights & knowledge.

**Green Masala Bond in UK**
- Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency has launched a new Green Masala Bond on London Stock Exchange’s new International Securities Market to raise funds to finance renewable energy projects across India.
- The 5 year dated bond raised approximately $300 million, with a coupon of 7.125%.
- It is the first Green Masala Bond to be listed on the International Securities Market.

**Tata Motors bags order for 10,000 e-cars**
Tata Motors has won the first contract to supply electric vehicles to replace petrol & diesel cars used by govt & its departments as part of a plan to cut demand for fossil fuels.

- First 500 electric vehicles will be supplied to EESL in Nov & the remainder will be delivered in the 2nd phase.
- Tata Motors will supply the electric version of its Tigor sedan, for which batteries will be imported.

**RBI to sell sovereign bonds**

- Reserve Bank of India would sell govt bonds worth Rs 10,000 crore through Open Market Operations to mop up liquidity from the system.
- As part of the OMO, the RBI will sell government securities maturing in 2019, 2021, 2022, 2024, & 2030.
- Open market operations refers to buying & selling of govt securities in open market in order to expand or contract the amount of money in banking system.

**Indian Internet firms create lobby group**

- India’s top Internet companies led by Flipkart have created a lobby group called Indiatech.org that will represent the interests of Indian Internet start-ups to fight their international rivals.
- Co-founder and executive chairman Sachin Bansal will lead the lobby group.
- Apart from Flipkart, Ola, Hike and some other Indian Internet companies will be part of the lobby group.

**Aeris Communications partners with BSNL**

- Aeris Communications has entered into a partnership with BSNL to provide packaged Internet of Things solutions & services to small, medium businesses & PSUs in India.
- Collaboration is aimed at propagating IoT projects across India as part of digital transformation drive.
Aeris will leverage BSNL's wide network coverage, to provide end-to-end IoT services platform for OEMs & service providers

- **ADB loan to Himachal Pradesh**
  - Asian Development Bank has approved a loan of $80mn for modernisation of Himachal Pradesh’s technical & vocational education & training institutions
  - Total cost of project is $100mn, with Centre contributing $20mn. Project is expected to be completed by the end of 2022
  - It will align Himachal Pradesh’s TVET programmes to national skills certification standards, thereby, improving employability

- **Bank of Baroda cuts base rate**
  - Public sector Bank of Baroda has slashed the bank rate and has revised BPLR.
  - The base rate, minimum rate below which a bank cannot lend, has been revised downward from existing 9.50 per cent per annum to 9.15% per annum from October 1, 2017
  - Benchmark prime lending rate, the method which charges interest on credit worthiness of customers, has been cut to 13.45% per annum from next month.

- **Air India ties up with PNB, IndusInd**
  - Air India has tied up with PNB & IndusInd to secure loans to the tune of over Rs 3,000 crore for meeting working capital requirements.
  - Funds will be used for repayment of dues to airport operators, oil companies & other vendors.
  - Under a turnaround plan approved by previous govt, Air India is to receive up to Rs 30,231 cr from govt subject to meeting certain performance thresholds.
Science and Technology

- **Nasa delays launch of James Webb**
  - NASA has pushed the planned launch of its $8.8 billion James Webb Space Telescope from October 2018 to spring of 2019, citing spacecraft-integration issues.
  - It will be the world’s most powerful space telescope ever built, serving thousands of astronomers worldwide.
  - The 6.5 metre diameter infrared-optimised telescope is designed to study an extremely wide range of astrophysical phenomena.

- **First space station near Moon**
  - Russia & US have agreed to cooperate on a NASA-led project to build the 1st lunar space station, part of a long-term project to send humans to Mars.
  - Deep Space Gateway will allow mankind to eventually undertake space flights to Mars & elsewhere in the Solar System.
  - The project envisages building a crew-tended spaceport in lunar orbit that would serve as a gateway to deep space & lunar surface.

- **Scientists detect 4th gravitational wave**
  - Scientists have made the 4th detection of gravitational waves – ripples in fabric of space & time formed by the collision of 2 massive black holes.
  - For the first time, the detection was made jointly with Virgo observatory from Europe.
  - LIGO-Virgo collaboration includes more than a thousand scientists from different countries, setting a great example in international scientific cooperation.

- **Mars Orbiter Mission completes 3 years**
ISRO’s low-cost Mars Orbiter Mission has completed 3 years in its Martian orbit.

