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Yearly Review of National Affairs 2017 - Current Affairs Capsule in PDF

January 2017

- CCS among top 100 think tanks
 - The Centre for Civil Society (CCS) has been ranked among the top 100 think tanks globally.
 - It is as per the Global Go to Think Tank Index Report 2016 released annually by the Lauder Institute of Pennsylvania University, U.S.
 - Nine other Indian institutes figured among the top 175 for the year 2016.
The CCS is ranked 80 which is one lower than last year's rank.
- Summons might be served through email
 - A key amendment in the law could soon result in summons being serviced in civil matters through email, cutting through layers of red tape and delays, top sources in the ministry of law and justice said.
 - Currently, a summon is served in accordance with the rules under Order V of the Civil Procedure Code of 1908 that governs the functioning of civil courts in India.
- Govt launches film heritage mission
 - The information and broadcasting ministry launched a film condition assessment project.
 - Under this almost 1.32 lakh film reels at National Film Archive of India will be assessed and preserved for future use.
 - The project marks the beginning of National Film Heritage Mission, an initiative by the government of India.

1 |



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- Solar parks to come up in Ladakh
 - The Jammu and Kashmir govt has signed an MoU with the Centre for the development of two mega solar parks in Ladakh with a total capacity of 7500 MW.
 - The State Government has signed MoU with the Centre for the development of 2 Mega Solar Parks of 5000 MW capacity in Leh district & 2500 MW capacity in Kargil district.
- President appoints Governors
 - President Pranab Mukherjee appointed Banwarilal Purohit, the Governor of Assam to execute the functions of the Governor of Meghalaya & Arunachal Pradesh.
 - He also appointed P. B. Acharya, the Governor of Nagaland to discharge functions as the Governor of Arunachal Pradesh.
- WB sees highest no. of police injuries
 - The Bureau of Police Research and Development released its report on police injuries
 - Out of the 1623 police personnel injured in the country by riotous mobs in 2015, 641 (39.5%) are from West Bengal, Kerala came second.
 - The statistics also reveal that of the total of 34 persons killed in police firing across the country, only 4 were from West Bengal.
- India sees increase in tourist arrivals
 - India registered an 11% increase in foreign tourist arrivals in 2016 over 2015, with as many as 9 million tourists visiting the country.
 - **During a session on 'Partnering with diaspora to accelerate tourism in India', Vinod Zutshi, Secretary, Ministry of Tourism, said this was way above the projected 4.5% growth.**



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- This also resulted in a 15% growth in income from FTAs, he said.
- Naidu Inaugurates Conf. for e-Governance
 - Information and Broadcasting Minister Venkaiah Naidu inaugurated the 2-day National Conference for e-Governance in Visakhapatnam.
 - The theme of this year's conference is 'Internet of Things and e-Governance'.
 - The conference is an opportunity for the public and private sectors to discuss best practices related to e-Governance.
 - Three books have been released on the 1st day of the conference.
- Modi Inaugurates Global Trade Show 2017
 - PM Modi formally inaugurated the Vibrant Gujarat Global Trade show at Gandhinagar.
 - More than 1500 representatives of about 80 countries in the world have participated in the trade show.
 - The trade show has different pavilions of various sectors like automotive, pharmaceutical, agro, bio technology and among others.
 - This year special emphasis has been on start ups, women entrepreneurs & MSME.
- Maharashtra Govt Launches Largest WiFi Service
 - **Maharashtra government has launched India's largest public WiFi service** called 'MumbaiWifi'.
 - Under the current phase, hotspots were installed at 500 locations.
 - These include tourist destinations like Gateway of India, Churchgate, CST along with slum clusters and public places.
 - In Phase II, expected to launch by May 1, the hotspots will be installed at the remaining 700 locations.





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- BMC Launches Toilet Locator Mobile App
 - Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) has a mobile application to locate toilets in Mumbai.
 - **"Mumbai Toilet Locator"** was launched by municipal commissioner Ajoy Mehta.
 - The civic body has connected over 800 pay-and-use toilets across the city on "Mumbai Toilet Locator" through GPS.
 - The easy-to-use application is meant for android phones.
- PM Announces Pravasi Kaushal Vikas Yoj.
 - PM Modi launched Pravasi Kaushal Vikas Yojana, a skill development program targeted at Indian youth seeking overseas employment
 - It was launched after inauguration of 14th Pravasi Bhartiya Divas convention in Bengaluru.
 - It will be implemented by the National Skill Development Corporation, for this purpose, NSDC will leverage various MoUs it signed between 2011 and 2015 with different countries.
- Dangal Becomes Bollywood Highest Grosser
 - **Aamir Khan's Dangal has overtaken his previous film PK to become the highest-grossing Hindi film in history with Rs 345 cr**
 - The film, is based on life of Haryanvi wrestler Mahavir Singh Phogat.
 - The list of top earners included Aamir's PK & Salman Khan's Bajrangi Bhaijaan & Sultaan.
 - The overall revenue of PK was Rs 340.8 crore, while Salman's films netted Rs 316 cr & Rs 300.4 cr respectively.
- 4th Assam Int. Agri-Horti Show Begins
 - Fourth Assam International Agri-Horiculture show has begun in Guwahati.



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- It was inaugurated by state CM Sarbananda Sonowal.
- Nearly 600 farmers of Assam will be trained on doubling farmers' income, more crop per drop and agri-preneurship development.
- Over 200 organizations from across the country have taken part in the show.
- Business meet, exhibitions, discussion are also being organised.
- Two day Assam Biotech Conclave Begins
 - The two day Assam Biotech Conclave began in Guwahati.
 - CM Sarbanand Sonowal inaugurated the conclave in presence of Science and Technology minister Keshab Mahanta.
 - The conclave will create business and partnering opportunities for its stakeholders and to showcase the facilities and opportunities offered by Guwahati Biotech Park.
 - Several MoUs have been signed as a part of the conclave.
- Govt Launches IPR Enforcement Toolkit
 - The Union Minister Nirmala Sitharaman launched an Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) Enforcement Toolkit for Police.
 - The toolkit has been prepared by Cell for IPR Promotion and Management & FICCI.
 - This toolkit will be a ready reckoner for police in dealing with IP crimes, specifically Trade Marks counterfeiting & Copyrights piracy. It provides for checklists for registering a complaint.
- Govt Launches Swachh Bharat Survekshan
 - The Union Ministry of Urban Development launched Swachh Survekshan 2017 to rank 500 cities/towns across the country on cleanliness with a population of 1 lakh and above.





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- The survey will be conducted by Quality Council of India. It will judge cities on the basis of data provided by Municipal bodies, data collected through direct observations & independent assessment & citizen feedbacks.
- Justice JS Khehar sworn in as CJI
 - Justice Jagdish Singh Khehar was sworn in as the Chief Justice of India.
 - Khehar was administered the oath of office by President Pranab Mukherjee at Rashtrapati Bhavan in New Delhi.
 - He succeeded Justice Tirath Singh Thakur.
 - Khehar is the 44th CJI and also the first Sikh to hold the apex office. He would have a tenure of little over seven months.
- India Opens First School for Transgender
 - **India's first transgender school opened in Kochi, Kerala.**
 - The school, named Sahaj International, was inaugurated by transgender activist, writer and actor Kalki Subramaniam at Thrikkakara in Kerala's Ernakulam district.
 - This alternative learning centre works in collaboration with National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS).
 - The school is the first of its kind in the country.

February 2017

- Rajasthan Inaugurates RAHAT project
 - Rajasthan CM Vasundhara Raje inaugurated a medical project Rajasthan
 - 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



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- India's first hill station bicycle path was inaugurated in Darjeeling, WB at an altitude of over 2,000 metres.
- The 20 km long cycle route runs through thick pine forest and Senchal **wildlife sanctuary, one of India's oldest nature reserves.**
- 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 mound human activities to bring them in sync with ecological surroundings.
 - He also termed unity in diversity as the specialty and strength of the





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- 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
 - 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.



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- 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.

March 2017

- Online Film Certification System
 - Information and Broadcasting Minister M. Venkaiah Naidu launched the Online Film Certification System of the Central Board of Film Certifications.
 - **He said the initiative was on the lines of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's** vision of ease-of-doing business and digital India, making the entire process transparent and efficient.
 - The new system uses email, QR code and text messages for any updates
- J&K government approves smart city proposals
 - A committee of the Jammu and Kashmir government has approved the Smart City Proposals for the twin cities of Jammu and Srinagar for submission to the Centre.
 - Considering the vulnerability of the cities to multiple hazards, the calamities like floods and earthquakes, risk preparedness and risk response have received special focus in the SCPs' proposal.



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- India's second tallest flag post
 - Kolhapur will soon get a 300-foot flag post to fly the tricolour, **which would be the “second tallest” flag pole in the country.**
 - A 360-foot **high flag post, said to be the country’s tallest,** was inaugurated on March 6 at the Indo-Pak Attari Border.
 - Chief Minister of Maharashtra is likely to attend the flag hoisting ceremony on May 1, the foundation day of Maharashtra state.
- Mining banned in Uttarakhand
 - The Uttarakhand High Court ordered a complete ban on mining activities in the State for four months.
 - The move comes 4 days after a forest worker was allegedly killed in Ramnagar while he was chasing the mining mafia.
 - The court directed the State government to refrain from granting any fresh licence, mining lease, reconnaissance or prospecting licence till the committee submitted its report.
- Shortest, widest Highway in the world
 - Haryana would soon have the widest and shortest National Highway (NH) in the world with 16 lanes in a 3-km stretch.
 - Detailed Project Report (DPR) of the proposed elevated National Highway, costing around Rs 700 crore.
 - The three kilometre road with 16 lanes will be built on the Sohna Road in Gurgaon.
 - It will be the shortest and widest National Highway in the world
- First Body for complaints against cops
 - Maharashtra became the first state to set up the State Police Complaints Authority (SPCA).



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- People can approach the SPCA office to lodge complaints against police personnel for any alleged abuse of power,
- The authority is headed by a retired high court judge and comprises retired IPS and IAS officers.
- India's first vertical garden
 - Emulating China and Italy's vertical forests, Bengaluru got its first vertical garden, which it hopes will help in curbing pollution and in beautifying the city.
 - An NGO, installed the first vertical garden in the city on one of the pillars of the Hosur Road flyover.
 - An automated drip irrigation system has been installed that will water these saplings every day.
- India, Pakistan to review Miyar project
 - India and Pakistan agreed on redesigning the Miyar Hydroelectric project, at the end of two-day talks of Indus Water Commissioners in Islamabad.
 - They raised concern over 1000 MW Pakul Dul on Chenab, 120 MW Miyar, located across Miyar Nalla which is a right bank main tributary of River Chenab and the 43 MW Lower Kalnai hydro project on Lower Kalnai Nalla, a tributary of river Chenab.
- **India's 1st carbon neutral district**
 - Assam CM launched initiatives to develop Majuli as India's 1st carbon neutral district and as a biodiversity heritage.
 - CM launched "Forests are Lives" campaign to celebrate the importance of Assam's rich forest and biodiversity and urged





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people of the state to take a pledge to conserve its biodiversity to make a pollution free state.

- Majuli is the biggest river island in the world.
- Asia's longest bidirectional road tunnel
 - PM Modi will dedicate to the nation, Asia's longest bi-directional road tunnel on the Jammu-Srinagar National Highway on the 2nd of next month.
 - The nearly 11-km long state-of-the-art tunnel will cut down travel time between Jammu and Srinagar by 2 hours.
 - The road distance from Chenani and Nashri will now be 10.9 km, instead of the existing 41 km.

April 2017



- Aerial survey of Tapi
 - To meet the demand of potable water in future, the Surat Municipal Corporation started a heliborne survey of Tapi riverbed and its banks.
 - The SMC has thus become the first civic body in the country to carry out a scientific study to find out potable water.
 - Through this survey, scanning will be done around 500 m beneath the riverbed to identify and locate confined and saturated aquifer.
- Change of status for marine body IALA
 - The government gave its approval to change the status of global marine body IALA to inter government organisation from non-governmental organisation.
 - The move will foster the safe, economic and efficient movement of vessels. It will bring IALA at par with International Maritime Organisation.
 - St Germainen Laye (France) headquartered IALA was established in 1957 under French law.



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- Justice S N Dhingra report
 - The Justice SN Dhingra Commission concluded that Robert Vadra made illegal profits of Rs 50.5 crore from a land deal in Haryana in 2008 without spending a single penny.
 - The commission was constituted in 2015 to investigate a mutation of land deal between Vadra's firm Skylight Hospitality and realty major DLF.
 - The committee submitted its report on August 31, 2016.
- Karnataka the most corrupt state
 - Karnataka occupies the first slot in a list of states perceived to be corrupt on the basis of people's experience in paying bribes for public services.
 - Karnataka is followed by Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra, Jammu & Kashmir and Punjab.
 - Himachal Pradesh, Kerala and Chhattisgarh are least corrupt.
 - The report was published by Centre for Media Studies.
- Press freedom rankings
 - India slipped three places in the 2017 world press freedom rankings to **136th among 180 countries, the dismal performance blamed on “Modi’s nationalism” and growing “self-censorship” in the mainstream media.**
 - India was ranked just three places above Pakistan and was one notch below violence-torn Palestine.
 - The report was released by Reporters without Borders.
- India's 1st green highway
 - India's first smart and green highway, Eastern Peripheral Expressway will be ready by August this year.
 - It has been built at a cost of Rs. 11000 crore.
 - At least 2.5 lakh trees will be on the both sides of the roads with solar panels.
- Lavasa Committee submits report to FM





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- The 'Committee on Allowance' headed by Finance Secretary Ashok Lavasa submitted its final report on 'higher allowances' and 'minimum wages' to Finance Minister Arun Jaitley.
- Around 43 lakh central government employees and 57 lakh pensioners are eagerly waiting for the Ashok Lavasa committee to submit its final report.
- The Ashok Lavasa Committee was formed in June 2016.
- PM launches UDAN Scheme
 - Prime Minister Narendra Modi has launched the UDAN (Ude Desh Ka Aam Nagrik) scheme from Jubbarhatti, an airport on the outskirts of Shimla.
 - He flagged off the first UDAN flight under Regional Connectivity Scheme on Shimla-Delhi sector.
 - UDAN flights on Kadapa–Hyderabad, and Nanded-Hyderabad sectors were also flagged off.
- Sukma attack
 - Twenty-five CRPF jawans were slaughtered in one of the deadliest attacks by Maoist rebels.
 - Around 300-400 Leftist insurgents ambushed and outgunned 99 troopers deployed to help with the construction of a road through the Maoist stronghold of Sukma in Chhattisgarh.
 - This was one of the three biggest attacks on security forces in seven years, and the second in the last one and a half months.
- Rs 10000 minimum monthly wage
 - The Labour Ministry has proposed a minimum monthly income of Rs.10000 for contract workers.
 - The move will drastically increase the minimum wages of contract labourers from around Rs.6000 per month that is paid to them in a few sectors at present.



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- At present, employers give the fixed minimum wages to workers for 45 economic activities.
- Child artistes can work only for 5 hours
 - The Labour Ministry has proposed draft rules to fix the working conditions for child artistes and for employing children in family enterprises.
 - While a child artiste will not be allowed to work for more than five hours a day, a child “assisting” in a family business can only work for three hours a day.
 - An amendment to the Child Labour Rules, 1986 has been made.
- UID numbers for cows
 - The Centre has proposed issuing “Unique Identification Number Sequences” for cows and their progeny to protect them from cattle smuggling.
 - It is the brainchild of the Union Agriculture Ministry.
 - The Ministry of Agriculture has devised a method of tamper-proof identification of cattle using polyurethane tags with Unique Identification Number Sequence.
- Agriculture Ministry unveils APMC Act
 - In order to give more freedom to farmers to sell their produce, the agriculture ministry has unveiled “The State/UT Agricultural Produce and Livestocks Marketing (promotion and facilitation) Act, 2017”.
 - The draft law proposes to cap market fees and commission charges payable by a farmer after bringing produce to a wholesale market.
 - The Act was passed in 2003.
- Northeast India's largest IT hub opens
 - Northeast India's sixth and largest Information Technology (IT) hub was inaugurated in Tripura.





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- It will boost employment and e-governance besides to export software technology.
- The hub has been built at a cost of Rs. 50 crore.
- **Central university for Divyangs**
 - Government will set up a Central university for Divyangs in Uttar Pradesh.
 - This was stated by HRD Minister Prakash Javadekar while addressing the convocation function of Shakuntala Mishra national rehabilitation university, Lucknow .
 - The Minister said, the University Grants Commission has been instructed to make arrangement for special training of instructors providing education to Divyangs.
- **India-Bangladesh Friendship Bridge**
 - The Tripura government has commenced the land acquisition process for the construction of India-Bangladesh Friendship Bridge over river Feni that demarcates boundaries between the two countries in south Tripura.
 - The bridge would facilitate implementation of a protocol India earlier signed with Bangladesh to use **Chittagong sea port as a 'port of call'**.
 - The govt is bearing the entire cost.
- **First underwater metro tunnel**
 - A gigantic Tunnel Boring Machine is being used to build a underwater tunnel which will connect Howrah with Kolkata.
 - The construction will be completed by July.
 - The two 520-metre structures are part of a 10.8 km underground stretch and are crucial to the East West Metro project.
 - They are being built at a cost of Rs. 8900 crores.
- **India's first sea ropeway**
 - India's first and longest ropeway to connect Mumbai with the famous Elephanta Island in the Arabian Sea is planned to be constructed by the Mumbai Port Trust.



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- The 8-km ropeway will begin from Sewri in Mumbai's east coast and end at Raigad district's Elephanta Island, globally renowned for Elephanta Caves.
- Subsidised solar water pumps
 - The Madhya Pradesh government would soon provide nearly 18,500 solar-powered water pumps to farmers in the state at subsidised rates.
 - MP Urja Vikas Nigam would be the nodal agency to make available the solar pumps to the farmers.
 - MP has the highest agricultural growth rate of over 20% since last couple of years.
- Utkrisht Double-Decker AC Yatri Express
 - The Indian Railways will launch in July the Utkrisht Double-Decker AC Yatri (Uday) Express+ , a special class service for overnight journey that will ply on high-demand routes.
 - The main USP of this train is that it will have fares lower than that of 3AC class.
 - It runs at a speed of 110 km/hr.
- Jat quota violence : Jha panel
 - The Haryana Government has given second extension of six months to Jha commission to complete its investigation into the conspiracy angle in the violence that occurred during the Jat quota stir in February 2016.
 - The panel had received 82 complaints till August 31, 2016 which was the last day to submit complaints in regard to the violence.
 - The commission is headed by SN Jha and NC Padhi.
- Punjab govt to set up 'book banks'
 - The Punjab government has decided to set up 'book banks' in different schools so that needy students do not have to buy books at the start of every academic year and also to prevent "wastage of paper".





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- The students would be asked to submit their old books which would be provided to needy children free of charge.
- It is a voluntary initiative and is not binding on any student.
- 25% of ex-**husband's** net salary to wife
 - The Supreme Court has set a benchmark for maintenance to be paid by a husband to his estranged wife.
 - The Court said 25% of his net salary might constitute a "just and proper" amount as alimony.
 - **The ruling has come on a man's plea challenging Calcutta High Court's** order that asked him to pay Rs 23000 every month as alimony to his former wife.
- Socio progressive tourism in Guwahati
 - Swapnil Talukdar and his team are all set to give boost to Prime Minister's Start UP India initiative in Guwahati.
 - **Launching their Venture 'Finder Bridge' in Guwahati** the budding entrepreneurs seek to uplift the tourism sector in the state.
 - It shows and promotes tourism spots and ecotourism.
- National Lok Adalat settles 6 lakh cases
 - The National Legal Services Authority has accomplished its latest feat of settling over 6 lakh cases in just 24 hours.
 - The Second National Lok Adalat for 2017 was conducted on April 8 throughout the country.
 - The award of a Lok Adalat is final and cannot be challenge in any way.
 - It was established on 5 Dec 1995.
 - It was established under the Legal Services Authorities Act 1987.
- Dhaka-Kolkata Maitree Express
 - A fully-airconditioned Dhaka-Kolkata Maitree Express with improved coaches was inaugurated on April 14 in Dhaka.



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- The Maitree train was launched on Pahela Baishakh in 2008 with once-a-week service. With its increased popularity, it now runs four days a week.
- The coaches have been manufactured in India.
- Indian Academy of Highway Engineers
 - A MoU was signed between the Ministry through the Indian Academy of Highway Engineers and University of New South Wales to bring innovations in road transport.
 - It will set up a Centre for Advanced Transportation Technology and Systems.
 - This would be the worlds first transportation centre involving two countries committed to seeing technological innovation for economic development.
- Fire breaks out near Mount Abu
 - In Rajasthan, a fire broke out in the forest area near Mount Abu and the administration tried to control it with the help of a helicopter.
 - South West Air Command- headquarters at Gandhingar has received a call from Rajasthan Government seeking help in dousing a massive forest fire in the hills around Mount Abu.
 - The operation is likely to be augmented by an additional IAF MI-17V5 helicopter
- 7000 girls dance to set new record
 - As many as 7000 girl students performed 'Kuchipudi' in Vizag, Andhra Pradesh to set a Guinness World record.
 - The girls from 21 government-run residential schools in north coastal Andra participated in the event to commemorate 125th birth anniversary of B.R. Ambedkar.
 - The event was jointly being organized by Andhra Pradesh Residential Educational Institutions Society and Social Welfare Dept.



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- Bihar sets up court for prohibition
 - A year after enforcing stringent prohibition laws, the Bihar government set up a special court for speedy trial in cases registered against violation of the law.
 - Following the High Court directive, the first special court has been set up in Patna.
 - Bihar became a dry State on April 5, 2016.
- **Operation ‘Clean Money’**
 - **Income Tax Department launched the second phase of Operation ‘Clean Money’ to detect the flow of black money into the banks after demonetisation.**
 - According to Central Board of Direct Taxation the I-T dept has detected unaccounted income worth Rs 9,334 crore after the demonetisation till February 28th.
 - The first phase of the operation was launched in January 2017.
- Operation Durga in Haryana
 - **The Haryana government has launched ‘Operation Durga’ to ensure women safety in the state.**
 - Under this operation, teams **formed by the Chief Minister’s Flying Squad** visited public places such as schools, colleges etc to check criminal activities.
 - The campaign was launched so that flying squads patrol those areas where such anti-social elements committed crimes against women.
- Taare Zameen Par program
 - Jharkhand Police has initiated Tare Zameen Par programme to enlighten children in Naxal-affected areas in the Palamau district of Jharkhand.
 - This programme is aimed to restore confidence in the state police force and to encourage children to lead happy lives.



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- As a part of the programme, the state police appealed the locals to donate bags, shoes, books etc for the children.
- **CM relaunches 'Adarana' scheme**
 - Reiterating his resolve for the uplift and all-round development of people belonging to the Backward Classes, Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu announced the re-launch of **'Adarana' scheme**.
 - The scheme will help improving traditional occupations.
 - It will use modern technology, marketing for artisans.
- Committee submits its report on Ganga
 - Nine months after it was set up, a committee under Justice (retd) Giridhar Malviya submitted its report to save the Ganga river from pollution.
 - The four-member committee had been asked to prepare the draft of a comprehensive Ganga law that is being considered for at least four years now.
 - The draft would now be examined by ministerial committee before being converted into a bill.
- Kerala, Maharashtra top in power supply
 - According to Urban Jyoti Abhiyaan Kerala app, Kerala, Maharashtra and Rajasthan top the list in supplying uninterrupted power.
 - The Urja application meant to bring transparency in the performance of utilities and states captures the stark contrast in how consumers are served in different parts of the country.
 - Jharkhand, Uttarakhand and Assam have a lot to catch up.
- 1st time Ranking of Ports on Sanitation
 - For the first time ever, the twelve major ports under the Ministry of Shipping have been ranked on sanitation parameters.



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BUY PASS ▶

- The assessment methodology included official interview, direct observation by the designated team from Quality Council of India and **stakeholder's interaction**.
- Haldia and Vizag ports bagged the first and second ranks respectively.
- Bill to permit 15 IIITs award degrees
 - As many as 15 Indian Institutes of Information Technology set up under public-private partnership mode will soon be granted the powers to award degrees to their students.
 - To give effect to this, HRD Minister Mr. Javadekar introduced the Indian Institutes of Information Technology (Public-Private Partnership) Bill, 2017, which seeks to declare IIITs, as institutions of national importance.
- Live streaming tech for tourism
 - The Kerala government is planning to use its own live streaming **technology to tap tourists' experiential accounts of the destinations they visit**.
 - It is a part of a campaign tool for the upcoming second edition of International Conference on Tourism Technology in Kochi.
 - ICTT 2017 aims at helping the tourism industry players to stay abreast with the latest technologies.
- Kolkata-Khulna bus services
 - In a bid to bolster India-Bangladesh bilateral ties, a Kolkata-Khulna-Dhaka bus service, covering 409 km, was flagged off.
 - This is the third such service that has been introduced. The two other services are on the Kolkata-Dhaka-Agartala and the Kolkata-Dhaka routes.
 - The service would be available on Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays from Kolkata and on Tuesdays, Thursdays & Saturdays from Dhaka.
- Haryana sex ratio highest since history
 - For the first time in the history of the state, the sex ratio at birth in Haryana has touched the 950 mark.