The 450 cr MOM mission aims at studying Martian surface & mineral composition. It will scan its atmosphere for methane which is an indicator of life on Mars.

ISRO had launched the spacecraft from Sriharikota in Andhra Pradesh on Nov 5, 2013

Scientific analysis of data received from the spacecraft is in progress

**Australia announces new space agency**

Australia will create its own space agency in an attempt to cash in on a $420 billion aeronautical industry and create thousands of new jobs.

A national space agency will ensure a strategic long-term plan that supports the development and application of space technologies and grows the domestic space industry of Australia.

Most developed nations have a space agency, including New Zealand.

**Optical polarisation phenomenon**

Over 70 years after Indian astrophysicist and Nobel laureate Subrahmanyan Chandrasekhar predicted that rapidly rotating stars would emit polarised light, scientists in Australia have observed the phenomenon for the first time.

Optical polarisation is a measure of the orientation of the oscillations of a light beam to its direction of travel.

It was first observed in 1946.

**India joins quantum computing race**

The Department of Science and Technology is planning to fund a project to develop quantum computers.

A quantum computer, still largely a theoretical entity, employs the principles of quantum mechanics to store information in ‘qubits’ instead of the typical ‘bits’ of 1 and 0.
Canada’s D-Wave Systems, is a pioneer in quantum computers.

- **Cassini spacecraft ends 20-year journey**
  - NASA’s $3.9 bn Cassini spacecraft ended its 20-year-long groundbreaking journey with a fiery plunge into Saturn’s crushing atmosphere.
  - Its aim was to take pictures, giving the most detailed look at Saturn's rings & its moons.
  - Cassini found new moons orbiting the planet, signs of possible life on existing moons.

- **NASA finds 'shape-shifting' bacteria**
  - Bacterial cells treated with a common antibiotic have been spotted changing shape to survive while aboard the International Space Station.
  - The way bacteria act in near-zero gravity environments could pose a serious problem for treating astronauts with infections.
  - The group of researchers was led by Luis Zea of the University of Colorado.

- **1st global map of water on Moon created**
  - Scientists have created 1st map of water trapped in uppermost layer of Moon’s soil which may prove useful to future lunar explorers.
  - Scientists from Brown University used a new calibration of data taken from Nasa’s Moon Mineralogy Mapper, which flew aboard Chandrayaan-1 spacecraft to quantify how much water is present on a global scale.
  - Signature of water is present nearly everywhere on Moon.

**Sports**

- **Indian football team qualifies for AFC**
Indian football team has qualified for AFC U-16 Championship to be held next year in Malaysia after finishing 2nd in their group qualifying round played in Kathmandu.

India qualified as one of the six best second-placed teams from the group matches of qualifying round.

India defeated Palestine (3-0) and drew against Nepal (2-2) and group toppers Iraq (0-0) to collect 5 points & finished 2nd.

- **5th Asian Indoor and Martial Arts Games**
  - The 5th Asian Indoor and Martial Arts Games concluded at Ashgabat in Turkmenistan.
  - On the concluding day Indians grabbed 4 medals, including a gold through tennis player Sumit Nagal, to end at 11th place.
  - With 9 gold, 12 silver & 19 bronze, India finished at 11th position in the Games.
  - Hosts Turkmenistan topped the medals tally with 89 gold, 70 silver & 86 bronze, followed by China and Iran

- **India to host South Asian boxing C'ship**
  - India will be hosting the South Asian boxing Championship for the first time in Guwahati from December 6 to 10.
  - Pak, Afghanistan, Sri Lanka & Bangladesh will participate in Championship with other SARCC countries.
  - South Asian Championship will be followed by India International Open tournament, the tournament will witness participation from Uzbekistan & Ukraine among other top boxing nations

- **ICC's new rules to come into effect**
  - ICC’s revamped playing rules are all set to become effective in all series starting September 28.
  - Significant changes include a restriction on the dimensions of the bat & changes to Decision Review System.
ICC playing conditions will now incorporate relevant clauses from MCC Laws of Cricket (2017 Code), meaning that all the playing regulations will be captured in 1 document for each format.

- **East Bengal wins CFL title**
  - East Bengal registered a record-extending eighth consecutive Calcutta Football League title by holding Mohun Bagan to a 2-2 draw.
  - East Bengal have won all the CFL titles since 2010. They have a total of 39 CFL titles - a record haul.
  - East Bengal needed a draw to seal the deal with both teams being on the same number of points (22).

- **Team Europe wins Laver Cup**
  - World number 2 Roger Federer handed Team Europe the maiden Laver Cup title after beating Team World's Nick Kyrgios in a tie-break.
  - Federer won 4-6, 7-6 (6), 11/9 to give Team Europe an unbeatable 15-9 lead.
  - Team Europe were odds-on favourites with 5 of world's top 7 players.
  - Nadal suffered a 7-5 7-6 loss to Isner forcing him to hand the baton to team-mate Federer, who eventually got the job

- **Vaishnavi clinches Belgian Junior title**
  - Indian shuttler Vaishnavi Reddy has clinched the women's singles Under-19 title at the Belgian Junior Open badminton tournament.
  - She defeated top seed Vivien Sandorhazi in a three-game final at Herstal.
  - Second seed Reddy saw off Vivien 21-19, 17-21, 21-12 in a 42-minute summit clash at the Hall Omnisport La Prealle.

- **57th National Open Athletics**
  - The 57th National Open Athletics Championships will begin at Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium in Chennai.
  - Around 1200 athletes from various states & departments/PSU would be taking part in the meet.
Among the institutions to be represented include All India Police Sports Board, ONGC, LIC, apart from Railways & Services.

The participants include country's top track & field athletes.

- **Probe into Sri Lanka cricket**
  - The International Cricket Council has launched an anti-corruption investigation in Sri Lanka.
  - ICC however did not specify if any particular series involving the country is under the scanner.
  - ICC statement came a day after Sri Lanka Cricket said that 40 of its contracted players called for an immediate inquiry into certain "shocking" allegations made by selector, Pramodya Wickramasinghe.

- **Federer & Nadal win first doubles match**
  - Roger Federer and Rafael Nadal played as doubles partners for the first time on the second day of the inaugural Laver Cup in Prague.
  - They defeated Americans Sam Querrey and Jack Sock 6-4 1-6 (10-5) to give Team Europe a 9-3 lead.
  - The two picked up two Grand Slam titles each this year, as Federer won Australian Open and Wimbledon, while Nadal picked up the crowns at the French and US Open.

**Defense**

- **Mega internal security scheme**
  - Govt has approved a Rs 25,000-crore mega internal security scheme to strengthen country's law & order mechanism, modernise police forces & effectively fight against terrorism.
  - It would bolster govt's ability to address challenges faced in different theatres such as areas affected by LWE, Jammu & Kashmir & Northeast effectively.
- This is the biggest ever internal security scheme in the country

- **INS Tarasa commissioned into Indian Navy**
  - INS Tarasa, a Water Jet Fast Attack Craft has been commissioned into the Indian Navy
  - It is 50 m long & powered by 3 waterjets which give it speeds of over 35 knots
  - It is armed with a 30 mm main gun indigenously built & a no. of medium & heavy machine guns to undertake costal defence operations
  - It is the 2nd ship of Indian Navy to be named INS Tarasa. The 1st was in service from 1999 to 2014

- **BDL to supply MRSA Missiles**
  - Bharat Dynamics Limited, a defence PSU has a signed contract with Research Centre Imarat for supply of Medium Range Surface-to-Air Missiles to Indian Army.
  - The contract has been signed for production, deliveries and product support of MRSAM system for the Indian Army.
  - Bharat Dynamics is one of India's leading manufacturer of ammunitions and missile systems.

- **Pakistan, Russia hold military exercise**
  - Pakistan and Russia are holding 2 week long joint military drill focussing on counter-terrorism operations to enhance military ties between the two countries.
  - The joint exercise DRUZBA 2017 between special forces of Pakistan and Russia Armies started in Minralney Vody, Russia.
  - Last September, a contingent of 100 Russian troops had taken part in joint exercises in Pakistan.

- **Roadmap for making body armours**
Niti Aayog has been asked to set up an inter-ministerial empowered committee to prepare a roadmap to 'encourage domestic manufacturing' of lightweight body armours for army & para-military forces.

Committee will be headed by Niti Aayog member V K Saraswat and will have representatives from DRDO, DIPP, Ministry of Defence & Home Affairs.

- India is a major producer & exporter of body armour.

- **NATO wraps up exercise Dynamic Monarch**
  - 9 NATO Allies wrapped up a submarine search and rescue exercise, Dynamic Monarch 2017, off the coast of Marmaris in southwestern Turkey.
  - The exercise demonstrated importance of cooperation for NATO-led naval missions & involved a wide array of equipment & up to 1,000 military and civilian personnel.
  - The exercise also practised complex medical operations at sea.