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BUY PASS ▶

- The state govt launched a massive campaign by implementing the Pre-Conception and Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques (PCPNDT) Act, 1994, and Medical Termination of Pregnancy (MTP) Act, 1971.
- Haryana had ranked the worst among all states in sex ratio in the country.
- **“Bharat ke Veer” web portal**
 - The Union Home Minister Shri Rajnath Singh will inaugurate the web portal and mobile application named **“Bharat ke Veer” on April 9.**
 - The portal is an IT based platform, with an objective to enable willing donors to contribute towards the family of a braveheart who sacrificed his/her life in line of duty.
 - **The amount so donated will be credited to the account of ‘Next of Kin’.**
- 1st NIMCARE World Health Day Summit 2017
 - President Pranab Mukherjee inaugurated the first NIMCARE World Health Day Summit 2017 in New Delhi.
 - **The slogan of the first NIMCARE World Health Day Summit is, ‘Unite for a Healthy Mind’.**
 - He also launched the **eCAP & SOL’s Telepsychiatry application for the rural and urban population in need of mental health consultation.**
- India 9th in business corruption
 - India ranks 9th among 41 countries in bribery and corrupt practices in businesses, according to the findings of a recent survey.
 - Nearly 78% respondents queried in the country said that bribery and corrupt practices happen widely in businesses here.
 - The report was published by the EY Europe, Middle East, India and Africa (EMEIA) Fraud Survey 2017.
- Free legal aid in triple talaq cases
 - Women in Kerala divorced through the Islamic tradition of triple talaq can now receive free legal aid sponsored by the state government.





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BUY PASS ▶

- Kerala's minority commission constituted a special committee under retired judge PK Haneefa to provide legal assistance to divorced women.
- It also set up a toll free helpline number (0471-2315122).
- CAG to audit UN Secretariat in New York
 - The Comptroller and Auditor General of India will audit the UN Secretariat in New York, a job which till now was the exclusive domain of developed countries.
 - It will be done by Shashi Kant Sharma.
 - The CAG is the external auditor of several UN organisations and Sharma presently is the Chairman of the UN Board of Auditors.
- 2016 Global Slavery Index
 - Nearly 46 million people live under conditions of slavery across the world, with 18 million (39%) of those in India.
 - Globally, modern slavery includes child workers in African mines, deforestation crews in the Amazon or people trapped in commercial sexual exploitation in Europe.
 - In India slavery is banned as per the Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Act 1976.
- **TN leads MHRD's top-100 colleges list**
 - A whopping 37 colleges in Tamil Nadu have made it to the rankings released by the Ministry of HRD, with three TN colleges coming in the top-10 list.
 - **Delhi's Miranda House has the top spot in the list.**
 - **Chennai's Loyola College** came in the number two spot.
 - A total of 535 colleges have been ranked in this first-time exercise.
- First bio-gas bus in Kolkata
 - A city based company has claimed to have launched the first bio-gas fuelled bus in Kolkata keeping a flat fare of just Re 1.



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- All buses will have a flat fare of Re 1 irrespective of the distance, even in excess of 40 km.
- The first bus will run a distance of 17 km between Ultadanga and Garia.
- The bus service will be run by Phoenix India.
- IISc ranked best educational institution
 - The IISc, Bengaluru was adjudged as the best Indian university in the 2017 National Institutional Ranking Framework released by Union HRD Ministry.
 - This year it is 2nd edition NIRF survey and was released as part of the India Rankings 2017 for the Educational Institutions.
 - Seven IITs have also made it to the list of the top10 educational institutions, the other two being BHU and JNU.
- Haryana becomes kerosene-free
 - Haryana has become kerosene-free as the supply of the fuel has been stopped under the Public Distribution System from April 1.
 - With an aim to provide smoke-free and healthy environment while cooking, the state government had decided to provide free-of-cost LPG connections under the Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana.
 - As per the report of oil companies, 272949 gas connections have been made.
- Rice scheme for tribal families
 - **Nearly 70000 families of Jharkhand's primitive tribal groups will get foodgrains at their doorsteps with the state government launching the "PTG Dakia Yojana".**
 - Under the scheme, employees of Food and Civil Supplies Department would deliver a packet of 35 kg.
 - The scheme was formally launched in Godda, Sahebganj and Palamu districts.





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- CIRT now authorised body
 - Pune based Central Institute of Road Transport has, for the first time, become an authority to certify vehicle engines for their emission standards.
 - Earlier, such tests could only be carried out at Automotive Research Association of India.
 - Operating under the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways, CIRT recently signed an MoU with FEV India — a German company in the automobile sector.
- Rashtriya Vayoshri Yojana
 - **“Rashtriya Vayoshri Yojana”, a ‘Scheme for providing Physical Aids and Assisted-living Devices for Senior citizens belonging to BPL category’** was launched in Nellore, Andhra Pradesh.
 - The govt will provide devices to help the senior citizens to overcome their age related physical impairment and to lead a dignified and productive life.
 - The scheme is expected to help 520000 senior citizens.
- Rs 5 cr tax evasion to be non-bailable
 - The government has decided to make tax evasion of over Rs 5 crore under the proposed Goods and Services Tax regime as a non-bailable offence.
 - The earlier threshold for treating tax evasion as a cognizable and non-bailable offence was proposed to be at Rs 2.5 crore.
 - In a revised set of FAQs on GST, the CBEC said other offences under the act are non-cognizable and bailable.
- 2 ILO conventions approved
 - The government has approved ratification of two fundamental conventions of International Labour Organization to address concerns related to child labour.



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BUY PASS ▶

- They are Minimum Age Convention and Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention.
- India would join majority of countries who have adopted the legislation to prohibit and place severe restrictions on the employment and work of children.

May 2017

- Delhi Police Launches Bicycle Patrols.
 - Delhi Police has launched a bicycle patrol scheme to increase police presence in congested areas of the city.
 - 65 high-end bicycles have been acquired for the same.
 - One of the main areas of focus of these bicycle patrols will be parks where people including senior citizens and women go for walks.
 - Bicycle patrols will move around in pairs and each patrol will cover a distance of 2 to 5 kms,
- Darwaza Band for open defecation.
 - Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation has launched a nation wide **campaign titled 'Darwaza Band .**
 - The aim of the campaign is to promote toilet use and freedom from open defecation across the country's villages.
 - The campaign will run under the Swachh Bharat Mission and is supported by World Bank.
 - Anushka Sharma will be seen encouraging women to stand up for this issue.
- Amul inks MoU with ISRO.
 - Amul has signed an MoU with ISRO for fodder Acreage estimation.



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BUY PASS ▶

- Under the MoU ISRO will help in identification between food crops and fodder crops at village level.
- ISRO will also locate suitable areas of current fallows and cultivable wastelands at village level for green fodder cultivation.
- The milk producer farmers of Gujarat will get benefit of fodder cultivation by using the technology
- Banks Board Bureau gets 2 more members.
 - The government has expanded the Banks Board Bureau by adding two more members.
 - Shubhalaxmi Panse and Pradip Shah have been inducted into the board.
 - The bureau is headed by former comptroller and auditor general Vinod Rai.
 - The body is responsible for selection of managing directors and directors of public sector banks and financial institutions.
- New 1 Rupee note into circulation.
 - RBI will soon put into circulation new notes in one rupee denomination.
 - The existing notes and coins will continue to be legal tender.
 - The colour of 1 rupee currency note shall be predominantly pink green on the obverse and reverse in combination with others.
 - **“It will contain words ‘Bharat Sarkar’ in Devnagri above the words ‘Government of India’ with bilingual signature of Shaktikanta Das,**
- Pune police wins FICCI smart policing.
 - The Pune city police have bagged the FICCI Smart Police Award for the year 2017.
 - 'Mahila Suraksha' project of city police won the award.
 - Rashmi Shukla, Commissioner of Pune Police received the award.
 - **Initiatives like “BuddyCop” was launched to help women working in IT companies and “Damini squad” involving women police officials played a key role in tightening the security.**



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BUY PASS ▶

- First digital bank for sanitary pads.
 - Mumbai MLA Bharati Lavekar has launched India's first digital bank for sanitary pads on the occasion of World Menstrual Hygiene Day.
 - People can log in to teefoundation.in to either donate pads or money to those in need.
 - The needy can also access available resources on the portal.
 - According to the 2015-16 National Family Health Survey, 57.6% of Indian menstruating women use sanitary napkins.
- Biodiversity Heritage Site in Manipur.
 - Manipur government has declared Dailong village of Tamenglong district as a Biodiversity Heritage Site of the state.
 - Dialong village covers an area of 11.35 sq km.
 - The village has been declared as Biodiversity Heritage Site under Section 37(1) of Biological Diversity Act, 2002.
 - The declaration was made after the recommendation of Manipur Biodiversity Board.
- UGC App to fight ragging.
 - HRD minister Prakash Javadekar has launched an Anti-Ragging Mobile App introduced by the University Grants Commission.
 - This mobile app will help students register complaints to counter the menace of ragging.
 - Now the Students can login and register their complaints instantaneously.
 - The app will work on android system.
- Desilting of Mettur Dam
 - Chief Minister Edappadi K Palaniswami inaugurated desilting works in Mettur Dam at Moolakadu.



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BUY PASS ▶

- Stanley Reservoir, commonly known as Mettur Dam, was built in 1934 with a storage level of 124 feet. The dam is the main source of water for 12 districts.
- The desilting is unique inasmuch as it is being undertaken for the first time since 1934.
- Munnar: Best Destination for Romance
 - **Munnar has bagged the award for 'Best Destination for Romance' at the Lonely Planet Magazine Indian Travel Awards 2017.**
 - P Bala Kiran, Director of Kerala Tourism received the award.
 - Munnar is a hill station located in the Idukki district of Kerala.
 - It is known for its romantic cottages, cloudy mountains, lively tea gardens, green valleys, waterfalls.
- Vijay Goel flags off 'Slum Yuva Daud'.
 - Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports Vijay Goel flagged off the Slum Yuva Daud to mark the beginning of the Adopt Slum Campaign in New Delhi.
 - It was initiated by the Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports and Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan.
 - The run started from Delhi University's Shankarlal Hall and ended at the Rugby Stadium with participation of about 5000 youngsters from various slums of Delhi.
- 1st professional football academy in J&K
 - Jammu and Kashmir's first professional football academy was launched in Srinagar in a bid to boost sports in the state.
 - India footballer Mehrajuddin Wadoo would be the head of the academy.
 - Initially, the academy will train footballers in the age groups of 13, 15 and 18, and three professional coaches will be employed for the purpose.
- India's longest bridge named
 - Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the strategically important Dhola-Sadiya Bridge in Assam.



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BUY PASS ▶

- It spans the Lohit River to connect the states of Assam and Arunachal Pradesh and is 9.15 kms in length.
- The construction began in 2011 and was completed on 10 March 2017. It was built by Navayuga Engineering Company Limited.
- It has been built at a cost of Rs. 2056 crores.
- E-clinics for J&K farmers.
 - The J&K government has launched an e-clinics service for farmers with **the aim to double farmers' income by 2022.**
 - Department of Agriculture, in collaboration with Centre for Agriculture and Biosciences International has set up 15 plant clinics in Samba, Kathua and Jammu.
 - These clinics will help in protecting the crops from diseases, thereby, increasing productivity and income of farmers.
- Anti encephalitis campaign in UP.
 - Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has launched a campaign to eradicate the deadly encephalitis disease.
 - Close to 40,000 children have died of the disease in the past four decades in the region.
 - The campaign has been launched for 38 districts in UP.
 - The drive will cover over 88 lakh children for which the central government has provided one crore vaccines.
- Devendra Fadnavis to launch Samwad Sabha
 - Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis will launch a 'Shivar Samwad Sabha' to reach out to farmers and address their issues.
 - MPs, MLAs, zilla parishad members and corporators, will engage in a dialogue with farmers to know about their issues and take their feedback on decisions taken by the government till now.





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BUY PASS ▶

- The initiative is being launched amid the rising resentment among farmers.
- Second most densely populated city.
 - Mumbai has been ranked the world's second most densely populated city with 31,700 people per sq km by the World Economic Forum.
 - Mumbai is also the most populous city in India and and ninth most populous agglomeration in the world.
 - Bangladesh's capital Dhaka topped the list with 44,500 people per sq km.
 - Rajasthan's Kota has been ranked the world's seventh most densely populated city.
- SBI launches national hackathon.
 - State Bank of India has launched a national hackathon for developers, start-ups and students to come up with innovative ideas and solutions for the banking sector.
 - The hackathon is named 'Code For Bank'.
 - The hackathon will focus on the business value driven by technologies like predictive analytics, fin-tech/blockchain, digital payments, IOT, artificial intelligence, machine learning,
- Cabinet approves AIIMS in Kamrup, Assam.
 - The Union Cabinet has given its approval for establishment of new AIIMS at Kamrup, Assam.
 - The cost of the project will be Rs.1123 crore.
 - It will be set up under the Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojana.
 - The AIIMS will consist of a hospital with a capacity of 750 beds, trauma centre facilities, a medical college which can accommodate 100 MBBS students per year.
- Cabinet approves abolition of FIPB.
 - The Union Cabinet has scrapped the 25-year-old Foreign Investment Promotion Board.



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- FIPB is an inter-**ministerial body under the finance ministry's** Department of Economic Affairs that processes FDI proposals and makes recommendations for government approval.
- **FIPB was initially constituted under the Prime Minister's Office in the** wake of economic liberalisation in the early 1990s.
- India's first underwater tunnel finished
 - India's first underwater tunnel, which was built under the Hooghly river for establishing a metro link in Kolkata, has been completed before the deadline.
 - Rachna, a giant tunnel-boring machine (TBM), was deployed to dig the underwater tunnel.
 - The entire project is 16.6 km long, out of which 10.8 km runs under the ground.
 - The project connects Howrah to the west and Salt lake to the east.
- Swachh Bharat app launched
 - **“Swachh Bharat App” has been launched in National Museum under** Ministry of Culture by the Minister of State for Culture & Tourism Dr. Mahesh Sharma.
 - The main focus of the app is to involve people actively to become part of Swachh Bharat Abhiyan.
 - The App will be monitored by the Ministry of Culture and will play an important role in cultivating the significance of cleanliness to the citizens
- Karnataka child marriage Bill gets nod.
 - President Pranab Mukherjee has given his assent to Prohibition of Child Marriage (Karnataka amendment) Bill, 2016.
 - Karnataka is among the States that record a high number of child marriages in the country.



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BUY PASS ▶

- The amended Bill seeks to ensure zero tolerance towards child marriage, granting powers to policemen and enhancing penalties for those attending wedding ceremonies of minors.
- IIT-KGP signs MoU with Madhya Pradesh.
 - IIT Kharagpur's **Rekhi Centre of Excellence for the Science of Happiness** and MP government's '**Rajya Anandam Sansthan**' has signed an MoU to collaborate on the development of a Happiness Index.
 - Happiness Index will be developed for measuring the well-being of people of the state.
 - IIT-KGP will develop the index and analyse data collected by the state government to assess the level of happiness.
- Piyush Goyal launches 'SEVA' App.
 - Union Minister Piyush Goyal launched the Saral Eindhav Vitaran Application.
 - It is a part of '**Digital India**' initiative, which is aimed at increasing the Consumer Connect and Transparency and Accountability in Coal dispatch.
 - The application has been developed by Coal India.
 - It will also provide summary of quantity of coal dispatched for a given day, month, and yearly updates as well.
- New award category in MAMI film festival
 - Jio MAMI Film Festival has announced a new award category for digital **content for this year's festival to be held from 12th-18th October**.
 - This Award will encourage young talent to break the boundaries of their creative prowess and take Indian cinema to new and greater heights, especially in the digital space.
 - The winners receive a prize of Rs. 2.5 lakh.
- Michael Porter to give lecture



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BUY PASS ▶

- Renowned Harvard Business School economist Michael E Porter will deliver the third lecture of government think-tank Niti Aayog's 'Transforming India' series on May 25.
- The theme of Porter's lecture is "Competitiveness of Nations and States: New Insights".
- The lecture which will revolve around the idea of productivity and competitiveness of Indian regions will be addressed to the government.
- Free Wi-Fi at 28 railway stations
 - Minister of Railways Suresh Prabhu inaugurated free Wi-Fi facility at 28 Railway Stations of Konkan Railway from Kudal Railway Station in Maharashtra.
 - Indian Railways has tied up with SYSCON/JOISTER for providing 2 Mbps peer-to-peer 24 hrs Free Wi-Fi bandwidth.
 - Konkan Railway always believes in providing better passenger amenities to its passengers for their comfortable journey.
- GM squad to curb open defecation.
 - Maharashtra govt. has decided to form squads in a bid to curb open defecation across the state and bring about change in the mindset of people indulging in this practice.
 - "Good Morning" Teams will not only monitor areas where this practice is still prevalent, but also check whether residents have access to toilets.
 - Team will comprise representatives from local bodies, self-help groups, NGOs.
- Haryana launches e-textbook portal.
 - Haryana govt. launched e-textbook portal for school students that will allow students to download school books instantly.
 - As of now, 26 textbooks of classes IX to XII have been uploaded on the portal and these can be easily converted into audio files.



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BUY PASS ▶

- The portal also provides a facility to highlight certain portions of the e-textbooks making it easier for students to study.
- 4 Slab Service Tax Structure
 - The GST Council headed by finance Minister Jaitley has finalised a 4 slab service tax structure at the rates of 5, 12, 18 and 28% as against the single rate of 15% levied on all taxable services.
 - Healthcare and education will be exempt from the GST on services.
 - Finance Minister Arun Jaitley asserted that the net effect of the GST will not be inflationary.
- NITI Aayog holds first Samavesh meeting
 - In pursuance of the Prime Ministers call for a New India 2022, the first meeting of the National Steering Group and other knowledge partners was held in NITI Aayog in New Delhi.
 - A total of 32 premier educational and policy research institutes participated in the event where many MoUs were signed.
 - As part of Samavesh initiative, a new link on NITI's website was launched.
- First Tejas train to run on May 22.
 - The Tejas, India's first technologically advanced train will commence its journey from May 22.
 - Developed by Rail Coach Factory, Kapurthala, the first rake was on display in Delhi on May 19.
 - It has 19 coaches and runs at a speed of 200 km/hr.
 - It has facilities like USB charger, automatic doors and other upgrades.
 - It will run from Mumbai to Goa.
- IARI in Assam.
 - Government has decided to set up the Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI) in Assam of worth Rs. 155 crore to promote agri education and realize second green revolution in the northeastern region.



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- The first IARI was set up in the national capital way back in 1967. The Modi government announced plans to set up four such institutes.
- Visakhapatnam has the cleanest station.
 - In a report released by Union Railway Minister Suresh Prabhu Visakhapatnam railway station in Andhra Pradesh was rated the cleanest station among the 75 busiest stations in the country.
 - According to the report Visakhapatnam railway station is the cleanest followed by Secunderabad, Jammu, Vijayawada railway stations while Darbhanga station in Bihar was rated as the dirtiest station.
- Govt approves Maternity Benefit Program.
 - The government has given approval to Pan-India implementation of Maternity Benefit Program which now has been extended to all districts of the country.
 - It will provide compensation for the wage loss in terms of cash incentives so that the women can take adequate rest before & after delivery & not be deprived of proper nutrition.
 - Women will receive cash benefits of Rs 5000 in 3 installments.
- Kerala govt to distribute sanitary pads.
 - To ensure 'menstrual hygiene' among girls, the 'She Pad' scheme for school students across Kerala was announced by chief minister Pinarayi Vijayan.
 - The scheme intends to provide sanitary napkins for girl students in all government schools.
 - Approximate expenditure for implementation of the project will come to ₹30 crore for five years.
- Plastic park to come up in Panipat.
 - Union Chemicals and Fertilisers Minister, Mr Ananth Kumar announced to open 2 new CIPET centres in Haryana, a plastic park at Panipat on an



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area of 75 acres at an estimated cost of Rs 1,500 crore and a pharmaceutical park at Karnal.

- Ananth Kumar said 9 CIPET centres were in the pipeline in Medak, Jaipur, Jammu and Kashmir, Haridwar, Baghalpur, Varanasi, Agartala, Mumbai and Ranchi.
- Kerala tops in public affairs index
 - Kerala has secured first rank **and Bihar has ranked last on this year's** Public Affairs Index (PAI), compiled on basis of a survey by Public Affairs Centre
 - The survey was based on 10 themes, 26 focus subjects and 82 indicators.
 - Kerala, Assam and Madhya Pradesh secured top three ranks in implementation of social protection policies.
- Logo for vehicles driven by deaf people
 - Telangana has introduced a logo for identifying vehicles driven by persons with hearing impairment and has become the first state in the country to do so.
 - The logo was designed by Hyderabad-based graphic designer Manikanta Annapragada, who incidentally is the first person to obtain a driving **license in the 'hearing impaired' category.**
 - The logo was chosen from 8 designs submitted by Manikanta
- EC launches National Contact Centre
 - The Election Commission has added another feather to its cap with the launch of National Contact Centre with a toll-free No. 1800111950.
 - Now any citizen from any part of the country can call on the toll-free in English or Hindi with any query or complaint at any time of the day.
 - The National Contact Centre is operated on a National Grievance Redressal System Software.
- Ahmedabad to host International Yoga Day



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- Ahmedabad will host biggest ever International Yoga Day event on the 21st of June.
- The event will be held on GMDC grounds with over 5 lakh people attending the event.
- An international day for yoga was declared unanimously by the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) on 11 December 2014.
- It was first celebrated in 2015.
- Project LOTUS
 - Work has begun for cleaning of Barapullah Drain under the Project Local Treatment of Urban Sewage Streams for Healthy Reuse (LOTUS^{HR}) in New Delhi.
 - The project is an Indo-Netherlands joint project funded by Department of Biotechnology(DBT), Govt of India and NWO/STW, The Govt of Netherlands.
 - The project aims to demonstrate a novel waste water management approach.
- Kochi Metro Appoints Transgenders
 - Kochi Metro will employ 23 members from the transgender community. This is the first time a government owned company has formally appointed members of the transgender community.
 - These 23 workers will be a part of the 530 Kudumbasree workers to be employed at 11 stations.
 - All of the workers have been appointed after written test and interview.
- BJP calls for abandoning 'Darbar Move'
 - The BJP called for abandoning bi-**annual practice of 'darbar move'** wherein the Jammu and Kashmir government functions six months each in the two capital – Srinagar and Jammu.
 - This move may trigger a major controversy in the state.



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- The practice was adopted because of the special circumstance prevailing at that time when means of communication were limited.
- Elphinstone renamed 'Prabhadevi' station
 - The famed Chhatrapati Shivaji Terminus and headquarters of the Central Railway has been renamed by adding 'Maharaj.'
 - Western Railway's Elphinstone Road station has been rechristened as 'Prabhadevi' station.
 - The new name 'Prabhadevi' is dedicated to Goddess Prabhavati Devi, whose 12th century idol is installed in the modern temple, now over three centuries old.
- Odisha to introduce boat ambulances
 - Odisha will introduce boat ambulance service in four districts where people face difficulties in getting health service.
 - The boat ambulance service will be available in the districts of Koraput, Malkangiri, Kendrapara and Kalahandi.
 - People in these areas face problems in availing 108 ambulance service due to intervening large water bodies.
- Centenary of Bharat Sevashram Sangha
 - Prime Minister Narendra Modi will address the centenary celebrations of Bharat Sevashram Sangha being organized at Shillong.
 - Bharat Sevashram Sangha is a vast network of volunteers across the globe dedicated to helping people in distress.
 - It was founded in 1917 by the Acharya Srimat Swami Pranavanandaji Maharaj.
- Odisha communities notified as SCs
 - **Odisha's** Sualgiri and Swalgiri communities have been notified as Scheduled Castes.



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- The SC category status will entitle these communities to reservation in government jobs and admission in educational institutions, besides some other financial benefits.
- Some of the major schemes for the scheduled castes include scholarships and fellowships, concessional loans and hostel facilities.
- World's highest railway bridge
 - In around two years from now, the Chenab river in Jammu and Kashmir will be spanned by the world's highest railway bridge that is expected to be 35 metres taller than the Eiffel Tower.
 - The massive arch-shaped structure, being constructed at a cost of around Rs 1,100 crore in hostile terrain.
 - The bridge forms a crucial link in the 111-km stretch between Katra and Banihal.
- Portal for info on tower radiation
 - The Telecom Department has launched a portal that will allow people to track radiation emitted from mobile towers within a locality.
 - Launching the 'Tarang Sanchar' web portal, Ministry hopes that the site will help in clearing "myths and misconceptions" about emissions from mobile towers.
 - This decision coincides with the recent SC order on deactivation of a mobile tower in Gwalior.
- HRD Min to launch Vidya-Veerta Abhiyan
 - Union Human Resource Development Minister Prakash Javadekar will launch Students for soldiers- a nationwide Vidya-Veerta Abhiyan.
 - The aim is to encourage Universities to display portraits of Param Veer Chakra-decorated soldiers to instill a sense of patriotism and nationalism among students.



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- The Minister will unveil the portraits of Param Veer Chakra decorated-soldiers in New Delhi.