- **China, Aus complete military drills**
  - Chinese and Australian soldiers have completed a series of military exercises in southwestern China - the first joint drills between the two countries on Chinese soil.
  - 'Exercise Panda Kangaroo 2017' lasted for 10 days and featured 10 soldiers from each country's army.
  - The exercises come amid rising tension in the region over Beijing’s disputed territorial claims in the South China Sea.

- **Coast Guard commission interceptor boats**
  - Indian Coast Guard has commissioned 2 high-speed interceptor boats fitted with a 12.7 mm machine gun at Dighi Port in Mumbai.
  - C-433 & C-434 boats built by L&T Shipbuilding are 27.42m long & have a displacement of 136 tons each.
The vessels were designed for high-speed interception, close coast patrol, low intensity maritime operations, search and rescue and maritime surveillance.

- **Scorpion class submarines to Indian Navy**
  - Mazagon Dock has delivered first of six scorpion class submarines to Indian Navy.
  - Named after a dreaded deep sea predator, Tiger Shark, INS Kalvari is 1st indigenously built submarine in 22 years.
  - It will act as a force multiplier for the Navy by launching massive attacks through precision guided weapons.
  - It is being built under Project-75 by Mazagon Docks with technology transfer from DCNS.

- **SSB’s new intelligence unit**
  - Home Minister Rajnath Singh has operationalised the Sashastra Seema Bal’s 1st ever intelligence wing.
  - It will gather intelligence on terrorists, illegal immigrants, fake currency etc along Bhutan & Nepal borders.
  - The wing will have 650 field and staff agents to gather actionable information.
  - SSB was also declared as the Lead Intelligence Agency for both Indo-Nepal & Indo-Bhutan borders.

**India & World**

- **India launches Access India Programme**
  - India has launched a new initiative to attract investments from small & medium enterprises in UK.
  - Access India Programme will work as a market entry support system for smaller companies with a potential to expand into the Indian market.
The new AIP initiative will be geared towards implementing 'Make in India' concept by facilitating investments from UK.

- **India, EU to hold 14th summit talks**
  - President of European Council, Donald Tusk & President of European Commission, Jean-Juncker will be on a 3 day visit to India to hold 14th India-EU Summit in New Delhi.
  - Summit aims at deepening India-EU Strategic Partnership & advance collaboration in priority areas for India’s development.
  - EU is India’s largest regional trading partner with bilateral trade in goods standing at $88bn in 2016.

- **India, Norway extends cooperation**
  - India & Norway have extended bilateral cooperation in health sector through Norway-India Partnership Initiative for 3 years starting 2018.
  - It will also focus on areas related to reproductive, maternal, child, adolescent health & strengthening of health system.
  - Cooperation b/w the 2 countries will continue to be aligned with development goals of India as outlined in National Health Policy 2017.

- **'Incredible India’ campaign launched**
  - India has launched a campaign to woo Egyptian travellers & make them aware of the magnificent holiday options in the country.
  - As part of the campaign, 12 buses of transport authority will showcase various tourist destinations in India, including culture, festivals, monuments, landscape, wildlife, people & food.
  - This campaign also aims to connect tour operators of both the countries.

- **Railway line between India, Nepal**
  - After remaining non-functional for the last 3 years the Janakpur-Jayanagar Railway line connecting Nepal and India is expected to become functional by 2018.
It is the only railway line that once used to link India with Nepal but after 2014 its service got discontinued.

The project will be completed in three phases and is estimated to cost Rs. 5.48 billion, mostly aided by Indian Government.

**India, US, Afghanistan join hands**

- For the 1st time, India, US & Afghanistan will hold a joint trade & investment show in Delhi next, as New Delhi steps up to its role of being a bigger development partner to Afghanistan.
- The event sponsored by US & hosted by India, will be inaugurated by Afghan CEO Dr Abdullah.
- Abdullah will be accompanied by a 50-member delegation consisting of 4 deputy ministers & team of business leaders.

**India 3rd in nuclear power installations**

- According to the World Nuclear Industry Status Report 2017, India is third in the world in number of nuclear reactors being installed, at six, while China is leading at 20.
- In India, five out of the six reactors under construction are behind schedule.
- Share of nuclear energy generation stagnates globally, and several countries shut down nuclear reactors in 2017.