June 2017

- Kailash Mansarovar yatra cancelled
 - Kailash Mansarovar yatra through Nathu La in Sikkim has been cancelled.
 - The decision comes in the wake of face-off b/w Indian and Chinese troops over a disputed area along Sino-Indian border.
 - The yatra is considered holy by Hindus, Buddhists and Jains and is undertaken by hundreds of pilgrims every year.
 - However the pilgrimage through Lipulekh Pass in Uttarakhand will continue as scheduled
- Training programme COMMIT launched
 - Training programme "Comprehensive Online Modified Modules on Induction Training" for State Govt officials has been launched by Dr Jitendra Singh.
 - It's Objective is to improve public service delivery mechanism & provide citizen centric administration through capacity building of officials who interact with citizens on day-to-day basis.
 - It has been developed by DoPT in collaboration with UNDP
- Web App for Legal Services to Prisoners
 - National Legal Services Authority has launched a Web Application for free Legal Services to Prisoners.
 - It will allow State and District Legal Services Authorities to feed the data for individual prison inmate in the jails within their jurisdiction.
 - Software will generate reports showing total number of inmates, number of inmates represented by legal services lawyers and by private lawyers.
- Modi in Gujarat



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- Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the centenary celebrations of Sabarmati Ashram in Ahmedabad.
- He will also release the coin and postal stamp in the honour of Shrimad Rajchandraji on his 150th birth anniversary at Abhay Ghat.
- Modi is on a 2 day visit to Gujarat that goes to elections later this year.
- He will inaugurate 2 water supply projects worth Rs 552 crore for the region.
- Printing of Rs 200 currency notes begins
 - RBI has begun printing bills of 200 rupees for the first time to help ease consumer transactions.
 - New 200 notes will carry advanced security features to prevent counterfeiting.
 - Introduction of 200 rupee notes will replenish the missing middle, triggered by the withdrawal of the old series of 500 rupee notes.
 - The proposal to issue ₹200 banknotes was cleared by the RBI in March.
- War room set up to deal with GST crises
 - A **“mini war room”** has been set up in the finance ministry to deal with crises related to the implementation of the Goods and Services Tax.
 - It will act as a quick resource centre for Central and State government officials to address their queries on GST.
 - A team of tech-savvy young officers will be manning the **“war room”** to assist officials in resolving their GST-related queries.
- Approval for disinvestment of Air India
 - Cabinet has given in-principle approval for disinvestment of state-run carrier Air India.
 - A group headed by Jaitley will be formed to decide on the treatment of unsustainable debt of Air India.



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- NITI Aayog has suggested complete privatisation of Air India which has a debt of over Rs 52,000 crore.
- Air India was launched in 1932 by JRD Tata as Tata Airlines and was taken over by govt in 1953.
- EC to launch voter registration reminder
 - In order to reach out to maximum eligible voters, the ECI is collaborating **with Facebook to launch first Nationwide “Voter Registration Reminder”**.
 - A notification regarding the reminder will be sent on 1 July to people who are eligible to vote on Facebook.
 - The reminder will be sent out in 13 Indian languages.
 - This is the first time Facebook has been used for enrolling new voters across India
- Arunachal Pradesh raises retirement age
 - Arunachal Pradesh government has decided to increase the retirement age of regular state government employees to 60 years with effect from January 1 2018.
 - This has been done in order to do away with differential retirement age for regular employees serving under the same government.
 - The state government has raised the retirement age from existing 58 to 60 years.
- 'Digital MSME' scheme launched
 - On the occasion of first International Day for MSMEs, Union Minister Kalraj Mishra launched a new scheme - 'Digital MSME'.
 - The Scheme has been launched for promotion of Information & Communication Technology in the MSME Sector.
 - The scheme revolves around Cloud Computing which is emerging as a cost effective and viable alternative in comparison to in-house Infrastructure installed by MSMEs.
- Govt defers TDS, TCS provisions under GST



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- Govt has deferred implementation of TDS and TCS provisions under GST to ensure its smooth rollout.
- Based on the feedback received from trade and industry, the govt has decided to postpone provision relating to TDS and TCS.
- Businesses with turnover of less than Rs20 lakh, will also not be required to register themselves under GST for selling goods or services through e-commerce portal.
- **Rajdhani and Shatabdi to get makeover**
 - Indian Railways has undertaken a complete makeover exercise in which 30 trains - 15 Rajdhani and 15 Shatabdi will undergo a make over at an estimated cost of Rs 25 crore.
 - Railways have launched a 3 month programme under Project Swarn to refurbish coach interiors, improving toilets and cleanliness in coaches.
 - Passengers will also be offered films, serials and music for entertainment purpose.
- **Jagannath Puri chariot festival begins**
 - The most awaited annual festival of Rath Yatra or Chariot Festival commenced today at Puri, Odisha.
 - It is one of the most celebrated Hindu festivals of the country as well as the whole world.
 - It is celebrated usually in the month of June-July when the chariots of Lord Jagannath accompanied by his elder brother Balabhadra and sister Devi Subhadra are brought out on to the main street of Puri.
- **24/7 helpline launched for women**
 - To address problems faced by women in Manipur, state govt has launched a toll free 24/7 helpline number '181' for women in the state.
 - The helpline will provide 24 hour telecom service to women affected by violence seeking support and information.



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BUY PASS ▶

- The helpline will also provide information about appropriate support services, govt schemes and programmes available to women affected by violence.
- Jewar to be second airport in Delhi NCR
 - Ministry of Civil Aviation has given its NOD to set up a greenfield airport in **Greater Noida's Jewar region in UP.**
 - The international airport will cater to 30-50 million passengers per year over next 10-15 years and is likely to be operational in next 5 to 6 years.
 - The airport will not just address the aviation needs of Delhi but also a number of major cities like Agra, Mathura among others.
- World Bank, AIIB to grant \$380 million
 - World Bank and Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank have together agreed to extend \$380 million of loan to Andhra Pradesh.
 - The loan has been provided to build and offer a reliable, quality and affordable power supply to citizens of Andhra Pradesh and provide 24X7 power to all.
 - The World Bank and AIIB will provide loans in a 60:40 ratio for all the components of the projects.
- RBI amends Banking Ombudsman Scheme
 - RBI has amended Banking Ombudsman Scheme, under the amended scheme a customer would be able to lodge a complaint against the bank for its non-adherence to RBI instructions with regard to mobile/electronic banking services.
 - Banking ombudsman has now been powered to pass an award of Rs 20 lakh as against earlier threshold of Rs 10 lakh.
 - Amended Scheme shall come into force from July 1, 2017.
- MERIT Web portal launched
 - Piyush Goyal has launched "MERIT" portal which displays extensive array of information regarding the merit order of Electricity procured by State.



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BUY PASS ▶

- The portal also give information regarding reasons for deviation from merit order such as must run conditions, transmission constraints etc.
- It has been developed by Ministry of Power in association with POSOCO and Central Electricity Authority.
- Maharashtra Govt ties up with Ola
 - Maharashtra govt has entered into an agreement with Ola, under which Ola will train 20,000 youth to become micro-entrepreneurs in the field of passenger transport in next 5 years.
 - Youth from districts like Palghar, Raigad, Aurangabad, Amravati would be given preference for skill training.
 - Ola has created employment for about 5 lakh youth in the nation and ferries around 4 crore passengers.
- Portal on weather information launched
 - Union Minister, Piyush Goyal launched a portal on weather information that will help discoms manage power distribution.
 - The Portal has been launched in association with POSOCO and IMD.
 - It will help in better planning for infrastructure availability to ensure cost effective and reliable supply.
- Passports to be in English and Hindi
 - While addressing an event to mark 50 years of the Passport Act, 1967, External affairs minister Sushma Swaraj announced that passports will now be in both Hindi and English, and not just in English.
 - Personal details in passports are now printed only in English.
 - She also announced 10 per cent reduction in passport fee for applicants who are under eight and over 60 years of age.
- No Cars, Phones For Uttarakhand Govt
 - Uttarakhand High Court has put a ban on purchase of cars, mobile phones and other luxury items by the government.



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BUY PASS ▶

- This is because of state government's failure to provide basic minimum amenities to children in the state-run schools.
- The high court observed that the government that cannot provide basic amenities to children has no moral right to spend money on luxuries.
- Pune raises 200 crore in municipal bond
 - Pune Municipal Corporation has become the first local body in the country to issue municipal bonds in 15 years, raising Rs 200 crore for the smart city project.
 - The issue was handled by SBI Capital Market, was oversubscribed six times, having received subscriptions worth Rs 1,200 crore.
 - Domestic insurers, pension funds, and large state-owned banks have invested the PMC bonds.
- Delhi Metro introduces smart watches
 - DMRC has introduced a smart watch which will act as a smart card and can be used as entry and exit pass.
 - The commuter will simply have to touch the watch to the screens of the AFC gates at the metro stations to get access.
 - DMRC has partnered with LAKS GmbH which will manufacture the watch.
 - These watches will be called Watch2Pay, are available through an online e-commerce site.
- MeitY launches GST portal
 - Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology has launched a dedicated webpage to address issues related to IT Services and Electronics goods ahead of the roll out of the GST.
 - The Webpage can be accessed through **Ministry's Web Portal** <http://meity.gov.in/>
 - Individuals, Companies and Entrepreneurs in IT and Electronics sector can visit the webpage for sector specific information.
- Mobile App "Celebrating Yoga" launched



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BUY PASS ▶

- Minister for Science & Technology Dr. Harshvardhan launched a Mobile App “Celebrating Yoga”.
- The Mobile App developed by DST provides a platform to share **information and insights about peoples’ participation in Yoga activities** on the occasion of the International Yoga Day 2017.
- The App will be connected with Google Map where shared information can be seen by the users.
- Energy Conservation Building Code 2017
 - Piyush Goyal launched the ECBC Code 2017 which prescribes energy performance standards for new commercial buildings to be constructed across India.
 - It aims to optimise energy savings with comfort levels for occupants, and prefers life-cycle cost effectiveness to achieve energy neutrality in commercial buildings.
 - Adoption of ECBC could lead to 30%-50% energy savings by commercial buildings.
- Govt announces 149 new POPSK
 - External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj has announced that the govt. will soon open 149 new Post Office Passport Seva Kendra.
 - These will be in addition to 86 POPSKs announced by MEA in the first phase.
 - Govt. has set up a target that no one has to travel more than a radius of 50 kms to get a passport.
 - NDA govt has altogether opened or announced 251 PSKs and POPSKs since coming to power.
- Gandhi Darshan tourist train flagged off
 - To commemorate 100 years of Sabarmati Ashram, Indian Railways has decided to run Gandhi Darshan Special Tourist Train.



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BUY PASS ▶

- Officially called Astha Special Tourist Train will be operated by IRCTC.
- **Train will not only cover various places important in Gandhi's life but also spread principles and message of Gandhi.**
- Vijay Rupani, CM of Gujarat flagged off the train from Sabarmati railway station.
- Govt sets up GST facilitation cell
 - Govt has set up a GST facilitation cell in Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion to facilitate the rollout of GST.
 - The cell is headed by Sudhansu Sekhar Das.
 - It will remain in constant touch with major industry and business associations relating to the Department.
 - It will be the first point of contact for addressing any issue being faced by any sector related to the Department.
- President inaugurates Namma Metro
 - President Pranab Mukherjee inaugurated underground section of the Green Line of Bengaluru's Namma Metro train service.
 - It will connect Nagasandra in northern part of the city with Yelachanahalli in southern part.
 - First phase of the project was initiated in 2005 and was estimated to be completed by 2015.
 - Over 5 lakh people are expected to use metro daily after commercial operations begin.
- Kerala's first metro in Kochi
 - Kerala's first metro line was flagged off in Kochi by PM Modi.
 - Kochi Metro is the first in India to use Communication Based Train Control technology to maximise frequencies and minimise errors.
 - Each station on Kochi Metro will have solar panels, which will focus on producing 35% of the total power usage.



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BUY PASS ▶

- It is the first public transport system to reserve jobs for members of the third sex.
- Punjab govt inks MoU with Centre, AAI
 - Punjab government has signed a tripartite agreement with the Centre and Airports Authority of India under UDAN scheme.
 - The four airports of Bathinda, Ludhiana, Pathankot and Adampur have been connected under the scheme through five proposals.
 - Approximately one lakh seats will be made available to passengers under the scheme, wherein 50 per cent - 50,000 seats will be under fare cap.
- Nalanda University signs MoU
 - A Memorandum of Understanding was signed between Nalanda University and Academy of South Korean Studies in Patna for academic linkages and collaborations.
 - The two universities agreed to enhance their bilateral ties through joint research programmes, faculty and student exchange etc.
 - The MoU will be in effect for five years.
- NERCPA conference inaugurated
 - Lok Sabha Speaker Sumitra Mahajan inaugurates the 16th North East Region Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (NERCPA) Conference in Imphal.
 - The conference deliberated on issues related to problems in North East India.
 - It will be held at the assembly premises here till June 18.
- Arunachal wants separate time zone
 - Arunachal Pradesh CM, Pema Khandu, reiterated demand for a separate time zone for the north-eastern states.
 - Demand is made to improve work efficiency and save electricity in north-eastern states.





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- Khandu has demanded that northeastern states be allowed to advance their clocks by some time (0.5-1 hour approx) to save more daylight hrs.
- It will give a fillip to economic activity in the city.
- Govt launches Tele Law
 - **The Ministry of Law and Justice has launched the ‘Tele-Law’ initiative in collaboration with the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology to provide legal aid services to the marginalized communities and citizens living in rural areas.**
 - It will be first launched in UP and Bihar.
 - **A new portal called ‘Tele Law’ will also be made available.**
- First underwater metro in India
 - Kolkata will get India's first underwater metro system which will pass through Hooghly river.
 - It will be connecting 2 main terminals: Howrah and Sealdah, each of which has a footfall of about 10-12 lakh passengers per day.
 - The 1st tunnel which has been completed is built 30 m below earth's surface near Howrah Bridge.
 - It is the first time that a tunnel has been made under a flowing river.
- Ayush Ministry launches yoga awareness
 - Central Council for Research in Yoga & Naturopathy under the Ministry of AYUSH, has initiated a Yoga Awareness Drive through Mascots and Flash Mobs prior to International Yoga Day.
 - It is being done to increase popularity of Yoga especially among the youth.
 - Human-size IDY Mascots are running the campaign & spreading the message of Yoga Day in Delhi NCR, Lucknow and Haryana.
- Law Ministry clears Kambala Bill
 - Union Ministry of Law and Justice has cleared Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (Karnataka Amendment) Bill 2017 for the Kambala.



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- Karnataka HC had banned Kambala along with bull-cart race while hearing a case filed by People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals citing animal cruelty.
- Kambala is the traditional slush track buffalo race that is held annually in coastal districts of Karnataka.
- New office of NSSO inaugurated.
 - Sankhyiki Bhawanis the new office of NSSO has been inaugurated in New Delhi.
 - With the inauguration of the new building, all the Divisions will come under one roof.
 - NSSO is responsible for conducting socio-economic surveys and comes under Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation.
 - India is participating in current phase of International Comparison Programme with reference to 2017.



July 2017

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



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BUY PASS ▶

- Centre has launched an app - GST Rates Finder to verify the accurate tax rate on commodity and services under the GST regime.
- This app will not only benefit tax payers but also every citizen of the country will be able to find out how much GST is charged on a particular good and service.
- The app can be downloaded on any smart phone and can work in offline mode, once downloaded.
- Jail term for not printing new MRP
 - Consumer Affairs Minister Ram Vilas Paswan warned of a fine of up to Rs 1 lakh, including a jail term, if new, post-GST rates are not printed on the inventory in the interest of consumers.
 - Manufacturers have been allowed to clear the unsold stocks by September with new MRP.
 - Under the GST regime, he said some prices of goods have fallen and some have risen.
- JIGYASA programme launched
 - Jigyasa, a student- scientist connect programme was officially launched in New Delhi.
 - Council of Scientific and Industrial Research has joined hands with Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan to implement this programme.
 - The focus is on connecting school students and scientists so as to extend **student's classroom** learning with that of a very well planned research laboratory based learning.
- Garib Nawaz Skill Development Centre
 - Minister of State for Minority Affairs, Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi has said that Garib Nawaz Skill Development Centres will be established in 100 districts of the country.
 - They will effectively ensure employment oriented skill development of youth belonging to Minority communities.



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- In next 6 months, Garib Nawaz Skill Development Centres will be established at Hyderabad, Noida, Lucknow etc.
- **Anti-Hijacking Law Comes Into Force**
 - India's new anti-hijacking law which prescribes capital punishment in the event of death of "any person", has come into force.
 - It replaces a 1982 law, according to which hijackers could be tried only in event of death of hostages, such as flight crew, passengers.
 - The law mandates central govt to confer powers of investigation, arrest and prosecution on any officer of central govt or NIA.
- **Customers should report fraud in 3 days**
 - According to RBI, Customers will not suffer any loss if unauthorised online banking transactions are reported within 3 days.
 - The amount involved will be credited in the accounts concerned within 10-days.
 - In case the third party fraud is reported with a delay of four to seven working days, a customer will face liability of up to Rs25,000.
- **India declared free from H5N1 & H5N8**
 - India has declared itself free from highly pathogenic Avian Influenza (H5N1 & H5N8) after surveillance in the states showed no evidence of its presence.
 - India reported outbreaks of Avian Influenza at epicentres in Delhi, Gwalior, Rajpura among others during Oct 2016 to Feb 2017.
 - The move will help India to resume export of poultry products to countries which had banned trade in such items.
- **EC to tally paper trail slips with EVMs**
 - Election Commission has decided to mandatorily tally paper trail slips with the results of EVMs in 5% of polling stations in each assembly seat, for all state and Lok Sabha elections.



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BUY PASS ▶

- Counting of paper trail slips, however, will not take place in more than 14 polling stations and less than five polling stations in each assembly seat.
- The stations will be selected or identified at random.
- Target of constructing 57,000 km of road
 - Govt has set a target of constructing 57 thousand kilometers of roads under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana during 2017-18.
 - According to the Rural Development Ministry, the roads will be constructed at an average rate of 156 kilometers per day.
 - Pace of construction of PMGSY roads reached a 7 year high of 130 km per day in 2016-17s against an average of 73 km during the period 2011 to 2014.
- J&K assembly passes resolution for GST
 - Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly has finally adopted the GST resolution during a special session on 5th July.
 - The resolution moved by state finance minister Haseeb Drabu was adopted through a presidential order calling on the Centre to safeguard the special status and exclusive taxation powers of the state.
 - With this J&K has become the last state to pass the GST bill in the state.
- MERIT app and e-Bidding portal launched
 - Piyush Goyal launched the MERIT app and e-bidding portal for offering an e-Bidding solution to States.
 - It will help States to select Independent Power Producers for procurement of power by transferring their domestic coal under the scheme of flexibility in utilization of domestic coal.
 - It would result in optimum utilization of Coal which would save consumer close to Rs. 20,000 cr in 5 years.
- Electric Buses in Gurgaon
 - Haryana govt will set up an environment-friendly transportation system in Gurgaon on the pattern of Poland.



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BUY PASS ▶

- In the first phase, 75 to 100 electric buses would be operated.
- Each electric bus would help save about 4.25 lakh litres diesel & reduce carbon emissions by 1150 tonnes in 10 years of operation.
- JBM Group would soon begin manufacturing electric buses under the Make in India programme.
- July 19 as Save public sector banks day
 - United Forum of Bank Unions has decided to observe July 19, the 48th anniversary of nationalisation of major banks, as 'Save public sector banks' day.
 - Members will wear a commemorative badge on the day, display posters in front of all branches, distribute leaflets & hold rallies at all centres across the country.
 - The main challenge that PSB face today is the alarming increase in bad loans.
- UDAY covers 97% of discom debt
 - The Union Ministry of Power has announced that about 97% of the total outstanding debt of all state power distribution companies has been covered under the Ujwal DISCOM Assurance Yojana.
 - As on September 2015, the total debt of all state-owned discoms was Rs 3.95 lakh crore.
 - The 26 states and 1 UT which have joined the UDAY scheme accounted for total outstanding debt of Rs. 3.82 lakh crore.
- **India's tallest ATC tower**
 - The new 101.9-metre air traffic control tower at the Delhi airport -- touted to be the country's tallest -- is likely to start operations by December.
 - The tower, among the tallest structures in Delhi, will give a 360-degree view of the airport to the controllers who will be able to see all the three runways, aprons and taxiways.



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- The tower, built at a cost of Rs 350 crore.
- President clears bill banning hookah bar
 - President Pranab Mukherjee has approved a Legislative Bill to ban the hookah bar in Gujarat.
 - Violation of this law will attract Minimum 1 year and maximum 3 year sentence, provision of Rs 20,000 to Rs 50,000 fine is also mentioned in this amendment.
 - Most of the hookah bars in the state were running on the restaurant licence illegally and also selling products which are harmful to youngsters.
- AFSPA in Nagaland extended
 - Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act has been extended for 6 more months in Nagaland beginning June 30.
 - According to home ministry, Nagaland is in such a disturbed & dangerous condition that use of armed forces in aid of the civil power is necessary.
 - AFSPA has been in force in Nagaland for several decades and has not been withdrawn even after a framework agreement was signed on August 3, 2015.
- MP plants record 6.63 crore saplings
 - Madhya Pradesh govt has claimed that record 6.63 crore saplings were planted on the banks of river Narmada as part of its river conservation efforts.
 - The drive started at 7 am continued till 7 pm along the banks of the river covering 24 districts.
 - Drive might find a place in Guinness World Records as the current record of planting max saplings in least time is 5 cr in 24 hours by UP.
- AIIMS to adopt 50 elderly people
 - AIIMS in association with an NGO would adopt 50 elderly people, who are economically & physically challenged, to provide them with health care facilities.



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- They will be adopted from various old age homes and society as per their health requirements and access to health care facilities.
- Geriatric department of AIIMS and NGO Healthy Aging India would provide free medicines at their doorstep.
- Free education for transgenders
 - Indira Gandhi National Open University has announced that transgender students can now study in any of the programmes offered by the university for free.
 - This is set to benefit 4000+ transgenders in the state who have lost out on job opportunities as they don't have necessary qualifications.
 - Vice Chancellor, Ravindra Kumar announced the initiative during the 22nd Prof G Ram Reddy Lecture.
- Kerala CM Vijayan launches G-Ride
 - Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan launched G-Ride, a digital ride sharing platform designed and deployed for the IT industry.
 - The platform has been developed by the Group of Technology Companies (GTech), the industry body of IT companies in the state.
 - G-Ride app automatically matches co-workers and neighbours and help them travel together to work. It is available both Android and iOS.
- Agriculture budget from next year
 - Telangana Chief Minister K Chandrasekhar Rao has decided to present a separate agriculture budget from next year.
 - He also asked the officials to form farmers' associations at various levels. - from villages to the state to organise the cultivators.
 - Farmers would also be provided training of modern and scientific methods of farming so as to increase the farm output.
- Govt completes safety audit



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- The Road ministry has completed safety audit of 1.6 lakh bridges in the country out of which 147 bridges were found to be unsafe during the audit.
- The government had launched an Integrated Bridge Management System to create data of all bridges and culverts in the country to avert mishaps
- Technologies using nano, laser and sensor are being introduced for real-time monitoring of bridges.
- TN to set up Rs 2350 cr solar park
 - The Tamil Nadu government will setup an Ultra Mega Solar Photovoltaic Power Park in Ramanathapuram district at an estimated cost of Rs 2350 crore.
 - State-run TANGEDCO will establish the 500 MW power park on Engineering Procurement Construction (EPC) basis at Naripaiyur and adjoining villages in the district.
 - It is one of the several new initiatives launched by the government.
- 'No-Development Zone' near river Ganga
 - National Green Tribunal has declared 100m from the edge of River Ganga as a **'No-Development Zone' in the stretch b/w Haridwar in Uttarakhand & Unnao in Uttar Pradesh.**
 - An environment compensation of Rs.50,000 will be imposed on anyone who dumps waste in Ganga.
 - NGT has also directed UP and Uttarakhand govts to formulate guidelines for religious activities on ghats of Ganga or its tributaries.
- SBI waives charge on IMPS fund transfer
 - SBI has waived charges for fund transfer of up to ₹1,000 through its Immediate Payment Service to promote small transactions.
 - SBI had been charging ₹5 along with service tax for fund transfer of up to ₹1,000.
 - Charge will be ₹5 along GST for fund transfer in range of 1,000 to 1 lakh.



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- IMPS is an instant interbank electronic fund transfer service through mobile phones and internet banking.
- HAL signs MoU with Defence Ministry
 - Hindustan Aeronautics Limited has signed a MoU for 2017-18 with Ministry of Defence.
 - MoU outlines targets on various performance parameters of the company during 2017-18.
 - HAL has also laid specific emphasis on capacity building, modernization & solar plants aiming to achieve capital expenditure of 1300 cr.
 - **HAL's thrust is on Make-in-India** projects such as HTT-40, Light Combat Helicopter etc
- President **inaugurates 'Ashiana Annexe'**
 - President Mukherjee inaugurated Ashiana Annexe in Dehradun.
 - It comprises of 12 low cost dwelling units constructed to accommodate officers & staff of Rashtrapati Bhavan.
 - The units have been constructed using Habitech-NivaraTantra - Onsite Sanitation Integrated Community Housing Technology Innovations.
 - Innovations comprise unique blocks "compacted intermeshing" which are made from local soil
- India to Become Largest Milk Producer
 - According to UN and Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development India will become the largest producer of milk in the world by the 2026.
 - India is also expected to triple its total milk production over the first quarter of the 21st century.
 - Milk production in India will grow by 49% in 2026.
 - India is also expected to record the biggest increase in wheat production globally.



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- NGT bans use of nylon & synthetic manja
 - National Green Tribunal has banned use of 'Chinese' kite strings, made of nylon or any synthetic material.
 - **Ban also includes cotton 'manja'** coated with glass
 - They have been banned as they poses threat to life and environment.
 - **State govts have been directed to prohibit “manufacturing, sale, storage, purchase and use” of synthetic 'manja' or nylon threads used for flying kites.**
- Free contraceptive injections for women
 - Maharashtra has become the first state in the country to provide women an injectable contraceptive for free.
 - **The state's public health department launched a programme called Antara** to offer women an injection of Medroxyprogesterone acetate, a birth-control hormone.
 - **The injection is supposed to be used within a week from the day a woman's menstrual cycle starts.**
- Committee for separate state flag
 - Karnataka Government has constituted a 9 member committee to study the possibility of designing a separate state flag and providing it a statutory standing.
 - The committee was constituted following representation of social activists from the state urged the government to design a separate flag for Kannada **'naadu' and give** statutory standing for it.
 - J&K is the only state to have separate flag
- Govt increases import duty on sugar
 - Government has increased import duty on sugar to 50% from 40%, to restrict cheap inward shipments and maintain domestic prices.
 - Food Ministry had proposed increase in import duty on the grounds that fall in local prices will affect millers' capacity to pay cane dues to growers.