**Meeting of Leftist parties**

- For the first time, Kerala will be hosting a meeting of all Communist & Left parties of South Asian countries at Kochi.
- Gathering would take place at Ernakulam & representatives of 8 Communist & Left parties from South Asian countries besides CPI & CPIM from India would take part.
- Main topic of discussion would be interventions of imperialistic forces & problems faced by party in the country

**BIMSTEC Disaster Management Exercise**
The First ‘BIMSTEC Disaster Management Exercise- 2017’ (BIMSTEC DMEx-2017) will be conducted by NDRF as the lead agency in Delhi & NCR.

- It will be a platform for sharing Best Practices on all aspects of Disaster Risk Reduction, strengthening regional response among BIMSTEC member countries.
- Majority of BIMSTEC countries are situated in South Asian Region, prone to natural disasters.

- **Inter-Governmental Commission meeting**
  - Union Minister for Petroleum & Natural Gas Dharmendra Pradhan will be visiting Kazakhstan to co-chair the 13th Meeting of Inter-Governmental Commission.
  - The meeting aims to follow up on the agenda set b/w India & Kazakhstan during the 2 visits of PM Modi to Kazakhstan.
  - Two sides are expected to finalize a roadmap for expanding trade, economic & investment cooperation b/w the 2 countries.

### Resignation and Appointment

- **Viveck Goenka elected new PTI Chairman**
  - Viveck Goenka, Chairman & Managing Director of the Express Group was unanimously elected Chairman of Press Trust of India.
  - Mr. Goenka succeeds Riyad Mathew, who is Senior Assistant Editor and a member of the Manorama management.
  - He is also a director of the Indian Newspaper Society besides being a member of the Advertising Association, India Chapter.

- **Santosh Sharma takes charge**
  - The Ministry of Mines has appointed Santosh Sharma as Chairman and Managing Director of Hindustan Copper for a period of five years.
Sharma joined the Company as General Manager (Operations) in 2013 and thereafter, he became Executive Director (Operations).

He became Director (Operations) of the company with effect from March 1, last year.

**Person In News**

- **First Indian woman to scale Mt Manaslu**
  - An Indian Police Service Officer of UP Cadre, Aparna Kumar became the first Indian woman to scale Mount Manaslu, which is the 8th highest mountain peak in the world.
  - Exactly at 10.00 am on September 25, Kumar took up a mission to climb Mount Manaslu in the west-central part of Nepal.
  - She has already successfully scaled the highest peaks of six continents out of seven continents.

- **PC among highest paid female TV actors**
  - Priyanka Chopra has made it to Forbes’ annual top 10 highest paid female TV actors list that has Sofia Vergara on the No.1 spot.
  - With her earning of $10 million, she is on the eighth position on the list, nudging House of Cards star Robin Wright ($9 million) to the ninth spot.
  - Priyanka made her acting debut in the West with TV show Quantico.

- **Nooyi, Kochhar, Shikha on biz women list**
  - 2 Indians Chanda Kochhar & Shikha Sharma have made it to the rankings of most powerful women in business outside US drawn up by Fortune magazine.
  - The list which was topped by Banco Santander group Executive Chairman Ana Botin, placed ICICI Banks Kochhar at 5th spot while Axis Banks Sharma has been ranked 21st
PepsiCo CEO Indra Nooyi came in at No. 2 on US Most Powerful Women in Business list

- **Tyagi named among world's top regulators**
  - According to a report, Sebi Chairman Ajay Tyagi has been named among the top 10 regulators in the world.
  - Tyagi, who took over the reins of SEBI this year, has been ranked at 7th position among the top 10 regulators worldwide.
  - Rankings are part of World's Most Influential People in Market Structure, also known as Exchange Invest 1000
  - The list is topped by EU’s Commissioner Margrethe Vestager

- **P.V. Sindhu for Padma Bhushan**
  - Olympic silver medallist shuttler P.V. Sindhu has been recommended for the prestigious Padma Bhushan by the Sports Ministry.
  - World No. 2 Sindhu has been in stellar form since winning a silver medal at Rio Olympics and is the second athlete after MS Dhoni to have been nominated for the honour this year.
  - In March 2015, Sindhu was awarded India’s fourth highest civilian honour, the Padma Shri.