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- In April this year, govt had allowed import of 5 lakh tonnes of raw sugar at zero duty to boost domestic supply.
- Aaykar Setu launched
 - Finance Minister Arun Jaitley has launched Aaykar Setu.
 - It is an e-initiative for Income tax Department to directly communicate with the taxpayers and aimed at providing information on useful tax services.
 - It compiles various tax tools, live chat facility, dynamic updated and important links to various processes within the Department in a single module.
- Govt saves over Rs 57,000 cr
 - Govt has saved more than Rs. 57,000 cr with its Direct Benefit Transfer scheme under which subsidies are given directly to beneficiaries.
 - DBT programme is a major reform initiative to check graft in welfare funds and is aimed at transferring benefits of various central govt-run social welfare schemes to bank accounts of beneficiaries.
 - Till March, 2017, there were 140 schemes under the DBT.
- 2nd state to accept online RTI apps
 - Delhi has become the second state to launch e-RTI portal that will enable citizens to file online Right to Information.
 - Portal will enable citizens to file RTI and seek information related to 172 departments of the Delhi govt including the office of the chief minister and his ministers.
 - Maharashtra is the first state to launch the online RTI platform.
 - The Portal has been designed by NIC.
- Merger of Ministries
 - Government has merged the urban development and housing and urban poverty alleviation ministries.



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- It will now be known as Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA).
- This is third time the ministries have been merged. With this merger, the government now has 51 ministries.
- The merger will create synergy, better coordination and planning between housing and urban infrastructure projects.
- International meet on social justice
 - A 3 day Babasaheb B.R. Ambedkar international conference on social justice will be held in Bengaluru from July 21 to 23.
 - Conference will unveil 'Bengaluru Declaration' outlining specific constitutional, institutional and policy responses to concerns of equity, freedom and democracy.
 - It also commemorates the 126th birth anniversary of the architect of Indian Constitution, B.R. Ambedkar.
- No non-veg food on domestic flights
 - The national carrier Air India has stopped serving non-vegetarian meals to economy-class passengers on all domestic flights from mid-June this year.
 - However, non-vegetarian meals would continue to be served in business and executive class on domestic as well as international flights.
 - The decision was taken to cut wastage and cost, and to avoid mix-up of vegetarian with non-vegetarian meals.
- Digital initiatives over e-education
 - President Mukherjee launched 3 digital initiatives - Swayam, Swayam Prabha and National Academic Depository to push e-education in the country.
 - Aim of the initiatives is to raise the Gross Enrollment Ratio in higher education from 24.5 to 30 by 2020.
 - Swayam will host courses taught in classrooms from Class 9th to post-graduation, which can be accessed by anyone, anywhere at any time.
- Beef detection kit



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- Directorate of FSL in Maharashtra has developed a portable kit which can determine if a meat sample contains beef or not.
- If meat sample fed into the kit is beef, the sample turns yellow and will be sent for further confirmation to FSL.
- Cow Meat Detection ELISA Kit can provide results within 30 mins.
- It will help police secure more convictions in cases of beef possession or transportation.
- Lower berth in 3AC coach to be reserved
 - **Indian Railways has fixed quota for 'Divyangs' in 3AC of mail and express** trains to make the journey hassle-free. A lower berth in 3AC coach will be reserved for Divyangs.
 - Currently, there is a provision for lower berth quota in sleeper class only.
 - In order to facilitate smooth entry into platforms, all stations are being made accessible for differently-abled passengers.
- First Maize based Mega Food Park
 - Harsimrat Kaur Badal, Union Minister of Food Processing Industry laid the foundation stone for 1st Maize based Mega Food Park in Kapurthala, Punjab.
 - It is a major step for containing desertification problem of Punjab and would make farmers turn to maize cultivation which need less water for more production.
 - It will provide employment to 5,000 persons & benefit about 25,000 farmers.
- Easy to clean blankets to be introduced
 - The railways have roped in the National Institute of Fashion Design to design lightweight blankets with less wool content.
 - A trial of 'thin, cold washable blankets' is also being carried out in the Central Railway zone as a pilot project.



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- The plan envisages increasing the frequencies of washing of blankets and replacing the existing ones in a phased manner
- Jiyo Parsi phase II campaign launched
 - The Union Ministry of Minority Affairs has launched Jiyo Parsi Publicity Phase-2 in Mumbai, Maharashtra under the Jiyo Parsi scheme.
 - The campaign was launched in 2014, to address the issue of dwindling **population of India's Parsi community.**
 - The last 2011 census put the number of Indian Parsis at 57,264, dropping from 114,000 in 1941.
- Women commission to ink pact with UNDP
 - Maharashtra's women commission will ink an agreement with United Nations Development Programme for rescue & rehabilitation of women who are victims of sex trafficking, acid attack & domestic violence.
 - Under the pact, one of the key areas would be to impart skills to the affected women to help them sustain themselves financially.
 - An MoU with UNDP in this regard would be signed in next 15 days
- Ban on liquid nitrogen in drinks, food
 - Haryana govt has banned mixing of liquid nitrogen in drinks & food, days after a man burnt a hole in his stomach after drinking a cocktail containing the chemical.
 - Due to its low temperature liquid nitrogen can be extremely damaging to body tissue, causing cryogenic burning on contact.
 - It releases large volume of gas on evaporation & can burst open the stomach if ingested in large quantities
- Injection safety programme
 - Punjab has become the 1st state in the country to introduce injection safety programme.
 - For this Punjab signed an agreement with Foundation for Innovative New Diagnostics on World Hepatitis Day.



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BUY PASS ▶

- It will support Punjab Health Department by providing Rapid test kits for screening of high risk patients.
- WHO & Health Department together will work in sensitising public regarding safe injections.
- Lok Sabha passes IIM Bill, 2017
 - Lok Sabha has approved Indian Institutes of Management Bill 2017 that promises to grant administrative, academic and financial autonomy to the B-Schools and allow them to award degrees to their graduates.
 - The bill will grant greater autonomy to these schools and ensure they are board-driven, with chairperson & director selected by board.
 - The govt also agreed not to change the name of IIM-C.
- Delhi Metro first to become 100% 'green'
 - Delhi Metro has become the only completely green Metro system in the world for adhering to green building norms for its residential colonies.
 - Delhi Metro has secured platinum rating for adherence to green building norms for its 10 residential colonies from Indian Green Building Council.
 - DMRC also announced that it is now generating 20 MW of solar power after adding new solar power facilities
- Earthquake Parameter Dissemination app
 - Govt has launched 2 Mobile apps - 'India Quake' for dissemination of earthquake parameters and 'Sagar Vani' to disseminate ocean related information & alert users in timely manner.
 - Developed by NCS, India Quake will automatically disseminate relevant parameter after occurrence of earthquakes.
 - The app will make information dissemination faster with no restrictions on the number of recipients.
- PM launches deep-sea fishing scheme



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- Prime Minister Modi launched a deep-sea fishing scheme for fishermen of Rameswaram.
- Under the initiative taken up under the "Blue Revolution" scheme, centre would allocate Rs 1,500 crore over a period of time for conversion of bottom trawling boats into deep sea liners.
- it would help fishermen to get better revenue and overcome problems of fishing in the Palk Strait.

August 2017

- Government extends OBC creamy layer
 - Union Cabinet has decided to extend the concept of creamy layer in OBC reservations to PSU & financial institutions.
 - It will ensure children of those serving in lower categories in PSUs & other institutions to get benefit of OBC reservation at par with children of people serving in lower categories in govt.
 - Candidates whose parents hold constitutional posts or group A & B posts are excluded.
- Host city logo for Kochi
 - Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan launched the host city logo for Kochi, one of the venues of Fifa Under-17 World Cup.
 - The logo represents and reflects Kochi's identity and will be a valuable tool in linking the local community in a global World Cup.
 - The host city logo will allow all football fans in Kochi to have a local flavour and will be critical in the promotion of the tournament.
- No interview in government jobs
 - Uttar Pradesh Govt has decided to end the process of holding interview for selection of candidates for the govt jobs in all the non-gazetted posts of Group B, C and D categories.



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- This new rule will not be binding on the on-going recruitment for Class II officers.
- The decision was taken in a cabinet meeting chaired by Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath.
- Jammu gets Rs 200 crore funds
 - Over Rs 200 crore funds have been allocated for Jammu under the Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation.
 - Several major towns of the state would also be covered under the AMRUT programme so that they are replete with all modern facilities of urban living.
 - Funds have been allocated for development of various sectors like urban transport, green spaces, drainage and sewerage.
- PM Modi inaugurates hanging bridge
 - Prime Minister Modi dedicated a hanging bridge built across the Chambal river at Kota to the nation.
 - The bridge took 10 years to meet its completion at a cost of over Rs 200 crore.
 - Cables of the bridge are aerodynamic giving them the ability to be neutral in stormy winds.
 - The bridge is a part of the East West Corridor of Golden Quadrangle Project of National Highways Authority of India.
- Ease of Doing Business report
 - NITI Aayog launched Ease of Doing Business report based on an Enterprise Survey of 3,500 manufacturing firms across Indian states & UT's.
 - Survey has conducted along with IDFC Institute, to assess business regulations & **enabling environment across India from firms' perspective.**



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BUY PASS ▶

- Enterprise Survey was conducted in recognition of the importance of monitoring business environment in India.
- Programme to provide technical skills
 - As many as 60,000 govt high school students in Kerala will be taught animation, electronic, hardware & cyber-safety under the 'Hi School Kuttikootam' programme
 - Organised by state Kerala Infrastructure & Technology for Education, it aims at empowering students in these fields by giving them regular training
 - As many as 1 million students would be directly benefited immediately by this training
- Mandarin made a must for ITBP
 - Following Doklam standoff, Indo Tibetan Border Police has decided to make it compulsory for new recruits to learn Chinese language — both Mandarin & version of the language that is spoken in Tibet.
 - Good knowledge of Chinese language will help in avoiding misunderstandings & lead to better resolution of confrontations.
 - Currently, about 150 officers & men in ITBP know the language.
- Pan India camps
 - Ministry of Textiles has decided to organize Pan India camps in handlooms and handicrafts clusters, under the initiative -Hastkala Sahyog Shivir.
 - This initiative is dedicated to Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay Garib Kalyan Varsh, the birth centenary year of Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay.
 - The camps will be organized during 7th to 17th of October this year.
- Synergy Conference on Defence Pension
 - The Defence Accounts Department, DAD organised its first Synergy Conference on Defence Pensions in New Delhi.



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BUY PASS ▶

- The objective of the conference was to obtain feedback from the pensioners that would help the department to serve them better with constantly improving systems and procedures.
- Digitization of pension data and implementation of a pensionsapp were also discussed in detail.
- 56th annual aerospace conference
 - The 56th annual three-day conference of the Indian Society of Aerospace Medicine is being held in Bengaluru.
 - It is being held at the Institute of Aerospace Medicine on Old Airport Road.
 - The Conference is being attended by service delegates, civilian delegates and foreign delegates with 15 scientific sessions.
- Right to privacy judgment
 - In a landmark decision, the Supreme Court has declared right to privacy a fundamental right under the Constitution.
 - A 9 judge constitution bench headed by Chief Justice J S Khehar ruled that right to privacy is an intrinsic part of Right to Life & Personal Liberty under Article 21 and entire Part III of the Constitution.
 - The Union government had argued that privacy is a common law right.
- Campaign for clean and healthy society
 - Union Minister for Social Justice & Empowerment Tanwar Chand Gehlot inaugurated a 9 day campaign on Clean Society-Healthy Society in Delhi.
 - Campaign will be carried out by Brahma Kumaris organization in different areas of Delhi, Noida, Gurugram & Faridabad.
 - The organization will sensitize the public on inner & outer cleanliness, holistic health & hygiene, moral values & character building.
- Grid connected roof top solar projects



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- Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik has launched grid-connected rooftop solar project through net-metering system.
- Under the programme, consumers can install solar plants on their rooftops & consume generated solar power during day time.
- Additional solar power generated could be exported through net-meter.
- State govt will provide 30% subsidy to consumers for installing rooftop solar system
- Govt raises 'creamy layer' income cap
 - Govt has raised income limit defining creamy layer for OBC reservation by Rs 2 lakh p.a.
 - OBC families earning up to Rs 8 lakh p.a will not be considered in the creamy layer.
 - Better-educated member of OBC who cannot avail govt sponsored educational & job benefits are called creamy layer.
 - Supreme Court had raised this ceiling from Rs. 1 lakh to 6 lakh in 2013 & is to be revised every 3 years.
- Jaitley chairs the 17th meeting of FSDC
 - The 17th Meeting of the Financial Stability and Development Council was held in New Delhi under the Chairmanship of Arun Jaitley.
 - The Council took note of progress of Financial Sector Assessment Program for India, jointly conducted by IMF and World Bank.
 - The Council also deliberated on strengthening the regulation of the Credit Rating Agencies.
- First Videsh Bhavan in Mumbai
 - Sushma Swaraj will inaugurate country's first Videsh Bhavan, assimilating all Regional Passport Offices under one roof, at Bandra Kurla Complex in Mumbai.



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- As a first pilot project, 4 offices of MEA - RPO, PoE, Branch Secretariat & Regional Office of ICCR have been assimilated & brought under one roof.
- It is expected to cut costs besides improving efficiency & hastening delivery of services
- National Sports Museum to be established
 - Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports is going to establish National Sports Museum at Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium, New Delhi.
 - **Museum will showcase India's achievements** in sports and also focus on the traditional sports within the country.
 - It will display achievements of Indian greats in sports & also act as an educational hub & offer an opportunity for young to delve into some sporting activity.
- Mentor India Campaign
 - NITI Aayog CEO Amitabh Kant will launch the Mentor India Campaign in New Delhi.
 - The campaign is a strategic nation building initiative to engage leaders who can nurture and guide students at more than 900 Atal Tinkering Labs.
 - The labs are dedicated workspaces where students from Class 6th to 12th learn innovation skills and develop ideas that will go on to transform India.
- Door step Aadhar enrolment
 - UIDAI has joined hands with CSC India for launching door step enrolment facility in Delhi for elderly, patients & others who cannot travel to Aadhar centres
 - A mobile van in partnership with CSC will go & enrol people who are unable to travel to centres for enrollment



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BUY PASS ▶

- CSC provides permit & monitors operations of common service centres across India which provide govt services in rural area
- Yatra against child trafficking
 - Nobel laureate Kailash Satyarthi would embark on a 35-day Bharat Yatra, leading a fight against child trafficking & child sexual abuse across the country.
 - The yatra will begin in Kanyakumari in Tamil Nadu on September 11 and will conclude in Delhi on October 15, after covering 22 states.
 - The start of Bharat Yatra will mark the launch of a three-year campaign against child sexual abuse.
- Triple Talaq Unconstitutional
 - Triple talaq, the controversial Muslim divorce law that allows men to leave their wives immediately by uttering "talaq" thrice has been banned by Supreme Court
 - Calling it "bad in law", a constitution bench of 5 judges said that triple talaq "is not integral to religious practice & violates constitutional morality"
 - 5 judges of different faiths heard the case over 5 days from May 12 to May 18
- 8th World Renewable Energy Technology
 - 8th World Renewable Energy Technology Congress took place in New Delhi.
 - It focusses on Green Technologies to ensure clean & affordable Renewable Energy supplies.
 - It provides an opportunity & open forum to exchange info & best practices by bringing together multi stake holders.
 - It is visualized & planned in backdrop of India's vision on achieving Energy Independence & Power for all by 2022.
- Physical Police verification to end



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- Govt is planning to end physical police verification for passports by replacing it with a connection to national database of crimes & criminals that will keep track of background of a passport applicant.
- CCTNS is expected to be linked with passport service allowing online police verification for passports within a year.
- It will minimise contact with police & reduce time.
- AP adopts national policy for Tibetans
 - Arunachal Pradesh has adopted a rehabilitation policy which deals with matters concerning land lease, extending Central & state benefits to Tibetans residing in the state.
 - With this AP joins Himachal Pradesh & Uttarakhand who have already done the same in 2015 after Govt of India formalized Tibetan Rehabilitation policy act in 2014.
 - Arunachal Pradesh houses 4h largest no of Tibetans in India
- Clouding seeding Project Varshadhari
 - The cloud seeding experiment called Project Varshadhari was launched in Bengaluru under which an aircraft will spray chemicals to induce rainfall.
 - The flight for cloud seeding – BQ-100 Beechcraft will spray Silver Iodide, Sodium Chloride & Potassium Chloride to condense water particles.
 - It aims to condense small water particles by clouds to droplets of 50 microns, which can constitute rains.
- Delhi bans manual cleaning of sewers
 - Delhi social welfare minister Rajendra Pal Gautam has announced a blanket ban on manual cleaning of sewers.
 - Any contractor or engineer found getting the sewer lines or tanks cleaned manually will be booked under culpable homicide instead of negligence.
 - This comes after a man died while cleaning a sewer tank in LNJP Hospital of the Delhi Govt, while 3 others were injured.



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- NABARD sanctions loan to Rajasthan govt
 - National Bank of Agriculture and Rural Development has sanctioned a loan of Rs 1,349.55 cr to Rajasthan govt.
 - Loan has been sanctioned for creation of rural infrastructure in the state under the Rural Infrastructure Development Fund.
 - It also includes assistance for construction of 2 rural drinking water supply projects, strengthening rural roads & modernization of 3 major irrigation projects
- Digital police portal
 - A digital police portal under CCTNS project, which aims to create a national database of crimes & criminals, was launched by Home Minister Rajnath Singh.
 - It will provide 11 searches and 46 reports from the national database for state police and central investigation agencies.
 - It will also provide citizens. facility for online complaint registration and request for antecedent verification.
- Scheme for Compassionate Family Pension
 - Assam govt will launch a new Scheme called, Scheme for Compassionate Family Pension in lieu of Compassionate Appointment.
 - The scheme will be applicable to those employees who died in harness on or after April 1, 2017.
 - It will be applicable to all employees of the state govt, all others as eligible under Assam Services Rules, 1969 & All India Services officers borne on Assam cadre.
- **SDMC launches ‘terminator train’**
 - South Delhi Municipal Corporation has pressed into service a train called ‘mosquito terminator’.
 - Power sprayers which will be attached to trucks placed on the train will be used to spray insecticide to fight vector-borne diseases such as dengue.



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- Insecticide will be sprayed on sides of track to eliminate menace of mosquitoes.
- It will not only eliminate larvae but also neutralize mosquitoes.
- 15 medical outlets of AMRIT Deendayal
 - Union Minister of Health & Family Welfare JP Nadda will launch 15 medical outlets of AMRIT Deendayal in Assam, UP & Punjab.
 - He will also inaugurate one outlet of AMRIT Deendayal at Indira Gandhi Medical College Shimla.
 - A purpose of AMRIT Deendayal programme is to provide different kind of medicines & **equipment's on cheap rates to patients, discount up to 60% on MRP** is provided to patients.
- JEE advanced to go completely online
 - Joint Entrance Examination for Indian Institute of Technology will go completely online from 2018.
 - Joint Admission Board, which is the policy-making body on IIT admissions, took the decision at a meeting in Chennai.
 - Union HRD Ministry had earlier introduced the option of taking JEE-Mains online.
 - JEE-Mains is the entrance examination for admission to engineering courses offered across India.
- Delegation of Powers to BRO
 - Defence Ministry has approved delegation of administrative & financial powers to Border Roads Organisation.
 - Functioning under control of Ministry of Defence, BRO is engaged in road construction to provide connectivity to difficult & inaccessible regions in the border areas.
 - This has been done to bring transformational changes in organization in order to improve the pace of execution of works





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BUY PASS ▶

- Orient Craft Textile inaugurated
 - To celebrate 2nd phase of ‘Momentum Jharkhand’, Smriti Irani was made the chief guest of the event.
 - Union Minister for Textile and I&B, Smriti **Irani inaugurated Jharkhand’s 1st textiles manufacturing & export unit ‘Orient Craft Ltd’ in Ranchi.**
 - Currently, Jharkhand produces 1,200 metric tonnes of tasar silk alone every year & shares 62% share in total market production of the entire country.
- PPP model for handling e-waste
 - Govt is exploring possibility of setting up an eco-park under public-private partnership mode to make R&D in e-waste recycling commercially viable.
 - It could provide a system for channelisation of e-waste for environmentally sound recycling in organised sector by bringing together formal & informal sector.
 - R&D in tech pertaining to management of e-waste falls within the domain of DeitY.
- RBI to release new Rs 50 notes
 - Reserve Bank of India will soon release Rs 50 denomination banknotes in the Mahatma Gandhi Series, having signature of Governor Urjit R. Patel.
 - Base colour of the new note is fluorescent blue & has a motif of Hampi with Chariot on the reverse, depicting the country's cultural heritage.
 - The note has geometric patterns aligning with the overall colour scheme, both at the obverse and reverse.
- Navika Sagar Parikrama
 - Navika Sagar Parikrama, a project wherein a team of women officers of the Indian Navy would circumnavigate the globe on an Indian-built sail boat INSV Tarini is scheduled to commence in early Sep 17.
 - This is the first ever Indian circumnavigation of the globe by an all-women crew.



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BUY PASS ▶

- It is aimed at promoting women empowerment in the country and ocean sailing by the Indian Navy.
- CCEA approves proposal of DIPAM
 - Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs has approved the proposal of DIPAM for the strategic disinvestment.
 - The approval will help in speedy completion of strategic disinvestment transactions.
 - The department will set up an alternative mechanism to decide on matters relating to terms and conditions of the sale from the stage of inviting of Express of Interests till inviting of financial bid.
- North Koel Reservoir Project
 - The Union Cabinet approved proposal to complete the balance works of North Koel Reservoir Project in Bihar, stalled since 1993.
 - Completion of the North Koel Reservoir Project will create annual irrigation potential for 1,11,521 hectares of agricultural land (91,917 hectares in Bihar and 19,604 hectares in Jharkhand).
 - The construction of the project was originally started in the year 1972.
- FASTags for Electronic Toll Collection
 - In order to facilitate the availability of FASTags for Electronic Toll Collection, NHAI has taken two revolutionary steps in consultation with RBI and NPCI.
 - These include Online sale of FASTags and offline sale through Common Services Centre near toll plazas.
 - FASTag can also be purchased online from Issuer Banks websites / NHAI website / IHMCL website.
- EESL and IOCL, BPCL & HPCL sign MOUs





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- Energy Efficiency Services Limited signed a MoU with Oil Marketing Companies under the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas for distribution of energy efficient appliances.
- The consumer can purchase high-quality 9W LED Bulbs for Rs 70, 20W LED Tubelight for Rs 220 and Five-Star Rated Ceiling Fan for Rs 1200.
- The three Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies are IOC, HP& BPCCL.
- India signs Global Environment Facility
 - A Grant Agreement from the Global Environment Facility of the World Bank of **\$24.64 million for “Ecosystem Service Improvement Project”** was signed by the govt.
 - The project will be financed by the World Bank out of its GEF Trust Fund.
 - **The project’s duration is 5 years.**
- **World’s largest student survey**
 - The Human Resource Development Ministry has announced November 13 as the date for conducting its National Assessment Survey for the students of class 3, 5 & 8.
 - This time, approximately 30 lakh students will be assessed in the year 2017-18 **making it the world’s largest sample survey of student learning achievement.**
 - The date was announced by HRD Minister Prakash Javdekar.
- **Indira canteen in Bengaluru**
 - Congress vice-president Rahul Gandhi launched 'Indira Canteen' in Bengaluru with the vision of providing good quality of food to the poor at a cheap price.
 - Breakfast would be served at Rs. 5 and lunch and dinner at Rs. 10 in the canteen.
 - 101 canteens will be opened in the initial phase. More will be opened in 97 wards **from October 2 to mark Mahatma Gandhi’s 150th birthday.**
- Govt to make 20 universities world class



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- Prime Minister Modi has said his govt plans to invest Rs 1,000 cr to transform 20 universities into "world class" educational institutions.
- Centre has taken an important step to grant the universities freedom from restrictions to make them world class universities.
- Govt will not interfere in their functioning & funds up to Rs 1,000 cr will be provided to transform these institutions.
- Portal to Honour Gallantry Award Winners
 - On 71st Independence Day, the govt launched an online portal dedicated to gallantry award winners, bestowed since Independence.
 - Portal will preserve & tell stories of bravest men & women, civilians as well as armed forces personnel.
 - Website with domain name gallantryawards.gov.in gives details of Chakra Series awardees.
 - It is being jointly developed by the Union Home and Defence Ministries,
- FB and others to remove Blue Whale links
 - Govt has directed internet majors - Google, Facebook, Whatsapp, Instagram, Microsoft & Yahoo to immediately remove links of dangerous online game Blue Whale Challenge.
 - Blue Whale challenge is reportedly a suicide game in which player is given certain tasks to complete for a period of 50 days and final task leads to suicide.
 - Challenge has led to suicide of children in India & other countries
- GIS-enabled portal
 - Centre has brought out an online database of more than half a million hectares of land assisting industry.
 - GIS enabled database has details of about 3000 industrial parks, area-wise availability of agricultural/horticultural crops & mineral production.





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BUY PASS ▶

- Database is being developed by DIPP, National e-Governance Division & BISAG
- It aims to eliminate information asymmetry affecting investments
- Common use items exempt from e-way bill
 - LPG, kerosene & currency are among the common use items that have been exempted from e-way bill provision.
 - Council has approved a list of 153 items that have been exempted from obtaining e-way bills.
 - GST mandates obtaining e-way bills for transporting goods consignment of more than Rs 50,000 in value.
 - E-way bill is not required if goods are transported by non-motorised conveyances.
- One year exemption for TN from NEET
 - Central govt has decided to grant exemption of 1 year from NEET system for students of govt colleges in Tamil Nadu.
 - TN comprises of more than 90% students from State Board, which makes it difficult for them to qualify NEET which is based on CBSE syllabus.
 - NEET is an entrance exam for students who wish to study graduate medical course or PG course in govt or private medical colleges in India.
- Sankalp Se Siddhi Program in Coimbatore
 - To take forward the initiative PM Modi for a New India movement from 2017 – 2022, a Sankalp Se Siddhi programme was held in Coimbatore.
 - Minister of State for Culture and Tourism (Independent Charge), Dr. Mahesh Sharma graced the occasion.
 - The New India Movement 2017-2022 envisages an India free of Poverty, Corruption, Terrorism, Communalism, Casteism and Un-cleanliness.
- Jharkhand passes Religious Freedom Bill
 - Jharkhand Assembly has passed Religious Freedom Bill 2017 that aims to stop forced conversions in the state.



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- Bill has provision for imprisonment of 3 years & fine of Rs 50,000 or both, and 4 year- imprisonment & Rs 1 lakh fine, or both, if the person converted is a minor, woman or a member of SC or ST.
- Person converting willingly will have to inform Deputy Commissioner.
- National anthem video in sign language
 - Union Minister of State for HRD Mahendra Nath Pandey has launched an Indian National Anthem video in sign language.
 - Directed by filmmaker Govind Nihalani, 3 minute video features Bollywood actor Amitabh Bachchan along with physically challenged children performing anthem in sign language with the Red Fort in the background.
 - The video was also launched in Goa, Bhopal, Chandigarh & Kolhapur.
- **Gujarat govt to give ‘Namo’ tablets**
 - Under a state govt scheme launched by CM Vijay Rupani, Around 3.5 lakh college students in Gujarat will get tablets at a subsidised rate of Rs 1,000.
 - Under this scheme, 1st year college students in the state will get 7-inch **‘NAMO E-Tab’ tablets by just paying Rs 1,000. Govt has allocated Rs 200 cr for this scheme.**
 - **NAMO E-Tab is acronym for ‘New Avenues of Modern Education through Tablets’.**
- Aajeevika Grameen Express Yojana
 - Govt has decided to launch a new sub-scheme named Aajeevika Grameen Express Yojana as part of Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana - National Rural Livelihoods Mission.
 - Self Help Groups under DAY-NRLM will operate road transport service in backward areas & will provide safe, affordable & community monitored rural transport.





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BUY PASS ▶

- AGEY will be initially implemented in 250 Blocks in the country on pilot basis
- **Namami Gange Jagriti Yatra**
 - Uttar Pradesh Govt has launched a new awareness drive called Namami Gange Jagriti Yatra.
 - The drive will be focusing on cleanliness along the banks of Ganga river and maintain hygiene.
 - The drive has been organised by Uttar Pradesh Homeguard volunteers and will help in spreading awareness in about 25 districts situated on the banks of river Ganga in the state.
- **National Deworming Day**
 - The second round of National Deworming Day is observed between 10th of August to 23rd August in 33 States and Union Territories to tackle worm Infections, targeting more than 11 crore children.
 - The program was launched in 2015.
 - In this drive, the children will be administered the chewable deworming tablet, Albendazole 400 mg tablet.
- **Govt approves 10 Namami Gange projects**
 - National Mission for Clean Ganga has approved 10 projects in Bihar, West Bengal & Uttar Pradesh worth Rs 2,033 crore.
 - 8 of these projects pertain to sewage infrastructure & treatment, one to river front development and another to Ganga Knowledge Centres.
 - A project to establish Ganga Monitoring Centres in 5 riparian Ganga states has also been approved at an estimated cost of Rs 46.69 crore.
- **Telangana launches Smart Streets Lab**
 - To improve road safety, govt of Telangana in association with WRI India Ross Centre & ISB launched Smart Streets Lab programme.



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BUY PASS ▶

- It would focus on technological interventions from interconnected & inter networking smart devices to product innovation to make streets secure & easy to navigate
- Govt aims to utilize technological interventions from outside & integrate them with various departments
- Online Registration for custodians
 - SEBI has introduced an online registration mechanism for custodians of securities to make it convenient for them to do business.
 - The new system will help custodian of securities to complete registration and other regulatory filings with Sebi much faster and in a cost-effective manner.
 - The new system has been made operational with immediate effect.
- Ban on non-biodegradable plastic bags
 - National Green Tribunal has imposed an interim ban on use of non-biodegradable plastic bags which are less than 50 microns in Delhi.
 - Bench headed by NGT chairperson Justice Swatanter Kumar announced an environment compensation of Rs5,000 on anyone found in possession of such banned plastic.
 - Earlier Tribunal had slammed Delhi govt over indiscriminate use of plastic despite its prohibition.
- NCERT portal for online books
 - MoS for HRD Upendra Kushwaha launched NCERT web portal for supply of textbooks to schools & individuals in Delhi.
 - It will ensure better distribution of textbooks across India & address concerns of schools & parents, regarding unavailability of textbooks.
 - The web service aims to ensure that no child is compelled to buy more expensive books for want of NCERT books.
- National Cyber Coordination Centre



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BUY PASS ▶

- 1st phase of National Cyber Coordination Centre, set up to detect cyber security threats has been made operational.
- Govt has also made operational botnet & malware cleaning centre that will detect malicious software in devices of citizens & clean them.
- NCCC scans internet traffic coming into the country to detect real-time cyber threat & alert various organisations for timely action.
- Kerala, Haryana top sanitation survey
 - According to a survey covering 4626 villages across the country by Quality Council of India, 62.4% of households had access to a toilet
 - 91.2% of people who had access to toilet also used it, indicating change in sanitation behaviour.
 - Sikkim, Manipur & Nagaland were top performers with 95% rural households covered by toilets.
 - UP & Bihar were the worst performers in terms of rural sanitation
- NITI Aayog partners with 6 states
 - NITI Aayog has announced partnership with 3 States each to radically transform their Health & Education sectors.
 - NITI Aayog has shortlisted UP, Assam & Karnataka under its Sustainable Action for Transforming Human Capital initiative to transform their health sector.
 - MP, Jharkhand & Odisha have also been selected by NITI Aayog under its SATH initiative to transform their education sector.
- Centre launches Swachh Survekshan Gramin
 - Centre has launched Swachh Survekshan Gramin to encourage states and districts to improve sanitation coverage and solid liquid waste management.
 - All districts of the country will be ranked under the Swachh Survekshan Gramin on the basis of performance, sustainability and transparency.



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BUY PASS ▶

- So far, 4,600 villages and 1.4 lakh households have been covered under Swachh Sarvekshan (Gramin) Survey.
- Maharashtra to raise \$270 million
 - 2030 Water Resources Group will help Maharashtra Govt raise \$270mn from Green Climate Fund
 - Funds will be invested in integrated watershed programmes such as Jalyukt Shivar Yojana
 - Approvals for raising money will take place in 2018 & could take a year to get the funding
 - WRG along with Mah. Govt launched Water Resources Multi-Stakeholder Platform to address critical water resources challenges
- Aug 15 to be celebrated as Sankalp Parva
 - **Centre has decided to observe this Independence Day as ‘Sankalp Parva’** and asked the people to dedicate themselves to social causes.
 - As India will complete 75 years as an independent nation in 2022, 5 year period from 2017-**2022, gives citizens an unique opportunity of ‘Sankalp’ to ‘Siddhi’ towards a new India.**
 - Nation would also be observing 75th anniversary of Quit India Movement this year.
- Centre declares Assam as disturbed area
 - **Centre has declared entire Assam as a “disturbed” area under** controversial Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act for 1 more month.
 - Govt has cited various violent activities by insurgent groups ULFA, NDFB, and others for extending AFSPA.
 - 20 km belt in Meghalaya bordering Assam will also continue to be a **“disturbed area” under the AFSPA.**
 - AFSPA has been continuing in Assam since November 1990.
- GST Council clears e-way Bill





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- GST Council has given an in-principle approval to e-way bill, to keep tabs on the movement of goods.
- Once the e-way bill is implemented, all goods and services worth Rs 50,000 or more would need to be registered before these are moved 10 km for sale.
- There would be very few check posts to ensure the smooth transport of goods. These rules would not be applicable for exempted goods.
- SUVs, luxury cars to cost more
 - GST Council has approved a proposal to hike cess on SUVs, mid-sized, large & luxury cars from 15% to 25%.
 - While all cars attract a peak GST rate of 28%, large motor vehicles, SUVs, mid-segment, large, hybrid cars and hybrid motor vehicles attract a cess of 15% on top of it.
 - Cess collected on cars as also tobacco & coal will be used to compensate the revenue loss of states by implementing GST
- Govt merges NCRB with BPRD
 - National Crime Records Bureau has been merged with another central police organisation the BPRD by the govt.
 - Merger aims to improve efficiency of development works related to policing. It will also boost crime data collection & research efforts of the two organisations.
 - BPRD Director General will head the merged new entity, NCRB Director, an Additional DG rank post will report to the former.
- Green Airports in Andhra Pradesh
 - As part of the Green airports initiative taken by Ministry of Civil Aviation, 2 airports in Andhra Pradesh are soon going to turn into Green Airports.
 - Installation of 1 Mega Watt solar power plant at Tirupati and Vijayawada airports has commenced.



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BUY PASS ▶

- Earlier, the Cochin International Airport Limited became the first airport in the world, to be completely powered by solar energy.
- Motorbike ambulance service launched
 - Maharashtra govt has launched a motorbike ambulance service to provide swift medical assistance to patients.
 - Ambulance will be available through `108' helpline, have teams of paramedics providing treatment, especially in places inaccessible to larger ambulances, to patients during the golden hour.
 - Royal Enfield motorbikes have been converted into ambulances with emergency medical equipment
- Indian Railways signs first EPC
 - Indian Railways signed its first Engineering, Procurement & Construction contract with L&T for large electrification projects.
 - Contract valuing Rs 1,050 cr for electrification of 781 RKM was awarded by Central Organisation for Railway Electrification & Konkan Railways.
 - Contracts were awarded to speed up electrification of railway lines under **'Mission Electrification' plan.**
- Centre proposes to set up 14 new AIIMS
 - Govt proposes to establish additional 14 new AIIMS under various phases of Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojana in different parts of country.
 - AIIMS in Bhubaneswar, Jodhpur & Raipur have been almost operational & are receiving patients not only from states but also from neighbouring regions.
 - Govt is also working on enhancing capacity of Delhi's medical institutes by adding 1,563 new beds.
- Measles-rubella vaccination campaign
 - Govt has launched Measles-Rubella vaccination campaign in a phased manner for across the country to reduce measles morbidity and mortality.





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BUY PASS ▶

- The MR vaccination campaign will cover children in the age group of 9 months to less than 15 years.
- Campaign started in February 2017 from five states and UTs and has covered about 3.33 crores children have been vaccinated during this campaign.
- Lok Sabha passes Banking Regulation Bill
 - Banking Regulation (Amendment) Bill 2017, which was promulgated in May, was passed in Lok Sabha.
 - It will replace Banking Regulation Act 1949, giving govt power to authorise RBI to issue directions to banks to initiate insolvency resolution in case of a default.
 - Bill empowers RBI to issue directives for resolution & appoint authorities to advise banking companies on stressed asset resolution.
- Govt ends 10-yr pact with GVK-EMRI
 - Department of Health & Family Welfare has terminated its 10-year contract with GVK-EMRI which provides emergency response service 108 Arogya Kavacha.
 - Decision was taken citing certain shortcomings of GVK-EMRI group such as delay in providing services, shortage in manpower & not addressing **employees' grievances**.
 - Govt had entered into an agreement with GVK-EMRI in 2008 which was to end in 2018
- Aadhaar-authenticated DBT portal
 - Maharashtra has launched MahaDBT portal, through which benefits of all govt schemes will be transferred directly into bank accounts of beneficiaries in the state.
 - It has been designed on lines of central govt's DBT scheme, Aadhaar will become mandatory to claim benefits through the portal,



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BUY PASS ▶

- Maharashtra is the 1st state to launch this system to give direct benefits with Aadhaar authentication
- Govt inks MoA to set up IRRI
 - Agriculture Ministry has signed a MoA for setting up a regional centre of global rice research institute IRRI in Varanasi, to develop high- yielding rice varieties.
 - This will be 1st international centre in eastern India & will play a major role in sustaining rice production in the region.
 - IRRI is known for its work in developing rice varieties that contributed to green revolution in 1960s.
- Lok Sabha passes NABARD (Amendment) Bill
 - Lok Sabha has passed NABARD (Amendment) Bill, 2017 by voice vote that seeks to amend National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development Act, 1981.
 - Bill allows central govt to increase authorise capital of Bank from Rs. 5,000 cr to Rs.30,000 cr.
 - NABARD is responsible for providing & regulating facilities like credit for agricultural & industrial development in rural areas.
- Scheme to boost farm start-ups
 - Govt is launching a new AGRI-UDAAN programme that will mentor startups & help them connect with potential investors.
 - It will be managed by Indian Council of Agricultural Research & will help **convert innovative ideas from India's rural youth into viable businesses.**
 - Under the programme, start-ups will get incubation space to run their businesses and access to research laboratories & libraries.
- LS passes 2 bills extending CGST, IGST
 - Lok Sabha has passed 2 bills extending Central GST and Integrated GST to Jammu and Kashmir.



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BUY PASS ▶

- The step will ensure greater economic integration of the state with rest of the country.
- It aimed at giving effect to the formal amendments required in Central GST and Integrated GST Acts by removing the exemption that was carved out for J&K.
- Jammu & Kashmir was the last state to pass GST.
- CCEA approves rail connectivity projects
 - The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs has approved three railway connectivity projects worth Rs3,940 crore in Tamil Nadu and Kerala.
 - These projects would not only speed up the operation of goods and passenger trains, but also provide additional capacity for meeting increases in traffic in the future.
 - All the three projects are expected to be completed by the year 2020-2021.
- Cash-on-delivery for tatkal tickets
 - Railways has announced that people can now book their ticket under the tatkal quota on IRCTC website & can pay later.
 - For tatkal tickets IRCTC users will be able to pay via cash, debit card or credit card by opting to have tickets delivered at their doorstep.
 - The new feature eliminates transaction failures as often the money gets debited and the ticket is not issued due to multiple reasons.
- Indian Army develops app for soldiers
 - Indian Army has developed a mobile application through which serving soldiers can track details like postings & promotions.
 - Through the app named Humraaz, soldiers can view their monthly salary slips & Form 16 and also download them.
 - For security reasons, the installation of the application has been linked to verification of Aadhar details.
 - The app has been developed in-house by the Army.
- Cabinet clears proxy voting for NRIs



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- Cabinet has cleared a proposal to extend proxy voting to overseas Indians by amending electoral laws.
- While NRIs & overseas Indians are free to cast their votes in their constituencies, the proposal would allow them to use proxy which was only available to service personnel.
- 16m NRIs will be able to vote in elections by appointing proxies residing in their constituencies to cast their votes.
- **Scrapping of no detention policy**
 - Cabinet has approved scrapping of no-detention policy in schools till Class 8.
 - Policy was introduced under RTE 2009 according to which schools were not allowed to fail or expel a student up to Class 8.
 - It will now allow states to detain students in class V & class VIII if they fail in the year-end exam.
 - States will have to give them a 2nd chance before stopping their promotion to next class
- **Modi to inaugurate 'Rajaswa Gyansangam'**
 - Prime Minister Modi will inaugurate 2 day 'Rajaswa Gyansangam' on September 1, during which central & state tax officers will brainstorm on major issues.
 - To be held in New Delhi, focus of the discussion will be on GST as well as on unearthing black money
 - This will be for the first time that the tax officers of state governments will also be invited for discussion on the GST related issues.
- **RBI cuts repo rate by 25 bps**
 - The Monetary Policy Committee of the Reserve Bank of India slashed the short-term lending rate, or repo rate, by 25 basis points to 6%, the lowest in more than six-and-a-half years, at its third bimonthly policy review.



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BUY PASS ▶

- RBI's move comes on the back of inflation running well below its target for consecutive quarters.
- Reverse repo rate was also reduced by 25 basis points to 5.75% from 6%.
- Jharkhand clears bill to ban conversions
 - Jharkhand cabinet has approved draft of a bill that will ban religious conversion by force or allurement.
 - It aims for tougher action on forced conversions of minor girls & women from scheduled tribes.
 - Anyone found violating it will be liable for 3 years' imprisonment or Rs 50,000 fine or both.
 - The law already exists in MP, Chhattisgarh, Odisha, Gujarat, Maharashtra & Himachal Pradesh.
- Govt launches portal e-RaKAM
 - Govt has launched a portal e-Rashtriya Kisan Agri Mandi which will provide a platform to sell agricultural produce.
 - It is developed by MSTC Limited & supported by marketing & logistics partner CRWC Limited.
 - E-RaKAM is a first-of-its-kind initiative that leverages technology to connect farmers of the smallest villages to the biggest markets of the world through internet and e-RaKAM centres.
- Government to end LPG subsidy
 - Govt has ordered state-run oil companies to raise subsidised cooking gas, LPG, prices by Rs.4 per cylinder every month to eliminate all subsidies by March next year.
 - It will be in effect till the reduction of govt subsidy to 'nil', or till March next year, whichever is earliest.
 - Every household is entitled to 12 cylinders of 14.2-kg each at subsidised rates in a year.
- RBI plans to extend cyber audit



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- RBI is planning to conduct a cyber-audit of all banks in the country instead of just a few bigger banks as it did in the past.
- Banks which do not have security measures in place as per the RBI standards will be given time to comply, failing which the regulator may initiate action.
- RBI is also expected to do a gap analysis on the basis of the reports and ask banks to bridge the gaps.
- SC bans use of 5 metals in firecrackers
 - Supreme Court has imposed a ban on use of 5 harmful metals in firecrackers as they cause enormous air pollution.
 - A bench headed by Justice Madan B Lokur prohibited use of lithium, mercury, arsenic, antimony, lead metals which are used in manufacturing of firecrackers.
 - Court have also asked CPCB & PESO to setup standards regarding air pollution caused by bursting of fire-crackers.
- Swachh Survekshan launched
 - Minister of Housing and Urban Affairs Narendra Singh Tomar launched Swachh Survekshan-2018 in New Delhi.
 - The third in the series Survekshan will rank all 4,041 cities & towns of India based on infrastructure development for improved sanitation services & their sustainability, outcomes.
 - It will assess sanitation levels in all cities & towns impacting the lives of about 40 crore urban people.

September 2107

- World Congress on Adolescent Health



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- 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.



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- 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.



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- 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.
- North East Festival to return to Delhi
 - The fifth edition of the North East Festival, which brings together the numerous colours and talents of the region, will begin in Delhi.
 - The three-day festival, to be held at IGNCA, Janpath, will present Naga warrior dance, Thang ta of Manipur, Hojagiri of Tripura and much more.
 - Various northeastern states, developmental councils will present investment and tourism potential of the region.



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October 2017

- New railway line from Bidar-Kalaburagi
 - Modi dedicated the Bidar - Kalaburagi New Railway Line to the Nation by unveiling a plaque at Bidar Railway Station, in Karnataka.
 - The 110 km Bidar-Kalaburgi railway track in the Hyderabad-Karnataka region that will reduce the distance between Bengaluru and New Delhi by 380km and travel time by six to eight hours.
 - Prime Minister also flagged off the DEMU Service between Bidar and Kalaburagi.
- Government relaxes Arms Rules
 - **On 30th October 2017, it was announced that, to boost the 'Make in India' initiative, the Union home ministry has relaxed the Arms Rules, 1959.**
 - The Arms Rules has been relaxed to encourage investment in the manufacturing of arms, ammunition and weapon systems in the country.
 - This will increase employment opportunities in turn. The new rules came to effect on 27th October 2017.
- 2.9 mn children w/o measles vaccination
 - According to a new report published by leading health organisations, around 2.9 million children in India do not get vaccinated against measles.
 - It is a highly contagious viral disease that claims nearly 90,000 lives globally every year.
 - More than half of these unvaccinated children live in six countries — Nigeria, India, Pakistan, Indonesia, Ethiopia and Democratic Republic of the Congo.
- 1st shipment of wheat to Afghanistan



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- External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj and Foreign Minister of Afghanistan Salahuddin Rabbani, through a joint video conference, flagged off the first shipment of wheat from India to Afghanistan.
- It would be transhipped through the Chabahar port in Iran.
- **The shipment is part of India's commitment to supply 1.1 million tonnes of wheat for the people of Afghanistan on grant basis.**
- Mobile Aadhar can be used as ID proof
 - According to Bureau of Civil Aviation and Security, Mobile Aadhaar can be used as an identity proof to enter airports.
 - BCAS has said that passengers entering an airport premises need to produce any one of the 10 identity proofs, which include passport, voter ID card, Aadhaar / m-Aadhaar, PAN card.
 - Students also have the option to furnish a photo identity card issued by a government institute
- Air Chief Marshal visits Vietnam
 - Air Chief Marshal Birender Singh is on an official visit to Vietnam from 30 Oct 17 to 03 Nov 17.
 - During his visit, he is scheduled to hold bilateral meeting with Vietnam **People's Air Force.**
 - The main focus of the visit would be on improving bilateral relations, promoting defence ties and evolving steps to further strengthen defence cooperation between the two Air Forces.
- Vigilance Awareness Week
 - The Central Vigilance Commission has decided that this year the Vigilance Awareness Week would be observed from 30th October to 4th November, 2017.
 - **The theme of the week would be "My Vision-Corruption Free India".**



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- Purpose of observing Vigilance Awareness Week is to educate the public at large about the corruption related practices and also educating them how to report about it.
- Italy PM Paolo arrives in New Delhi
 - Prime Minister of Italy Paolo Gentiloni arrived in New Delhi on a two day visit to India.
 - The visit coming after a gap of more than a decade, is aimed at strengthening the bilateral political and economic relations between the two countries.
 - The last visit of the Italian Prime Minister to India was in February 2007.
- RORO ships Chennai Port to Bangladesh
 - Nitin Gadkari digitally flagged off a Roll-On/Roll-Off (RoRo) ship from Chennai Port to Mongla port in Bangladesh.
 - M.V. IDM DOODLE, a RoRo cum general cargo vessel carried an export consignment of 185 trucks by Ashok Leyland to Bangladesh. Export of these trucks was earlier done through land route.
 - Transport through the sea route will save about 15-20 days of travel time.
- Rs 8698 cr as GST compensation to states
 - Central Government has released Rs 8698 crore as compensation to states for revenue loss following implementation of GST.
 - All states except Rajasthan and Arunachal Pradesh have been given compensation for July-August after GST rollout.
 - GST, which was rolled out on July 1, 2017, is a destination-based, single indirect tax that is levied on consumption of goods or use of services across India.
- 7,000 crore for 6 IIT Campuses
 - The Union Cabinet has approved over Rs 7,000 crore for construction of permanent campuses of six new IITs across the country.



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- Campuses will be built at Tirupati (Andhra Pradesh), Palakkad (Kerala), Dharwad (Karnataka), Jammu (Jammu and Kashmir), Bhilai (Chhattisgarh) and Goa.
- Each of the permanent campuses will have a facility for housing 1,200 students from the academic year 2020-2021.
- **Justin Bieber's wax figure in Delhi**
 - Madame Tussauds India unveiled a statue of Grammy award-winning singer Justin Bieber in a mini preview at The Grub Festival.
 - In the festival visitors will have the opportunity to interact with the figures of celebrities, which is a unique part of the show.
 - The final display of all statues at the wax museum will take place on December 1.
- Vrindavan, Barsana declared sacred sites
 - Uttar Pradesh State Government issued an order notifying Vrindavan and **Barsana towns in Mathura district as “pavitra teerth sthals”** (sacred pilgrimage sites).
 - No meat and liquor shops will be allowed in these towns.
 - These are first two places to be notified as teerth sthal in Uttar Pradesh. **Earlier, a similar order was passed to notify Haridwar as ‘teerth sthal’.**
- Kovind launches technocity project
 - President Ram Nath Kovind launched a Technocity in Pallippuram, Kerala.
 - **He also laid foundation stone of Kerala Government's first Information Technology building in the campus.**
 - Once the Technocity is fully operational, it is expected to create 100000 employment opportunities as reputed IT organisations including TCS, SunTec and KASE have already taken land for development at Technocity.
- India, France held talks on defence



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- Ms. Florence Parly, the French Minister for the Armed Forces, was on an official visit to India from 26th – 28th October, 2017.
- India and France agreed to strengthen bilateral defence cooperation.
- They talked about initiatives to further strengthen bilateral defence cooperation between India and France. It is to be noted that France is **India's major supplier** of defence equipments.
- Shipping ministry offers grant to JNPT
 - Shipping Ministry announced that it has sanctioned Rs 25 cr to the Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust and another Rs 50 cr to the Karwar port in Karnataka.
 - Funds are given for development of coastal berth under the flagship Sagarmala project.
 - Sagarmala project was launched by Union Shipping Ministry in 2015, with **an aim to modernize India's Ports which will contribute in country's economic growth.**
- **Suresh Prabhu launches CIPAM's Website**
 - Minister for Commerce and Industry, Suresh Prabhu launched the official website for the Cell for IPR Promotion and Management of the Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion.
 - CIPAM has been set up under the support of DIPP to implement the National Intellectual Property Rights Policy.
 - The CIPAM website is interactive and provides regular updates on all upcoming events.
- Ban on pics of living persons on banners
 - Madras high court banned the use of pictures of living persons on banners and hoardings in Tamil Nadu.
 - The order states that, pictures of the chief minister, ministers or politicians cannot be used in posters or hoardings.