- **President Kovind’s first foreign trip**
  - President Kovind will make his 1st foreign trip as head of state to strategically-significant African continent in October.
  - Presidential visit to Ethiopia & Djibouti is seen as a reiteration of importance govt gives to continent where Chinese have made considerable inroads.
  - Addis Ababa, capital of Ethiopia is the seat of African Union, had hosted 1st India-Africa summit outside India in 2012

- **Mary Kom to be AIBA representative**
Olympic bronze-medallist M C Mary Kom has become the first Indian to be picked as International Boxing Association’s representative for IOC Athletes’ Forum.

She has been invited to attend the 8th International Olympic Committee’s Athletes’ Forum in Lausanne from November 11 to 13.

Mary Kom is an Asian Games gold-medallist besides being a multiple-time Asian champion.

- **Hui Ka Yan Becomes Asia's Richest Man**
  - Hui Ka Yan, the chairman of big China real estate developer China Evergrande Group, has become Asia’s richest man.
  - Hui’s estimated fortune of $42.2 billion puts him ahead of Tencent Holdings Chairman Ma Huateng ($39.1 billion) and Alibaba Group Chairman Jack Ma ($38.9 billion).
  - Hui’s wealth advance has been driven by an extraordinary rally in Hong Kong-listed Evergrande’s share price.

- **100 greatest living business minds**
  - 3 Indian entrepreneurial legends, Ratan Tata, Lakshmi Mittal & Vinod Khosla have been included in Forbes’s list of world’s ‘100 Greatest Living Business Minds’.
  - Other Honorees featured on the list include Donald Trump, Mark Zuckerberg and others.
  - List includes individuals who have either created something with a lasting impact on world or innovated in a way that transcends their given field.

- **Brand ambassador for Swachh Bharat**
  - Uttarakhand Chief Minister Trivendra Singh Rawat announced appointment of Akshay Kumar as the brand ambassador of Swachh Bharat Mission in the state.
  - Objectives of Swachh Bharat are to reduce or eliminate open defecation through the construction of individual, cluster and community toilets.
Akshay Kumar was also appointed as the brand ambassador for cleanliness drive by Uttar Pradesh Govt.

**Environment**

- **'Lab on boat' for analysing Brahmaputra**
  - A new project of Department of Biotechnology aims at starting a 'lab on boat' on Brahmaputra river for biological analysis of the river system.
  - Project also proposes to have multiple mobile laboratories on the river & its tributaries along with providing access to local research institutions.
  - Anchored by IIT-Guwahati, project is supported by Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region.

- **Environment Ministry to conduct Quiz**
  - Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change will hold a quiz on environment - ‘Prakriti Khoj’ throughout the country.
  - Quiz is planned in 5 rounds & qualifying round will begin on 25th of this month by paying tribute to Pandit Deen Dayal Upadhyaya on his birth anniversary.
  - Thematic areas like climate change, biodiversity, pollution, waste management etc. have been chosen for the quiz.

- **Presence of aerosol over Asia**
  - A joint study by ISRO & NASA which had commenced after satellite images showed presence of an aerosol layer over Asia region, has confirmed the same.
  - The study also found presence of nitrate, which is a new finding
  - Aerosol are sub-micron size particles suspended in air that are produced from a variety of man-made & natural processes such as vehicle exhaust, waste-burning & wind blown dust.

- **Survey to remeasure Mount Everest**
Nepal has begun remeasuring Mount Everest to check if the height of the world’s tallest peak was altered by a powerful earthquake that struck the nation in 2015.

- The official height of Mount Everest is 8,848 metres (29,029 feet), first recorded by an Indian survey in 1954.
- Nepal has never measured Everest on its own although the world’s highest peak lies in its territory.

**Snow leopard upgraded to 'vulnerable'**

- Elusive snow leopard, long considered endangered has been upgraded to vulnerable.
- It still face serious challenges including poaching & loss of prey in their Himalayan habitat. Snow leopards had been listed as endangered since 1972.
- Endangered snow leopard is found in rugged mountains of Central Asia.
- Snow leopards are perfectly adapted to cold, barren landscape of their high-altitude home.

**Augmentation Prog In Buxa Tiger Reserve**

- Tigers will roar again at Buxa Tiger Reserve in West Bengal.
- Located in Alipurduar district, the reserve, parts of which border Bhutan, has been identified for the tiger augmentation programme by the National Tiger Conservation Authority.
- Notified as a tiger reserve in 1983, Buxa consists of moist, deciduous and evergreen forests.

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