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- It has also banned the use of photos of people sponsoring the pictures.
- **'Focus State' at World Food India-2017**
 - **Odisha will be the 'Focus State'** in the World Food India (WFI)-2017, the international food event to be held at New Delhi from 3 to 5 November 2017.
 - More than 200 global companies from 30 countries would participate in the World Food India-2017.
 - Odisha would set up its own Pavilion with 12 stalls. It would showcase various processed food items of Odisha like spices, cashew.
- **Meghalaya ED enters Limca Book of Record**
 - Meghalaya Election Department has entered Limca Book of Records for the formation of the biggest human logo comprising young voters in the state.
 - The logo formation was part of Mission Unite (U and I towards Enrolment) as part of the Special drive to enroll young and left out voters.
 - A total of 2,870 students, 113 schools, three colleges participated. The logo size was 120ft x 75ft.
- **MP tops in digital initiatives**
 - As per a report by Coeus Age Consulting, Madhya Pradesh has emerged as the top state in terms of digital initiatives undertaken by State Government.
 - Coeus Age Consulting is an organisation which provides consultancy services on various aspects of digital economy.
 - A comparative assessment of digital initiatives by 36 states and Union Territories was undertaken by Coeus Age Consulting.
- **Foundation Stone of Aerospace Park in TN**
 - The Tamil Nadu Chief Minister, Edappadi K Palaniswami, laid the foundation stone for an aerospace park at Kanchipuram district.



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- The park will be set up by the State Government in 245 acres at an estimated cost of Rs 198 crore.
- When fully ready, the park will attract a total investment of nearly Rs 1,000 crore and create job opportunities for nearly 30,000.
- 1st War of Independence: Paika Bidroha
 - Union HRD Minister Prakash Javadekar mentioned that from the next **academic session, 'Paika Bidroha'** of 1817 will be included in history text **books as 'the First War of Independence'**.
 - Paika Rebellion was an armed rebellion against British East India Company, which broke out in the year 1817 across Odisha.
 - Combination of social-political-economic causes triggered the Paika rebellion.
- 7-lakh cr to develop 83,000 km Highways
 - Cabinet has approved the biggest ever highway project to develop and expand approximately 83,000 km of roads at an investment of Rs 6.9 lakh crore by 2022.
 - Project also includes the new 28,400 km Bharatmala highway program connecting border areas, improving international, port and coastal connectivity.
 - Bharatmala is government's mega plan for improving connectivity in border and other areas.
- Govt de-affiliates 400 ITIs
 - The government has de-affiliated close to 400 ITIs after quality inspections.
 - Government found the institutes lacking the requisite infrastructure and trainers for imparting vocational training to students.
 - Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship conducted the inspection.



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- Sachin gave fund for foot overbridge
 - Cricket icon and Rajya Sabha member Sachin Tendulkar has sanctioned Rs 2 crore for revamp of rail foot over bridges in Mumbai.
 - The fund is given from his Members of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme fund.
 - On September 29, 23 people were killed in the rush-hour stampede on a narrow foot overbridge (FOBs) linking Elphinstone Road and Parel suburban stations during heavy rain.
- BHEL starts execution of Yadadri plant
 - BHEL announced that it has commenced execution of Yadadri supercritical thermal power project ordered by the Telangana State Power Generation Corporation Ltd.
 - Project is located at Damaracherla in Nalgonda district of Telangana.
 - This is the single largest order for BHEL so far. BHEL is already executing 800 MW Kothagudem and 1,080 MW Bhadradi power projects.
- MIDC to get anti-encroachment cells
 - Maharashtra Industrial Development Corporation will finally get a dedicated encroachment removal department.
 - The MIDC is presently in control of nearly 1.5 lakh hectares of land, in various stages of acquisition.
 - The mandate of the department that was set up in 1962 is to acquire land, undertake provisioning of infrastructure on these plots and facilitate setting up of industrial units.
- Kolkata food items have high lead levels
 - According to Geological Survey of India, Raw food items sold in Kolkata city markets have Lead concentration far above the permissible limit.
 - High concentration of Lead can permanently damage key human organs.



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- Samples of raw food items collected from 12 markets in the city showed a mean Lead (Pb) concentration between 3.78 and 43.35 mg/kg (average 23.56 mg/kg).
- IAF Exercise on Lucknow-Agra Expressway
 - The Lucknow-Agra Expressway will be closed for commuters from 10 am on October 23 till 2 pm on October 24 as the IAF plans to conduct a major touchdown exercise.
 - 20 planes, including the AN-32, will take part in exercise on the highway.
 - The AN-32 are meant for humanitarian assistance and disaster relief. It can bring a large amount of relief material and can also help in evacuating people.
- No probe against judges in Rajasthan
 - Rajasthan government has passed an ordinance which seeks to protect both serving and former judges, magistrates and public servants in Rajasthan from being investigated for on-duty action without its prior sanction.
 - The Criminal Laws (Rajasthan Amendment) Ordinance, 2017 has been promulgated in this regard.
 - The ordinance amends the Criminal Code of Procedure, 1973.
- PGs for cattle to boost milk production
 - Haryana government has decided to introduce a new concept for people living in high-rises, or in urban areas, who want to rear their own cattle and produce "quality milk" for their consumption.
 - The government will set up PGs for cattle for them.
 - The objective is to make Haryana the best state in milk production.
- Mega textile park in Warangal
 - Telangana CM K Chandrasekhara Rao laid the foundation stone for the Kakatiya Mega Textile Park.



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- It is a fibre-to-fabric integrated textile cluster proposed to be built on 1,200 acres of land in the Warangal district.
- This is going to be one of the largest textile parks in the country.
- BSF organises Half Marathon 2017
 - The BSF Half Marathon 2017 was flagged off in the memory of martyrs.
 - It was organised by the Minister of State for Youth Affairs (I/C) & Sports and Information and Broadcasting Col. Rajyavardhan Singh Rathore.
 - All trophies and prizes were dedicated to force martyrs. Medals and certificates were distributed to all the participants.
- Sitharaman to attend meet in Philippines
 - In her first foreign visit as Defence Minister, Ms. Nirmala Sitharaman left **for the Philippines to attend the Southeast Asian Defence Ministers' Meeting.**
 - The two-day **ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting** will discuss ways to enhance defense and security cooperation among the member nations.
 - Sitharaman will also hold bilateral talks with her counterparts from a number of countries.
- Now IDs mandatory with Photocopies: PMLA
 - The Government has made it mandatory for banks and financial institutions to check the original identification documents of individuals.
 - The Department of Revenue in the Finance Ministry made amendment in the Prevention of Money-laundering Rules.
 - The Prevention of Money Laundering Act forms the core of the legal framework put in place by India to combat money laundering.
- Modi Inaugurates RoRo ferry service
 - Modi has inaugurated the first phase of ambitious Ghogha-Dahej Roll-on Roll-off ferry service at Ghogha in Bhavnagar district in Gujarat.
 - With this, the distance between Saurashtra and South Gujarat regions could be covered in less than an hour via-sea route.



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- This passenger movement service reduced the distance between the Ghogha and Dahej from 310 kilometres by road to just 30 kilometres.
- Hirasar airport project gets clearance
 - The Centre has given green clearance for a greenfield airport project at Hirasar to the Gujarat State Aviation Infrastructure Company Ltd (GSAICL).
 - The state government has proposed a new airport in Rajkot district as the existing one is small and the earlier plan to extend the current runway could not materialise because of high land cost.
 - The project is worth Rs. 1,400 crore.
- Modi's visit to Gujrat
 - Prime Minister Narendra Modi is visiting Gujarat for the third time this month, as the BJP pulls out all the stops ahead of the assembly elections in the state.
 - Modi will inaugurate and lay foundation stones for a number of projects in Bhavnagar and Vadodara districts.
 - The projects that will be launched by Modi include the first phase of the Rs 650-**crore** 'roll-on, roll-off' ferry service.
- Dasna Jail to rename its dental clinic
 - As a gesture to **acknowledge the Talwar couple's services**, the Uttar Pradesh government has decided to rename the dental clinic at Dasna Jail in Ghaziabad after Aarushi Talwar.
 - Aarushi was murdered at the age of 14 at her residence in 2008.
 - **Aarushi Talwar's parents** – Rajesh and Nupur Talwar, who are also dentists spent four years in the jail since 2013 as the accused in the murder case.
- **Committee to select RSTV's editor**





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- A five-member committee has been formed to select the candidate for the post of editor-in-chief of Rajya Sabha TV.
- This committee is headed by Prasar Bharati Chairman A Surya Prakash.
- **The post of RSTV's editor-in-chief felt vacant when Gurdeep Singh Sappal resigned after Hamid Ansari's term as vice-president came to an end in August 2017.**
- Railways to cut running time of trains
 - The Indian Railways will soon cut short the running time of over 500 long distance trains by up to two hours, a senior railway official said today.
 - The new timings will be updated in the November timetable of the railways.
 - The new timetable will also provide each railway division two to four hours for maintenance works.
- Ranjit Kumar resigns
 - On 20th October 2017, Ranjit Kumar resigned as the Solicitor General of India.
 - **He has mentioned "personal reasons" as the factor behind his resignation.**
 - He is considered as an expert on constitutional laws. He was appointed as Solicitor General of India in 2014.
 - He has represented the Central government in many high-profile cases in the Supreme Court.
- Nasscom to set up centres to learn AI
 - NASSCOM is setting up centres of excellence on artificial intelligence and data sciences for a better understanding on the emerging technologies.
 - These centres of excellence are being set up in Bengaluru and Hyderabad.
 - These centres will promote AI-based start-ups and will enlist global best practices including regulatory aspects.
- Global Ayurveda meet in Kochi



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- Kochi will organise a four days international seminar and Global Ayurveda meet in Kochi on February 2018.
- The meet includes seminars, road shows, awareness campaigns, free health camps for women and children.
- The main focus of the **seminar will be showcasing Kerala's achievements in health tourism, healthcare & Ayurveda**, she said after inaugurating the Ayurveda Day celebrations the other day.
- Modi inaugurates development projects
 - **Prime Minister Narendra Modi reached Uttarakhand's Kedarnath Temple** and laid the foundation stone for reconstruction projects.
 - The projects are for incomplete flood protection works and reconstruction of Kedarpuri.
 - Modi reached Kedarnath after celebrating Diwali with the Indian Army and Border Security Force personnel near the Line of Control in North **Kashmir's Gurez sector**.
- DIPP launches logo contest
 - A contest has been launched for designing a common logo and tagline for Geographical Indications.
 - A Geographical Indication is primarily an agricultural, natural or a manufactured product (handicrafts & industrial goods) originating from a definite geographical territory.
 - Typically, such a name conveys an assurance of quality and distinctiveness.
- Canada as India's partner in Tech Summit
 - Canada has been chosen as the partner country for the 23rd edition of Technology Summit which is scheduled to be held from 14th – 15th November, 2017 in New Delhi.



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- This event is India's largest knowledge and technology conference and exhibition.
- The theme of this summit will be 'Advanced Manufacturing' focusing on advances in various sectors.
- Kamle becomes 23rd district of AP
 - Arunachal Pradesh State Assembly passed Arunachal Pradesh (Re-Organisation of Districts) Amendment Bill 2017 to create a new district named 'Kamle'.
 - It has been created by bifurcating the present Upper and Lower Subansiri districts.
 - It has six administrative units (three each from Upper Subansiri and Lower Subansiri).
- Diwali celebrated in India
 - Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath landed in Ayodhya, which celebrated its largest Diwali celebrations 'deepotsav' ever.
 - The city aims to enter Guinness World Records as more than 2000 school and college kids light 2 lakh diyas (earthen lamps) on the eve of Diwali.
 - Adityanath performed aarti on the banks of Saryu river in Ayodhya with Governor Ram Naik, Deputy CM KP Maurya.
- Naresh Gupta appointed as MP's Lokayukta
 - Madhya Pradesh government appointed Naresh Kumar Gupta as the Lokayukta of the state.
 - He is a retired judge of Madhya Pradesh High Court. The post of Madhya Pradesh Lokayukta had been vacant since June 2016 after the retirement of PP Naolekar.
 - UC Maheshwari, former judge of MP High Court, who is six years senior to Naresh Kumar Gupta, was looking after the work of Lokayukta since June 2016.
- Birsa Munda Tribal Univ. inaugurated



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- Gujarat Minister of State for Tribal Welfare Shabdasharan Tadvli inaugurated the Birsa Munda Tribal University in Rajpipla, a tribal-dominated town in Narmada district of Gujarat.
- Campus of this University will come up on the outskirts of Rajpipla.
- University would offer graduation, post- graduation, diploma and certificate courses on subjects of Arts, Commerce and Science stream.
- Karnataka needs its own flag
 - Chief minister of Karnataka Siddaramaiah has invoked Kannada pride, saying the government is firm on Karnataka having a state flag.
 - Some activists had urged the government to design a separate flag for Karnataka and accord statutory standing for that.
 - Following this, the Karnataka State government had constituted a nine-member committee to study and submit a report .
- FDDI Act 2017 comes into force
 - Footwear Design & Development Institute (FDDI) has been declared an **'Institute of National Importance'** under Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Government of India.
 - The FDDI bill was passed by the Parliament in July 2017.
 - **FDDI is a premier Institute, serving as a 'One stop solutions provider' in footwear, leather and allied industry.**
- Niti Aayog working on agriculture reform
 - Aiming to **double farmers' income by 2022**, the federal think-tank Niti Aayog is working with states to adopt first set of agri market reforms.
 - These include contract farming, online spot and futures trading besides encouraging private investment.
 - NITI Aayog is essentially an advisory body and think tank of the government.as well as states.
- New Guinness Record at IISF Chennai 2017



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- At the second day of the India International Science Festival in Chennai, a new Guinness World Record for the Largest Biology Lesson was created.
- One thousand forty nine students participated in the record breaking session.
- The World record had students from Class 9 and Class 10. The biology lesson was delivered by Ms. Lakshmi Prabhu from Shri Shankar senior Secondary School.
- All India Institute of Ayurveda
 - The First ever All India Institute of Ayurveda is being set up along the lines of AIIMS.
 - It will be dedicated to the Nation by the Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi on Ayurveda Day on 17th October, 2017 at New Delhi.
 - Set up as an apex institute under the Ministry of AYUSH, the AIIA will bring synergy between the traditional wisdom of Ayurveda and modern diagnostic tools and technology.
- Odisha government signs MOU with SBI
 - Odisha government signed a MoU with SBI, for integration of SBI e-Pay with cyber treasury.
 - This MoU is an initiative by the Odisha government to facilitate revenue collection from citizens through digital banking platform.
 - The SBI e-Pay is the payment aggregator service wing of SBI. It facilitates on-line payment of government dues by the customers of any public or private sector banks.
- New Bureau of Indian Standards Act
 - Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution has brought into effect new Bureau of Indian standards (BIS) Act 2016.
 - The Act replaced Bureau of Indian Standards Act, 1986.



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- It aims to help in ease of doing business in country, enhance ‘Make In India’ campaign and ensure availability of quality products and services to the customers.
- Joint Field Training Exercise conducted
 - A Joint Field Training Exercise on Flood Rescue was conducted at the Yamuna Barrage, Wazirabad.
 - It is a part of the first “**Bay of Bengal Initiative For Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Corporation (BIMSTEC)**”.
 - Rescue teams of all BIMSTEC member countries demonstrated their excellent professional skill in successful rescue of stranded flood affected people.
- Celebrations of Gandhi's 150 anniversary
 - Government of India will commemorate the 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi, during the period from 2nd October, 2019 to 2nd October, 2020.
 - It has been decided to celebrate the event at both national and international levels, to propagate the message of the Mahatma.
 - **A National Committee headed by Hon’ble Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi** has been constituted for this purpose.
- Int. Railway Equipment Exhibition
 - Bharat Earth Movers Limited, a Public Sector Company under Ministry of Defence is participating in International Railway Equipment Exhibition-2017.
 - It is a three day event being held at Pragati Maidan, from 11 – 13 October, 2017.
 - **IREE is India’s largest international event for the Railway Sector. BEML is the Nation’s first Rail coach manufacturing Company.**
- Indian Handicrafts and Gifts Fair



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- The 44th edition of Indian Handicrafts and Gifts-Delhi Fair is being held at India Expo Centre and Mart on outskirts of Delhi in Greater Noida.
- It is being organised by Export Promotion Council for Handicrafts and inaugurated by Smriti Irani.
- The 5-day B2B IHGF Fair is the biggest platform for promotion of handicrafts business. More than 100 countries are participating in it.
- India 100th on global hunger index
 - India got 100th position among 119 countries on Global Hunger Index 2017.
 - This year India slipped by three positions as compared to 97th rank in 2016 GHI.
 - GHI is a multi dimension measure that describes state of hunger situation on regional, national and global level. It is published annually by International Food Policy Research Institute.
- 1st hybrid annuity mode sewage plant
 - A tripartite agreement was signed between National Mission for Clean Ganga and the state level executing agencies Uttarakhand Pey Jal Nigam and Uttar Pradesh Jal Nigam, **for setting up of India's first Sewage Treatment Plants under Hybrid Annuity mode.**
 - The plants are built at Haridwar and Varanasi.
 - The Minister also launched an interactive website on National Mission for clean Ganga (NMCG)
- Aadhaar units to be put in post offices
 - Central Government has approved Rs 2,000 crore for setting up Aadhaar centres in post offices.
 - It is done with an aim to gradually phase out private contractors from the data collection process in Aadhaar enrolment.
 - This decision has been taken as Government received several complaints against private vendors such as petty corruption and attempted frauds.



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- Senior Citizen Health Insurance Scheme
 - Himachal Pradesh government implemented the Senior Citizen Health Insurance Scheme to provide easy access to curative geriatric health care services.
 - The scheme would provide top up coverage of Rs 30,000 per senior citizen to all existing Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojna smart card holders.
 - This would be in addition to the basic coverage of Rs 30,000 in Trust and Society mode.
- Skill development programme in education
 - Rajasthan became first state in the country to incorporate skill development programme in higher education.
 - **In this regard, IGNOU in collaboration with state's Department of College Education** has prepared 16 courses for entrepreneurship and skill development.
 - Under the project, 12 certificates and 4 diploma courses will be run and each college will be required to choose five courses.
- EAC-PM to hold its first meeting
 - The first meeting of the newly constituted Economic Advisory Council to the PM, will be held on Oct 11 at NITI Aayog.
 - The Council has been set up with the approval of the PM on 26th September 2017 and is comprised of reputed economists and experts.
 - The Council will address all issues of emergent importance, will engage with a broad spectrum of stakeholders and formulate advice accordingly.
- Inauguration of NIA Headquarters
 - **India's federal** anti-terrorism probe agency, the National Investigation Agency, set up in 2009 in the aftermath of 26/11 Mumbai terror attacks, has a new headquarters in New Delhi.
 - Rajnath Singh inaugurated the new office at CGO complex, Delhi.



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- The National Investigation Agency is the Central Counter-Terrorism Investigation agency which came into the existence on 31st December, 2008.
- ICICI Bank's aid to armed forces
 - ICICI Bank, the country's largest private sector bank committed financial assistance of Rs. 10 crore to the Indian armed forces.
 - The contribution, payable in two equal tranches this year and next year, will be utilised towards welfare activities and betterment of the families of ex-servicemen, who lost their lives guarding the nation.
 - Chanda Kochhar is MD & CEO of ICICI Bank.
- No firecrackers this Diwali
 - On 9th October 2017, the Supreme Court (SC) imposed a ban on the sale of firecrackers till 31st October 2017, in the National Capital Region (NCR)-Delhi.
 - SC has also ordered that a relevant agency should compute the impact of a noise-and smoke-free festival this year.
 - The SC suspended all licenses issued by the Delhi Police to shopkeepers that allowed them to sell fireworks.
- Kerala Tourism launches Tourist Survey
 - Department of Tourism (Kerala) launched a 3 year long Continuous Tourist Survey (CTS), to increase the growth of tourism in Kerala.
 - The Continuous Tourist Survey (CTS) 2017-2020 sample survey is conducted in collaboration with Datamation Consultants.
 - The purpose of the survey is to study the interest of tourists, their age, demographic details and their reasons for visit.
- **Uttarakhand launches 'Solar Briefcase'**
 - Uttarakhand State Government and a charitable funding agency named **Swan Cultural Center and Foundation**, launched 'Solar Briefcase' in Kedarnath Dham.



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- This initiative aims to provide electricity to far flung areas in Uttarakhand.
- Uttarakhand Chief Minister Trivendra Singh Rawat has stated that around 47 villages and 1,40,000 families in Uttarakhand do not have access to electricity.
- 8 Projects under Namami Gange Programme
 - The National Mission for Clean Ganga has approved 8 projects worth over Rs 700 crore in the northern belt of the country to take forward the ambitious Namami Gange programme.
 - The 4 projects pertain to sewage management in Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and West Bengal.
 - Three are related to treatment of drains through bio-remediation and one related to inventorization and surveillance of Ganga River.
- India Water Week 2017
 - President Shri Ram Nath Kovind inaugurated India Water Week 2017 on October 10, 2017 in New Delhi.
 - About 1500 delegates from India and 13 other countries will attend the five day international event.
 - The theme of India Water Week – **2017 is “Water and Energy for Inclusive Growth”**.
- Third International Conference on Yoga
 - Vice President, Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu inaugurated the two-day **‘International Conference on Yoga for Wellness’** today at New Delhi.
 - The conference is being organized by Ministry of AYUSH as a part of commemorating the celebration of 21st June as International Day of Yoga.
 - **The theme of this year’s conference will be ‘Yoga for Wellness’**. This is the third edition of the conference.
- Mata Amritanandamayi Math Project





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- President Ram Nath Kovind has launched Mata Amritanandamayi Math Project "Jeevamritham".
- It is to provide filtration system for cleaning drinking water to 5000 villages across India.
- The President also distributed the certificates to three village out of 12 villages, which were adopted by the Math, verified as Open Defecation Free by Swachh Bharat Abhiyan.
- Intensified Mission Indradhanush
 - Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has launched the Intensified Mission Indradhanush at Vadnagar in Gujarat.
 - Through this programme, Government of India aims to reach each and every child under two years of age and all those pregnant women who have been left uncovered under the routine immunisation program.
 - Intensified Mission Indradhanush is supported by 11 other ministries and departments.
- First ever conference of Partner NGOs
 - The first ever Conference of Partners NGOs is being organized by the Ministry of Women and Child Development on 9th October, 2017 in New Delhi.
 - **The subject of the conference is "Implementation of Policies, Schemes and Programmes for Women and Children: Challenges and Way Forward".**
 - The aim of the conference is to sensitize partner NGOs across the country to implement various WCD schemes.
- Beti Bachao Beti Padhao Week
 - The Ministry of Women and Child Development will be celebrating the Beti Bachao Beti Padhao Week from 09th to 14th October, 2017.
 - The week is being celebrated in view of the International Girl Child Day on 11th October, 2017.



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- The theme of the program will be "Beti Bachao Beti Padhao Week- The Daughters of New India".
- World Dental Show 2017
 - The 3-day international exhibition - **9th Annual 'World Dental Show 2017'** ended yesterday at Bandra-Kurla Complex in Mumbai. It is an integral **part of Asia's biggest dental event.**
 - The exhibition was hosted by the Indian Dental Association (IDA).
 - It showcased the evolving global technologies and techniques in dentistry.
- Govt to end VIP culture in Railways
 - The railway ministry has asked its senior staff to slug it out, at home & at work as part of steps to end the VIP culture in Indian Railways.
 - In an unprecedented move, the ministry has brought to an end a 36-year-old protocol.
 - As part of a massive overhaul of the culture of privilege prevalent in the ministry, the Railway Board has decided to do away with the instructions of a 1981 circular.
- **'Vachan Prerna Divas' on Oct 15**
 - On the occasion of former president Dr APJ Abdul Kalam's **birth anniversary, October 15, the government is to observe 'Vachan Prerna Divas'.**
 - The government has urged educational institutions to develop ideas and programmes to, once again, cultivate the habit of reading.
 - The department of higher and technical education has mooted the plan to **observe 'No gadget day' once a month.**
- Sovereign Gold Bond Scheme – Series III
 - Government of India has decided to issue Sovereign Gold Bonds 2017-18 – Series III.





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- These bonds will be issued by RBI. Applications for the bond will be accepted from October 09, 2017 to December 27, 2017. The Bonds will be issued on the succeeding Monday after each subscription period.
- The Sovereign Gold Bonds Scheme was first announced in Union Budget 2015-16.
- First fully Aadhaar-enabled airport
 - Bangalore International Airport Ltd. is planning to make Kempegowda International Airport, the country's first airport to have complete Aadhaar-enabled entry and biometric boarding system.
 - The initiative is in line with its endeavours to become a Smart Airport, a digitized, seamlessly connected and intuitive one.
 - The process enables a passenger to be verified in just 5 seconds at checkpoint.
- Greenfield airport at Hirasar
 - Modi laid the foundation stone of greenfield airport in Chotila to be developed by Airports Authority of India by 2021.
 - It will be developed at a cost of Rs 1,405 crores.
 - It will be situated 27 km from the existing airport at Rajkot, whose capacity is constrained and cannot be expanded because of commercial development around it.
- Study group to examine border issues
 - The Centre has set up a study group to examine the problems being faced by the people living near the International Border and the Line of Control in Jammu and Kashmir due to ever-present threat of cross-border firing by Pakistan.
 - The group will meet the people living in the border areas of Jammu and Kashmir.
 - It will be headed by Rina Mitra, Special Secretary in Home Ministry.
- Three river bridges in West Bengal



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- The West Bengal government has decided to construct 3 river bridges, two over the Hooghly and one over the Ajay.
- One bridge over the Hooghly river would connect Shantipur in Nadia district to Kalna in East Burdwan district, while the other one would link **Budge Budge in South 24 Parganas district to Howrah district's Fuleshwar.**
- It will boost trade and connect places of cultural importance.
- Aadhaar must for post office deposits
 - The government has made Aadhaar mandatory for all post office deposits, PPF, the National Savings Certificate scheme and Kisan Vikas Patra.
 - Existing depositors have been given time till December 31, 2017 to provide the 12-digit UID number.
 - Government has insisted on quoting Aadhaar for bank deposits, obtaining mobile phone and several other utilities to weed out benami deals and black money.
- Inauguration of sea route in Andamans
 - Rajnath Singh inaugurated a sea route to Baratang Island and laid the foundation stone for extension of dry dock in Port Blair, extension of wharf in Hope Town.
 - He also laid foundation of construction of an additional jetty along with extension of Berthing Jetty in Neil Island.
 - The extension of Dry Dock-II at Port Blair will help augment the available ship building and ship repair facilities
- Digital Saksharata Abhinandan Samaroh
 - Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi will address Digital Saksharata Abhinandan Samaroh on October 7, 2017 at IIT Gandhinagar.
 - Pradhanmantri Grameen Digital Saksharata Abhiyan is an integral component of Digital India Initiative of the Government.



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- The scheme envisage to make 6 crore citizens digitally literate in rural India.
- Adobe invests in Aadhaar's 'e-sign'
 - Adobe announced investment on integration of Aadhaar-based authentication in its e-signature solution “Adobe Sign” on 4th Oct. 2017.
 - The market for e-signatures in India is growing at a Compound Annual Growth Rate (CAGR) of 57%.
 - “Adobe Sign” is aimed at helping organizations to eliminate their dependency on wet signatures and allow digital validation of users’ legal identity.
- India-Australia meeting held
 - The first meeting of India-Australia Joint Steering Committee was held in New Delhi.
 - This meeting is a follow-up to the MoU on Cooperation in Combating International Terrorism and Transnational Organized Crime between India and Australia.
 - The two sides agreed to pursue further the agenda for cooperation in specific areas with meetings of operational Joint Working Groups.
- MoU to Boost Culture and Tourism
 - A MoU was signed by Uttar Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh and Meghalaya **under the ‘Ek Bharat, Shrestha Bharat’ programme, to boost cultural ties.**
 - This MoU aims to enhance cultural relationship between these 3 states.
 - As per this programme, each year a state and a union territory would be paired with another for interaction between their people and knowing **each other’s culture and heritage.**
- Gujarat 1st state to slash VAT on fuel
 - Ahead of the state assembly elections, Gujarat government has cut value-added tax (VAT) on petrol and diesel, making it the first state to follow the Centre's directions to do so.



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- Recently, the union government cut basic excise duty on petrol and diesel by Rs 2 a litre.
- Centre asked state governments to cut VAT on petrol and diesel to ease rates.
- Prasad appointed as Meghalaya's Governor
 - The newly appointed Meghalaya Governor, Ganga Prasad, sworn in as the 17th governor of the state at a function at the Raj Bhavan in Shillong.
 - Prasad is also the fifth governor to have been sworn in since July 2013.
 - Prasad was a member of the legislative council in Bihar for 18 years and a former leader of opposition in the Bihar assembly.
- Rs 28,263 crore for Punjab
 - The Centre sanctioned a Cash Credit Limit of Rs 28,262.84 crore for procurement of paddy for Punjab in the Kharif marketing season 2017-18.
 - The amount has been sanctioned for procurement of paddy in the current marketing season, which will last till the end of October.
 - CM has directed all the concerned agencies to take immediate steps to ensure timely payment to the farmers for their produce
- Committee report on Sec 66A of IT Act
 - An expert committee, headed by T K Viswanathan on Section 66A of the IT Act submitted its report.
 - It was constituted by the Centre after the Supreme Court struck down the controversial Section 66A of the IT Act in 2015.
 - According to its recommendations IPC, CrPC and the IT Act be amended to introduce stringent provisions, specifying punishment, to deal with cases of hate speech.
- **‘India Rich List 2017’**
 - Mukesh Ambani with a net worth of USD 38 billion, topped the India Rich List 2017 for the tenth straight year.





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- As many as seven women have been named in India's 100 richest persons list.
- Savitri Jindal, with a net worth of USD 7.5 billion ranked at the 16th place.
- Savitri Jindal is followed by the Gupta family, which is ranked at the 40th in Forbes magazine's annual 'India Rich List 2017'
- Special course for untrained teachers
 - On 4th October 2017, the HRD Ministry started a special training course for untrained teachers, designed by NIOS, called Diploma in Elementary Education.
 - **The HRD Ministry had announced that 'untrained teachers' have to complete the Diploma in Elementary Education course, till 2019.**
 - **This course would be offered through 'Swayam', a platform for online education and knowledge through Dish TV.**
- National Highways projects launched
 - Shri Nitin Gadkari laid the foundation stone for four National Highways projects and several shipping projects in Andaman and Nicobar Islands.
 - Two highways, one of 26 km between Beodnabad- Ferrargunj and another highway of 56 km between Austin Creek and Kalra Junction are being built.
 - In addition, Middle Strait Creek Bridge and Humphrey Strait Creek Bridge will also be build.
- BBC World offers news services
 - On October 4, 2017, British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) announced the launch of news services in four more Indian languages — Gujarati, Marathi, Punjabi and Telugu.
 - **By this BBC's Delhi** bureau will become its largest bureau outside the United Kingdom.
 - The news services are available online and on social media, including Facebook and Twitter.



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- Paryatan Parv
 - ‘Paryatan Parv’ of the Ministry of Tourism begins on Oct 5 across the country.
 - The Parv is being inaugurated at the Humayun’s Tomb, New Delhi.
 - Parv will showcase the cultural diversity of the country, with cultural performances, crafts bazaar, food court showcasing folk and classical dance & music, handicrafts & handlooms and cuisine from all regions and States of the country.
- Inauguration of Umiya Dham Ashram
 - The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi, inaugurated Umiya Dham Ashram at Haridwar, via video conferencing.
 - The Ashram would benefit the pilgrims coming to Haridwar.
 - PM said the idea of a Yatra existed as an integral part of our culture and will help in increasing tourism.
- No service charge on train till March
 - Rail passengers will continue to enjoy service charge exemption on tickets booked online till March 2018.
 - The government had waived service charges after demonetisation in November last year to encourage digital modes of booking.
 - Service charges on booking train tickets online through IRCTC ranges from Rs 20 to 40 per ticket.
- **WEF’s India summit**
 - **World Economic Forum’s 33rd India Economic Summit** started on 4th october, in partnership with industry body CII.
 - **The theme of the conference is ‘Creating Indian Narratives on Global Challenges’.**
 - The summit would discuss issues such as climate change, infrastructure and gender parity, besides demonetisation and the GST.





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- **Samruddhi Corridor**
 - **Maharashtra's Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis's recent two-nation tour** has given a boost to the Maharashtra Samruddhi Corridor, with South Korea extending a Rs 35,000-crore loan to the state government.
 - Samruddhi Corridor is a ambitious Mumbai-Nagpur Super Communication Expressway project in Mumbai.
 - The project aims to create state-of-the art road connectivity within a period of three years
- **Khushwant Singh Literary Festival**
 - The 6th Khushwant Singh Literary Festival will be held at the Kasauli Club, Kasauli, Himachal Pradesh, from Oct 6 to 8.
 - **This year's theme is '70', marking the seven decades of India's independence after Partition from Pakistan.**
 - It was started in 2012, when writer Khushwant Singh, known for his bold writing and unorthodox views, was still alive. It is the only one named after an individual.
- **National waterway on Krishna River**
 - Vice president Venkaiah Naidu laid the foundation stone of the 2,890-km National Waterway-4 at Amravati in Andhra Pradesh.
 - The first phase involves development of a water channel from Muktyala to Vijayawada on Krishna river along with 4 floating terminals and 3 fixed terminals to handle cargo operations.
 - The project will provide efficient logistics solution to boost economic growth of region
- **Rajghat gets Mahatma's statue**
 - Rajghat, the Samadhi of the Father of the Nation in the national capital , has for the first time acquired a statue of Mahatma Gandhi.
 - The statue, sculpted by the renowned Shri Ram Sutar is installed in the Parking Area of Rajghat Samadhi Complex at a cost of Rs.8.73 lakhs.



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- The statue was unveiled by Vice-President Venkaiah Naidu on the occasion of the 148 Birth Anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi
- Khandu announces to make Arunachal ODF
 - Chief Minister Pema Khandu has announced that Arunachal Pradesh shall be Open Defecation Free by December 31 this year.
 - In order to reconstruct and renovate non-functional toilets across the state, the state department has been allocated additional Rs 20 crore.
 - Sikkim is the only state in North East to achieve ODF free status.
- Foundation stone of AIIMS, IIIT
 - PM Modi laid foundation stone of the AIIMS Bilaspur & IIIT Una from Luhnu Indoor stadium in Himachal Pradesh.
 - The 750-bed hospital is to be built at a cost of about Rs 1350 cr and will, in addition to healthcare, provide medical education at the UG and PG level, besides nursing,
 - Indian Institute of Information Technology will be constructed at Saloh in Una district with cost of Rs.128 crore.
- Third National Wildlife Action Plan
 - India unveiled the third National Wildlife Action Plan for 2017-2031 spelling out the future road map for wildlife conservation.
 - The third National Wildlife Action Plan is unique as this is the first time India has recognized the concerns relating to climate change impact on wildlife.
 - This plan was drafted by a 12-member committee chaired by JC Kala, a former secretary to the ministry.
- First state capital to get trans toilet
 - Bhopal is set to become the 1st state capital to come up with an exclusive toilet for transgender community.



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- The new public restroom will be located in Mangalwara locality, an area where transgender people are predominant residents & would have 3 signs on display - male, female & transgender.
- In MP, the transgender community has had considerable representation in elections.
- **Free Eye Check-up Campaign**
 - Union Minister Nitin Gadkari will launch countrywide Free Eye Check-up Campaign & distribution of spectacles for truck drivers, cleaners & helpers in Maharashtra.
 - The objective of this initiative is to ensure clearer vision and safe travel for truck drivers who are the most frequent users of national highways.
 - This initiative is expected to reduce the number of accidents involving trucks.
- **Drive against child marriage & dowry**
 - Bihar govt will launch a drive against child marriage & dowry on occasion of Mahatma Gandhi's birth anniversary.
 - People will pledge not to get married a girl below 18 yrs or a boy below 21 or participate in a child marriage.
 - They will also take a pledge to stop such marriages if they come across any, as a part of their social responsibility & make their state free of these 2 social evils.
- **Women of India Organic Festival**
 - The 3rd edition of Women of India Organic Festival begins at Dilli Haat in New Delhi.
 - The 15-day festival aims at promoting women entrepreneurs & farmers in the organic sector.
 - The theme of the festival is - Good for Women, Good for India, Good for You.



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- It aims to boost the development of sustainable and easily accessible sales outlets for women producers from the remotest corners of India.
- India opens two border crossing points
 - India has opened 2 immigration check posts along the borders with Myanmar & Bangladesh.
 - Zorinpui check post of Mizoram has been authorised as immigration check post for entry into or exit from India for all passengers to or from Myanmar.
 - Kawrpuchhuah post of Mizoram has been authorised as immigration check post for entry into or exit from India for all passengers to or from Bangladesh.
- Govt to exempt small exporters
 - Government has decided to exempt small exporters from furnishing bank guarantee for shipping goods and services.
 - Under the Goods and Services Tax, an exporter can get exemption from payment of IGST if he submits bonds or Letter of Undertaking.
 - The decision comes a day after exporters met Finance Minister Arun Jaitley for resolution of GST-related problems to boost overseas shipments.
- AIR to expand global services
 - All India Radio is planning to launch new services for several countries including Japan, Germany & some in Commonwealth of Independent States.
 - It **aims to supplement govt's diplomatic efforts &** outreach programmes to Indian diaspora.
 - External Services Division of AIR covers 150 countries with programmes in 27 languages, 14 of them targeting neighbouring countries & nations in Southeast Asia.



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- 'Pratham-Shyok' bridge
 - Def Minister Nirmala Sitharaman inaugurated Pratham-Shyok Bridge that will link Leh to Karakoram, providing connectivity on Darbuk-Shyok-Daulat Beg Olde axis for military transport.
 - The state-of-the-art bridge is a major development on Shyok Gong River which will enhance travel of locals as well as Army in this strategic region.
 - It will increase travel & communication for strategic transport

November 2017

- Centre sanctions Rs 275 cr
 - Central Government has sanctioned Rs 275 crore for establishing a Global Centre for Security and Counter-Terrorism in Jaipur, Rajasthan.
 - The announcement in this regard was made by Rajasthan Home Minister, Gulab Chand Kataria on November 28, 2017.
 - Central Government will allocate Rs. 165 crore and Rajasthan State Government will bear Rs 110 crore for setting-up this centre.
- India Hypertension Management Initiative
 - Aimed at reducing disability and death related to cardiovascular diseases, the Union Health Ministry and the Indian Council of Medical Research have launched the India Hypertension Management Initiative.
 - The IHMI is focused on five essential components of scalable treatment of hypertension.
 - IHMI will be progressively rolled out in 25 districts selected by the Health Ministry.
- SAUBHAGYA Scheme launched in Manipur
 - The Pradhan Mantri Sahaj Bijli Har Ghar Yojana (SAUBHAGYA) was launched in Manipur by Union Minister of State (IC) for Power and New &



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Renewable Energy, Shri R.K. Singh and Shri N. Biren Singh, CM of Manipur.

- A total of approximately 1.75 lakh households are proposed to be included under the Scheme.
- This is such a scheme where the poorest of the poor can afford electricity in their homes.
- Chhattisgarh Govt bans Firecrackers
 - The Chhattisgarh Govt has imposed a ban on the bursting of firecrackers in 6 of its cities ahead of the wedding season from Dec 1 to Jan 31.
 - The decision has been taken to control the pollution, which increases during winters due to the direction of wind.
 - The decision was taken under the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act of 1981
- **India's first rooftop solar carport**
 - **Tata Power Solar Systems has commissioned India's first rooftop solar carport at 70000 sq. meter Unity One Mall, in Rohini, Delhi.**
 - Tata Power Solar Systems is a wholly owned subsidiary of Tata Power Company.
 - Solar carports are overhead canopies (mounted with solar panel) built to cover parking areas.
 - This solar carport will make the mall self-sufficient in terms of energy requirement.
- **INSPIRE 2017 kicked off in Jaipur**
 - First edition of the International Symposium to Promote Innovation & Research in Energy Efficiency (INSPIRE 2017) begun in Jaipur, Rajasthan.
 - It brings together various stakeholders to showcase best practices in the sector.





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- It provides a platform to discuss energy efficiency policies, market transformation strategies, emerging technologies, delivery and business-model driven transformations.
- Media interaction programme in Manipur
 - Manipur Chief Minister, N. Biren Singh inaugurated a two-day India-Myanmar media interaction programme in Imphal.
 - Eleven journalists from Myanmar are taking part in this interaction programme.
 - This event was sponsored by the Manipur tourism department in collaboration with Information and Public Relations department and the state level committee of the Act East Policy.
- PM Modi inaugurates Hyderabad Metro Rail
 - Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated 30 km-long, first phase of Hyderabad Metro Rail between Miyapur and Nagole, at Miyapur station.
 - PM Modi took a ride along with Telangana Chief Minister K Chandrashekhara Rao in its maiden run.
 - Minimum fare for a ride in Hyderabad Metro Rail is Rs 10 for two km and the maximum fare is Rs 60 for the entire stretch.
- 115 Backward Districts to be Transformed
 - The government has embarked upon a major policy initiative for the rapid transformation of 115 backward districts across the country by 2022.
 - Senior level government officials, at the rank of Additional Secretary and **Joint Secretary, have been nominated as 'Prabhari' officers for each district.**
 - A briefing of these officials was held under the chairmanship of Cabinet Secretary P.K. Sinha.
- International Ambedkar Conclave
 - On 27th November 2017, President Kovind inaugurated the International Ambedkar Conclave.



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- It was organised by the Forum of SC and ST Legislators and Parliamentarians.
- Speaking on the occasion, the President said that, Ambedkar had attained senior public positions and acclaim on the basis of his extraordinary educational achievements, despite facing conditions of deprivation and inequality.
- India's largest consumer of electricity
 - Maharashtra stands as the single largest consumer of electricity in India, followed by Uttar Pradesh and Telangana.
 - With the increasing demand, there was an increase of 8.6% over the demand for 69,216 MU in the year ago.
 - The report was published by Central Electricity Authority.
- Google to train workers for Skill India
 - Aiming to build a highly skilled tech workforce in India, Google partners with Pluralsight and Udacity to provide training in emerging technologies like Mobile and Web Development.
 - In July, Google announced that it would train around 2 million developers **in India to foster innovation and support the growth of India's startup ecosystem.**
 - Google will also provide scholarships.
- Ayodhya Mahotsav to be held in S. Korea
 - **Ayodhya Mahotsav', depicting the cultural heritage of the temple town,** would be held in Seoul and Gimhe cities of South Korea.
 - **In return, a 'Korea Festival' will be held in Lucknow and Ayodhya.**
 - South Korean's believe that 2,000 years ago, an Ayodhya princess had married a Korean king Kim Suro. At present, their descendants are members of the "Crock Clan" and had built a memorial in Ayodhya.
- **Assam to celebrate 'Lachit Divas'**



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- Assam Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal said the Assam government would celebrate ‘Lachit Divas’ at various state capitals in India from next year.
- ‘Lachit Divas’ is celebrated to promote the ideals of Lachit Borphukan – the legendary general of Assam’s history.
- Sarbananda Sonowal took part in the Lachit Divas celebration at the statue of Lachit Borphukan at Brahmaputra riverfront.
- Conference on National Law Day in Delhi
 - President Ram Nath Kovind inaugurated the 2-day conference on National Law Day in New Delhi.
 - This conference is organised by the Law Commission and the Niti Aayog to mark the National Law Day.
 - The National Law Day is celebrated on November 26, the day on which the Constitution of India was adopted by the Constituent Assembly in 1949.
- International Gita Mahotsava-2017
 - President Ram Nath Kovind inaugurated the International Gita Mahotsava-2017 in Kurukshetra, Haryana.
 - Gita Mahotsava-2017 will conclude on December 3, 2017.
 - Mauritius is the partner country and Uttar Pradesh is the partner state for this event.
 - Mahotsava help in spreading preachings of Gita to the world. About 20 lakh people from 35 countries participated last year.
- UMANG app launched
 - PM Narendra Modi formally launched UMANG, a state and central government services app, at the inaugural ceremony of the Global Conference for Cyberspace in New Delhi.
 - It has been developed by the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology along with the National e-Governance Division.
 - It is currently available in 13 languages.



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- It offers services of govt agencies.
- Gender Budget cell for WCD: Maharashtra
 - **Maharashtra's** Minister for Finance and Planning, Sudhir Mungantiwar has announced to set up Gender Budget Cells in his ministry.
 - It is being done for improving coordination, implementation of various schemes of WCD with other government departments.
 - The Gender Budget Cell will not only ensure quality and effective implementation of WCD schemes but shall also strive to improve its outcome.
- 2nd largest Fish Producing Country: India
 - Combining the production of all types of fisheries (capture and culture), the total fish production has reached about 11.41 million tonnes in 2016-17.
 - By this India has become the second largest fish producing country in the world.
 - Due to scheme 'Blue Revolution' overall fish production has registered an increase of about 18.86% in comparison to the last three years.
- Infrastructure status to Logistics
 - The government has given infrastructure status to logistics sector, covering cold chain and warehousing facilities.
 - It is done in a move to attract more funding at competitive rates for these segments.
 - The infrastructure status would help the logistics sector get credit at competitive rates and on a long-term basis as rising logistics cost impacts the global competitiveness of exporters.
- INS Sarvekshak Reaches Dar-Es-Salaam



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- INS Sarvekshak, a hydrographic survey ship of Southern Naval Command, arrived Dar-es-Salaam Tanzania for undertaking joint Hydrographic Survey along with the Tanzanian Navy.
- It is an initiative to bolster bilateral relations with friendly foreign countries and navies in the Indian Ocean region.
- INS Sarvekshak has already undertaken surveys with Sri Lanka, Mauritius, Seychelles, and Kenya.
- 12th NE Business Summit: New Delhi
 - The 2 day “**12th North-East Business Summit**” has started in Delhi.
 - The summit aims to explore the scope for business opportunities in the North-Eastern region of India.
 - Focus areas are Infrastructure and Connectivity with Public-Private Partnerships, Skill Development, Financial Inclusion, Services Sector Development, Hospitality & Food Processing, it is being organised by ICC,
- Establishment of the NAA under GST
 - Cabinet has given its approval for the creation of the posts of Chairman and Technical Members of the National Anti-profiteering Authority (NAA) under GST.
 - This paves the way for the immediate establishment of this apex body.
 - The body will ensure that the benefits of the reduction in GST rates on goods or services are passed on to the ultimate consumers by way of a reduction in price.
- India Disease Burden Initiative Report
 - As per ‘**India State-level Disease Burden Initiative Report**’, child and maternal malnutrition were responsible for 15 % of the total disease burden in 2016 across India.
 - Analysis of disease burden for each Indian state from 1990 to 2016 has been presented.



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- It is jointly prepared by the ICMR, the Public Health Foundation of India and Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation.
- 'Youth for Business-Y4BIZ' launched
 - **The US Consulate General, Kolkata** launched 'Youth for Business-Y4BIZ'.
 - It is a support programme for young entrepreneurs in the eastern region of India.
 - **Under 'Youth for Business-Y4BIZ' programme, a group of 50 young entrepreneurs** will be supported to transform their business ideas from the initial stage to a sustainable business model.
- 1st Tribal Entrepreneurship Summit
 - **India's first Tribal Entrepreneurship Summit** began in Dantewada, Chhattisgarh.
 - The event has been organized by NITI Aayog in partnership with the government of US.
 - The event is a part of 8th Global Entrepreneurship Summit being held in India.
 - The summit has been organized mainly with the motive to inspire, nurture and promote the spirit of entrepreneurship in tribal youth.
- 1st wave-powered navigational buoy
 - **India's first wave-powered navigational buoy**, developed by the National Institute of Ocean Technology, to guide ships in and out of ports was launched in Chennai.
 - The wave-powered navigation buoy has been deployed at Ennore Kamarajar Port.
 - The buoy was launched at the 33rd executive committee meeting of IEA-OES as part of a workshop 'Harnessing Energy from the Oceans — A global Scenario'.
- **India's 1st offshore desalination plant**



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- Scientists from NIOT will build India's first offshore desalination plant about 40km from the Chennai coast.
- The capacity of the plant will be 10 million liters of water per day.
- The plant will operate on Low-Temperature Thermal Desalination (LTTD), a low cost and environment-friendly technology to get potable water.
- **West Bengal gets GI Tag for 'Rosogolla'**
 - On 14th November 2017, the Geographical Indications (GI) Registry announced that West Bengal has been awarded the GI status for 'Rosogolla'.
 - **The Geographical Indications (GI) Registry has said that the 'Rosogolla' originated in West Bengal and not Odisha.**
 - West Bengal and Odisha have been fighting a legal battle over the origin of **the sweet meat 'Rosogolla' since June 2015.**
- DVDB for civic works in Delhi
 - Delhi Cabinet approved to set up Delhi Village Development Board (DVDB) for civic works in rural and urban villages of Delhi.
 - All 300 villages in the national capital will come under the purview of the board.
 - DVDB will look after the construction of approach roads, link roads, village roads, development of cremation grounds, ponds, water bodies, cremation grounds, parks and other facilities.
- IORA to set up Centre of Excellence
 - Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) is to set up a Centre of Excellence in Kochi, Kerala.
 - This centre will facilitate the exchange of research findings and studies in the field of fisheries and ocean studies among IORA member countries.
 - IORA Centre of Excellence in Kochi will be **digitally connected to IORA's** member countries.
- NCERT conducts largest ever survey



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- National Achievement Survey (NAS), the largest ever assessment survey on national level was conducted by NCERT.
- NAS was conducted for the Classes 3, 5 and 8 in government and government-aided schools.
- The survey is to ascertain learning level of students. The inferences drawn from the analytical reports will be used to design classroom interventions.
- Railways launches Project Saksham
 - **Railways will launch the country's largest time-bound "upskilling" exercise** for government employees to upgrade the skill sets of its 13 lakh-strong workforce with a single drive spanning 9 months.
 - Project Saksham will start in January 2018 and go on until September.
 - The launch date of the project has been tentatively scheduled to coincide with the 155th birth anniversary of Vivekananda.
- 37th India International Trade Fair
 - 37th India International Trade Fair (IITF) has begun at Pragati Maidan in New Delhi.
 - The 14-day annual event has been organised by the India Trade Promotion Organisation (ITPO). **This year the theme of the fair is "Startup India Standup India".**
 - Vietnam is the Partner Country, while Kyrgyzstan is the Focus Country. Jharkhand is participating as a Partner State in the event.
- Govt launches Bharat Net phase 2 project
 - Central Government launched phase 2 of Bharat Net project to connect 1.5 lakh gram panchayats with high-speed broadband by March 2019.
 - Bharat Net Project, formerly known as National Optical Fibre Network (NOFN) was launched by Central Government in October 2011 with an aim to deploy high-speed optical fiber cables across rural areas of India.
 - The project is being implemented by BBNL.





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- India to be 3rd largest aviation market
 - As per a report by global consultancy and research firm, Centre for Asia Pacific Aviation, **India will be world's third largest aviation market for departures by 2019.**
 - Currently, India is the fourth largest aviation market in the world with 131 million passengers per annum (for the year 2016).
 - India is the largest aviation market with 815 million passengers, followed by China and Japan.
- Asian Bankers Association summit
 - For the first time, Mumbai is to host the 34th annual conference of the Asian Bankers Association on 16th and 17th November 2017.
 - Summit will be hosted by State Bank. **The theme for this year's summit is 'Asia's turn to transform'.**
 - The summit will discuss the impact of the ongoing global downturn on the outlook of the Asian economies, economic consequences of the Brexit in March 2019 on Asia.
- Sainik welfare boards for Andhra Pradesh
 - Sainik Sankshema Sabha will be organised in all districts in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana.
 - The announcement was made at a rally and a grievance redressal programme organised in Hyderabad.
 - This is done as a measure taken by the Indian Army to reach ex-servicemen and widows of those who had served in the forces.
- Airport-like amenities at Rail stations
 - Rail Land Development Authority has signed a MoU with NBCC to redevelop 10 railway stations across India with airport-like amenities by the year 2020.



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- 10 railway stations which would be redeveloped are Delhi Sarai Rohilla, Lucknow, Gomti Nagar, Kota, Tirupati, Nellore, Ernakulam, Puducherry, Madgaon, and Thane.
- The redevelopment will be carried out at an estimated cost of Rs 5000 crore.
- India Youth Development Index and report
 - Minister of State for Youth Affairs and Sports Col. Rajyavardhan Rathore released the India Youth Development Index and Report.
 - The objective of constructing YDI 2017 is to track the trends in Youth Development across the States.
 - The Index enables recognizing the high and low performing states, identifies the weak domains and informs the priority areas of intervention for youth development.
- Army Organises Youth Fest at Kishtwar
 - Army organised a mega event Youth Fest : 2017 on 13 Nov 2017 at the historic Chowgan ground of Kishtwar.
 - The Fest was an amalgamation of varied programmes highlighting the rich culture of different regions of India and stalls of food and games for people of all the age groups to rejoice & cherish.
 - The event also encompassed display of various ethnic specialties from across the country.
- Northeast to get 'Air Dispensary'
 - **Northeast is all set to get India's first-ever "Air Dispensary"** based in a helicopter.
 - The Union Ministry of Development of Northeast has already contributed Rs. 25 crore funding for this initiative.





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- Nearly 1/3rd of India's population did not have access to proper hospital bed care, as a result of which, poor patients living in remote areas remained deprived of crucial medical care.
- 1.5 MW Small Hydro Power Plant in Kargil
 - The Biaras Small Hydro Power Project of 1.5 MW capacity, in Biaras Drass, Kargil Jammu & Kashmir, was commissioned on 4th November 2017.
 - This is the first project to be commissioned under the PM Ladakh Renewable Energy Initiative.
 - The plant will power the Drass town of Kargil. The project has been developed by Kargil Renewable Energy Development Agency.
- Karnataka inks pacts with Chinese firms
 - Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah has inaugurated the sixth China-India Forum meet.
 - **It is jointly hosted by the Government of China, Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries, China-India Friendship Association (CIFA), and Podar Enterprise in Bengaluru.**
 - India sees big opportunities to attract Chinese companies to Make in India, besides attracting investments.
- Amusement park in Surat
 - Turner International India and Rajgreen Group are making Amaazia – **India's first Cartoon Network**-branded amusement park, in Surat.
 - **Cartoon Network's popular** characters will be part of the amusement park.
 - Amaazia will be divided into four major sections – a theme park branded by Cartoon Network, a water park, a family recreational hub and a service apartment and retail shopping area.
- East West Cultural Festival
 - On 12 November, East-West Cultural Festival was being organised in commemoration of the 121st birth anniversary of Sriila Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada.



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- He was the founder and acharya of ISKCON.
- On the occasion the Vice President of India, Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu was present there and said that education is a key instrument in developing social infrastructure.
- **Creation of National Testing Agency**
 - The Union Cabinet has approved the creation of a National Testing Agency (NTA) to conduct entrance examinations for higher educational institutions.
 - Its creation will relieve CBSE which conducts exams like the NEET and AICTE of the burden of conducting entrance tests.
 - The NTA will begin by conducting exams managed by the CBSE and gradually conduct other examinations too.
- **Not to pursue Islamic banking in India**
 - RBI has decided not to pursue a proposal for introduction of Islamic banking in the country.
 - Islamic or Sharia banking is a finance system based on the principles of not charging interest, which is prohibited under Islam.
 - Taking into account, wider & equal opportunities available to all citizens to access banking & financial services, RBI has decided not to pursue the proposal further.
- **Home Ministry sets up two new divisions**
 - Union Home Ministry has formed 2 new divisions to exclusively deal with emerging security challenges such as radicalisation & cyber crime
 - CTCR wing will focus on tracking & assessing online reach of global terrorist outfits & devising strategies to counter their propaganda
 - CIS division will monitor online crimes & threats including cyber fraud, hacking & suggest ways to minimise & fight them
- **Urdu as 2nd Official Language: Telangana**





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- Telangana Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao declared Urdu as the state's second official language.
- Every office in the state will now have an Urdu speaking officer.
- According to the CM, the demand to make Urdu a second language had been there for a long time.
- International Arts Festival kicks-off
 - International Arts Festival will be held in Delhi from 11 November.
 - This is the 11th edition of the Delhi International Arts Festival (DIAF) at the magnificent Purana Qila.
 - International Arts Festival is one of its kind as it includes all genres of music, dance, theatre, puppetry, poetry, literature, visual arts, films, and exhibitions.
- SEBI imposes fine on Gujarat CM family
 - SEBI has penalised 22 entities for involvement in manipulative trading.
 - **One of these 22 entities is Gujarat Chief Minister Vijay Rupani's Hindu Undivided Family (HUF) that was found to be involved in manipulative trading through a listed firm called Sarang Chemicals.**
 - **Mr. Rupani's firm has been asked to pay a Rs 15 lakh fine within 45 days.**
- New outsourcing norms for NBFC
 - RBI issued a notification outlining norms for outsourcing of functions by Non-Bank Financial Institution.
 - As per the new norms, NBFCs cannot outsource core management functions like internal audit, management of investment portfolio, strategic and compliance functions for know your customer norms and sanction of loans.
 - **All NBFCs' have been directed to set up a grievance redressal machinery.**
- India Disaster Response Summit in Delhi
 - **Union Minister of State for Home Affairs, Kiren Rijiju inaugurated 'India Disaster Response Summit' in New Delhi.**



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- India has become the first country to partner with Facebook on disaster response.
- Facebook introduced a Disaster Information Volunteers programme. Under DIV, a network of trained volunteers would provide supplementary information on disasters in their local communities.
- Second Economic Advisory Council meeting
 - The 2nd meeting of the Economic Advisory Council to PM Modi spelt out a clear road map towards skill development, job creation; enhanced resource investment in the social sector.
 - The meeting was chaired by Bibek Debroy.
 - Economic Advisory Council to the PM is a non-constitutional, non-permanent and independent body constituted to give economic advice to the GoI, specifically the PM.
- 23rd GST Council Meet held in Guwahati
 - 23rd meeting of the Goods and Services Tax (GST) Council headed by Union Finance Minister, Arun Jaitley was held in Guwahati, Assam on November 10, 2017.
 - GST rate on 177 items has been reduced from 28% to 18%. Now only 50 items, mostly demerit, sin and luxury goods will attract 28% GST rate.
 - Goods and Services Tax (GST) was rolled out from July 1.
- Odd-Even Scheme again in Delhi
 - The Delhi government announced that the odd-even scheme will be reintroduced in the national capital from November 13 to November 17.
 - This comes after the Indian Medical Association (IMA) declared a state of public health emergency in Delhi.
 - The Environment Pollution (Prevention and Control) Authority had declared that the pollution has reached 'Severe Plus' level or emergency condition.





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- PM Modi flagged off Bandhan Express
 - ‘Bandhan Express’ a passenger train between Kolkata and Bangladesh’s southwestern industrial city of Khulna was inaugurated on November 9, 2017.
 - It is a fully air-conditioned passenger train and will run every Thursday from both Kolkata and Khulna.
 - It is the second Indo-Bangla train service after the Maitree Express, which runs between Dhaka and Kolkata.
- Nordic-Baltic youth film festival
 - The Nordic-Baltic embassies are set to host the first ever youth film festival of the European nations at India Habitat Centre in New Delhi from 13 – 18 November 2017.
 - The film festival is organized by Nordic-Baltic embassies in collaboration with the India Habitat Centre.
 - The Nordic-Baltic countries are Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Iceland, Latvia, Lithuania, Norway and Sweden.
- Chennai in UNESCO's Creative cities list
 - 64 cities from 44 countries have been designated as UNESCO Creative Cities by Director-General, Irina Bokova.
 - Chennai is the third Indian city on the list of UNESCO Creative Cities list after Jaipur and Varanasi. Chennai has been for contribution in music.
 - After this, the UNESCO Creative Cities Network now counts a total of 180 cities in 72 countries.
- Sanjeev as whole-time member of SEBI
 - Sanjeev Kaushik has been appointed as whole time member of SEBI for a period of three years or till the age of 65 years, whichever is earlier.
 - Kaushik replaces S Raman, who retired from the post of a whole-time member in September 2017.



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- Prior to this appointment, he was Chairman and Managing Director of India Infrastructure Finance Company Ltd (IIFCL).
- Climate resilient committee: Maharashtra
 - The Maharashtra state government has decided to set up a committee for the implementation of a Rs.4,000-crore project on climate resilience agriculture in 5,000 villages of 15 districts in the state.
 - The project would be funded by the World Bank.
 - **The programme aims to reduce farmers' dependence on unpredictable weather cycles and enhance the resilience of agriculture to climate change.**
- Panel under M Vinod on GST laws
 - A committee headed by M Vinod Kumar, GST chief commissioner for Karnataka has started a review of the laws governing GST.
 - The committee has been set up to provide suggestions for smoothening the GST regime, especially for small business.
 - Another committee comprising industry representatives has also been set up to provide external inputs on this matter.
- **'Chintan Shivir' in New Delhi**
 - HRD Minister Prakash Javadekar inaugurated a two-day National **Workshop 'Chintan Shivir' in New Delhi.**
 - This workshop has been organized by Department of School Education and Literacy.
 - The objective of this workshop is to provide holistic education relevant for 21st century India and to bring together NGOs, private sector and individuals to deliberate on key themes in the education sector.
- Haryana signs MoU with Art of Living
 - Haryana signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Vyakti Vikas Kendra, a training institute of the Art of Living Foundation.





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- MoU is for helping jail inmates to maintain and improve their health and reduce physical and mental stress.
- Vyakti Vikas Kendra will regularly conduct yoga, meditation and other programmes for the welfare of prisoners in all the prisons of Haryana.
- **Grahak Sadak Koyla Vitaran App**
 - Piyush Goyal **launched ‘Grahak Sadak Koyla Vitaran App’** benefitting customers of Coal India Ltd. by lifting coal through road mode.
 - The app helps to achieve transparency in despatch operations and keeps track of all the activities from the issuance of Sale Order to physical delivery of coal by road.
 - The main benefits of the App is easy accessibility of the information.
- **National Cycling Championships in Delhi**
 - With a direct relation between cycling and conserving transport fuel, the Petroleum Conservation Research Association organised the capital's first Saksham Pedal Delhi "cyclothon" event.
 - It included the National Cycling Championships as a component feature.
 - The event on November 5, slated to start at the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium where more than 5,000 participants participated.
- **Mangoes and six others get GI tag**
 - Banaganapalle mangoes of Andhra Pradesh and six other products have been granted Geographical Indications during fiscal year, 2017-18 by the Indian patent office.
 - Other 6 products which have received GI tag this year include Pochampally Ikat of Telangana; Tulapanji rice and Gobindobhog Rice of West Bengal; Chakshesang Shawl of Nagaland; Durgi Stone Carvings & Etikoppaka Toys of Andhra Pradesh
- **FIPSPHYSIOCON 2017 Conference**



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- “FIPSPHYSIOCON 2017”, Conference on Human Physiology – VII Congress of FIPS along with XXIX Annual Conference of the PSI was inaugurated at Vallabhbhai Patel Chest Institute.
- This event was organised by DIPAS of DRDO.
- The objective of the conference is to update the scientific community about latest advances in human Physiology in extreme environments.
- **Hyderabad’s cuisines get Post stamp**
 - Department of Post issued stamps with photos of three Hyderabadi dishes – Biryani, Baghare Baingan and Seviyan.
 - **Postage stamps on these dishes is part of Department of Post’s initiative to issue stamps on 24 different Indian dishes, including the famous Tirupati laddu.**
 - Exclusive postage stamps have also been issued to honor Andhra dishes — idli dosa and Pongal.
- Main arch of Chenab bridge launched
 - **Indian Railways has launched the main arch of the world’s highest bridge on the river Chenab in Jammu and Kashmir’s Reasi district.**
 - It will provide direct connectivity to the Kashmir valley.
 - The bridge will stand 359 meters above the bed of the River Chenab and will be 30 meters higher than the Eiffel Tower in Paris.
 - The bridge forms link in the 111-km distance between Katra and Banihal.
- Funds for Coastal Berth Scheme
 - Ministry of Shipping has announced to provide financial assistance worth Rs 2302 crore for projects under the Coastal Berth Scheme.
 - These schemes are under the flagship Sagarmala Programme.
 - The objective of Scheme is to provide financial assistance to ports or State Governments in order to create infrastructure for the movement of cargo and passengers through sea or national waterways.





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- Poverty, corruption free India by 2022
 - Government think tank NITI Aayog has envisaged a New India by 2022 which will be free from poverty, dirt, corruption, terrorism, casteism, and communalism.
 - According to New India @2022 document, India will be in the top three economies of the world if it continues to grow at 8% from now until 2047.
 - It also envisions that we will achieve 'Kuposhan Mukh Bharat' by 2022.
- 24-hour power supply to farm sector
 - Telangana govt will soon start supplying 24-hour “quality” & uninterrupted power on an experimental basis to the farm sector across the entire state.
 - The rollout is in anticipation of all 31 districts getting continuous electricity supply from March-April 2018.
 - For supplying power for 24 hours to the farm sector, Rs12,000 crore has been spent to strengthen the distribution & supply systems.
- Govt to build 100 airports in 15 years
 - Govt is planning to expand connectivity & meet potential demand by establishing about 100 airports in 15 years.
 - **Of these, 70 will be locations that don't have such a facility, while rest will be 2nd airports or expansion of existing airfields to handle commercial flights.**
 - India has 100 operational airports & is the fastest-growing aviation market in terms of domestic passenger growth.
- International Civil Helicopter Conclave
 - The 1st Heli Expo India and International Civil Helicopter Conclave-2017 was inaugurated in New Delhi by the Uttarakhand Tourism Minister Mr. Satpal Maharaja.



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- The Conclave was organised by Pawan Hans Limited, a Mini Ratna company of Ministry of Civil Aviation in association with PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industry.
- The theme of this conclave was '**Enhancing Connectivity**'.
- Railways to unveil its 'gold' standard
 - **The railways will showcase its first 'Swarn' train (gold standard) on Nov 6.**
 - The New Delhi-Kathgodam Shatabdi Express will be the 1st to be launched as part of railways' 'Swarn' project which aims to renovate India's premium trains.
 - New onboard entertainment, trolley service for catering & clean toilets with automatic doors are some of the features of these elite trains.
- Goa to Host Nobel Prize Event in 2018
 - The Goa government executed a trilateral Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) **to hold the 'Nobel Prize Series — India 2018 (Science Impacts Life)'**.
 - It will be held from February 1-28 next year along with a month-long exhibition brought from Nobel Museum, Sweden.
 - The Nobel series has earlier been organised in Gujarat.
- Shamika to be member of PM eco. panel
 - Shamika Ravi, a senior fellow at Brookings India, would be appointed as part-time member of the Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister.
 - Headed by NITI Aayog member Bibek Debroy, the EAC-PM includes NITI Aayog's Principal Advisor Ratan Watal as its member and economists Surjit Bhalla.
 - She is also a visiting professor of economics at the Indian School of Business.
- Free treatment for road victims: Kerala





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- Kerala has decided to formulate a trauma-care scheme in the State wherein all emergency care and treatment will be provided to accident victims free-of-cost for the first 48 hours.
- The government will pay for the emergency care expenses incurred by a hospital.
- No money should be collected from the accident victim or his/her relatives for the emergency.
- Sonepur cattle fair begins in Bihar
 - Sonepur mela is one of the biggest cattle fair in Asia that takes place in Bihar. The month-long fair is organised annually in November.
 - Also known as Kshetra Mela, its origins can be traced to the Mughal era.
 - The Sonepur fair majorly attracts cattle traders from all over Asia. Many farm animals including some breeds of dogs, buffaloes, donkeys, ponies are displayed and sold at this fair.
- Deen Dayal SPARSH Yojana
 - Minister of Communications Shri Manoj Sinha launched a Pan India scholarship program for school children called Deen Dayal SPARSH Yojana.
 - SPARSH stands for Scholarship for Promotion of Aptitude & Research in Stamps as a Hobby.
 - It is proposed to award annual scholarships to children of Standard VI to IX having good academic record and also pursuing Philately as a hobby.
- Odisha Signs MoU with ITEES
 - Odisha Skill Development Authority (OSDA) and Singapore-based ITE Education Services (ITEES) signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) for skill development in the State.
 - **ITEES is a subsidiary of Singapore's prestigious Institute of Technical Education (ITE).**



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- 100 ITI teachers will be trained at Singapore at the ITE in 2018 as per the provision of the MoU.
- No Tax on Agri sale of less than 2 Lakh
 - The Income Tax Department has clarified that the cash sales of agricultural produce by a cultivator to a trader for less than 2 lakh rupees will not attract tax under the Income Tax Act.
 - A circular issued by the Department stated the cultivator and the trader will also not have to provide their Permanent Account Number.
 - Sushil Chandra is the Chairman of Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT).
- India tops in domestic air traffic
 - **According to global airlines' grouping IATA, India's domestic aviation** sector grew the fastest and India topped the domestic growth chart again in September.
 - India registered double-digit growth for 37 consecutive months.
 - In September, India recorded a growth of 15.5% while the global demand stood at 5.7%.
- 7th Asia Ministerial Energy Round table
 - The Government of Thailand hosted the 7th Asian Ministerial Energy Roundtable (AMER7).
 - It was co-hosted by the United Arab Emirates.
 - **The theme for AMER7 was 'Global Energy Markets in Transition: From Vision to Action'.**
 - India is the current chair of International Energy Forum (IEF) which is promoting the AMER.
- 4 wheels to be fitted with FASTags
 - Ministry of Road Transport and Highways notified that all four-wheel motor vehicles sold on or after 1st December 2017, will have FASTags fitted on them by the manufacturer of the vehicle.





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- FASTag is a simple to use, a reloadable tag which enables automatic deduction of toll charges.
- It lets you pass through the toll plaza without stopping for the cash transaction.
- **World's highest motorable road**
 - Border Roads Organisation (BRO) under Union Ministry of Defense has **constructed the world's highest motorable road (at 19300 feet) in Ladakh** region of Jammu and Kashmir.
 - This road passes through Umlingla Top at a height of over 19,300 feet.
 - It is a 86 km long road connecting Chisumle and Demchok villages, located 230 Kms from Leh.
 - **This road has been constructed under BRO's 'Project Himank'.**
- Modi Inaugurated World Food India 2017
 - Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the most anticipated International Mega Food event-World Food India 2017.
 - It is the biggest congregation of global investors and business leaders of major food companies.
 - The event is organised by the Food Processing Industries Ministry in Delhi.
 - The three-day event aims to transform food economy and realise the vision of doubling of farmers' income.
- 21st World Congress of Mental Health
 - The President of India, Shri Ram Nath Kovind, inaugurated the 21st World Congress of Mental Health.
 - It is being organized by the World Federation for Mental Health in partnership with Caring Foundation and other institutions in New Delhi.
 - The World Congress of Mental Health is taking place in India for the first time.
- Protection of Olive Ridley sea turtles



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- With the Olive Ridley sea turtles' breeding season approaching, Odisha government agencies have imposed a ban on sea fishing activity to protect the endangered marine animals.
- The seven-month ban on fishing activity was clamped along the stretch of Dhamra-Devi-Rushikulya river mouth, in view of the commencement of the mass nesting.
- Turtles come here for mass hatching.
- Assam signs MoUs with Singapore
 - Assam signed MoU and ToR with Singapore for skilling youth of the state.
 - The MoU and ToR for North East Skills Centre were signed between Skill, Employment and Entrepreneurship Department, of Assam and ITE Education Service, Singapore, in Guwahati, Assam.
 - A MoU for Guwahati City Greening was signed between the Guwahati Metropolitan Development Authority and Singapore Corporation Enterprise.
- Gender Vulnerability Index
 - Goa ranked at the top and Bihar featured at the lowest in the first ever Gender Vulnerability Index (GVI) released by child rights organisation 'Plan India'.
 - GVI provides information on nature and magnitude of various problems affecting children, particularly girls, in difficult circumstances.
 - **Gender Vulnerability Index (GVI) has been compiled by 'Plan India' a non-government organisation.**
- Karnataka gets 1st woman police chief
 - **Neelmani N. Raju is Karnataka's first woman Director General and Inspector General of Police.**
 - She will take over from Rupak Kumar Dutta, who is retiring from service.



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- Neelamani N. Raju is a 1983 batch IPS (Indian Police Service) officer. She is the second woman IPS officer to join the Karnataka cadre. She is a native of Uttar Pradesh.
- **World's tallest statue of Shivaji**
 - A 210-meter-high statue of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj is being built in the sea off the Mumbai coast.
 - It will be **the world's tallest statue, once built.**
 - Currently, the Spring Temple Buddha statue, which stands at 208 metres **in China, is the world's tallest statue.**
 - Shivaji Bhonsle, also known as Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj, was an Indian warrior king and a member of the Bhonsle Maratha clan
- Global Clubfoot Conference in New Delhi
 - President, Ram Nath Kovind, inaugurated the Global Clubfoot Conference, organised by the CURE India in partnership with the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, in New Delhi.
 - Clubfoot is one of the most common orthopedic birth defects that affect **the child's mobility.**
 - The President said that the programme is now active in 29 states of India.
- ERO-Net launched in Rajasthan
 - **Rajasthan's Chief Electoral Officer Ashwini Bhagat launched the Election Commission's web-based project, ERO-Net.**
 - By using this, voters can register their names on electoral rolls. It could not identify multiple entries of a voter.
 - Voters can see their registration details on the official website of the state chief electoral officer (<http://ceorajasthan.nic.in>) or through an SMS.
- SBI-WB sanctions fund for solar projects
 - SBI and the World Bank announced Rs 2317 cr credit facilities to seven companies to finance grid-connected rooftop solar projects.



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- 7 corporate to which the credit facilities have been extended include Adani Group, Hinduja Renewables, JSW Energy, Tata Renewable, Azure Power, Cleantech Solar and Hero Solar Energy.
- These grid-connected rooftop solar projects which will together generate 575 mw.
- Govt. sets panel on PSU bank mergers
 - Union Government set up an alternative mechanism panel headed by Finance Minister Arun Jaitley, to consider and oversee mergers among **India's public sector banks**.
 - Union Railway and Coal Minister, Piyush Goyal and Defence Minister, Nirmala Sitharaman are also the members of the panel.
 - It is set up to manage mergers more effectively. Banks will be able to manage risks in a better way.
- Ramdas launched Jan Aushadhi Pariyojana
 - Union Minister for Social Justice and Empowerment, Ramdas Athawale launched the Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Jan Aushadhi Pariyojana in Mumbai.
 - Mr. Athawale launched the scheme in Mumbai during fourth workshop of **"Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushdhi Pariyojana"**.
 - PM Bhartiya Jan Aushadhi Pariyojana is launched with an objective of making quality medicines available at affordable prices to all.
- Jindal Global University ranked highest
 - O.P. Jindal Global University (JGU) has been ranked among the Top 10 **Private education Institutions in India in 'QS University Rankings: BRICS 2018'**.
 - JGU became the YOUNGEST Indian University and also the FIRST and ONLY private university in Haryana to have been ranked in an international ranking.





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- The results were published in New Delhi.
- Asia's largest interlocking system
 - Indian Railways has installed Asia's **largest Solid State Interlocking system** in Kharagpur, which will enable station masters to set 800 different routes for trains in a matter of minutes.
 - Interlocking is a railway signal apparatus that prevents conflicting movements of trains.
 - The cutting-edge technology replaces the pre-1989 route relay system that only allowed operators to set 423 routes.
- Consultative Workshop on Biofuels held
 - The Union Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas had organised a consultative workshop on New National Policy on Biofuels & Pradhan Mantri Ji- Van Yojana in New Delhi.
 - The workshop was organised as the govt is promoting Biofuels with an objective to reduce dependency on import of crude oil.
 - Biofuel is defined as any fuel whose energy is obtained through process of biological carbon fixation
- PMMS Kendra Scheme approved
 - **The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs approved 'Pradhan Mantri Mahila Shakti Kendra' scheme for a period 2017-18 to 2019-20.**
 - **The scheme is part of Umbrella Scheme "Mission for Protection and Empowerment for Women" of the Union Ministry of Women and Child Development.**
 - It aims at empowering rural women through community participation.
- Beti Bachao Beti Padhao extended
 - The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs approved the expansion of the 'Beti Bachao Beti Padhao' to covering all 640 districts of the country.
 - The decision to scale BBBP to the entire country is based on the outcomes of the implementation of the programme in 161 districts.



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- Rs 1132.5 crore have been approved.
- Centre initiates safety plan for women
 - Centre has initiated the process of formulating comprehensive safety plans for women in 8 metropolitan cities of the country.
 - The plan will be implemented in Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata, Chennai, Ahmedabad, Bengaluru, Lucknow & Hyderabad.
 - Steering Committee meeting, under the chairmanship of Rajiv Gauba was held to examine steps taken by police & civil administration for women's safety.
- J&K govt announces withdrawal of FIRs
 - Jammu & Kashmir CM Mehbooba Mufti has announced withdrawal of cases against youths involved in stone-pelting for the 1st time.
 - Decision has been taken considering the suggestion of Centre's special representative Dineshwar Sharma.
 - Over 11,500 cases have been registered against stone pelters since July last year when unrest broke out in Kashmir following death of Burhan Wani in an encounter.
- MoU's signed under UDAY Scheme
 - On the 2nd Anniversary of UDAY, the Government of India signed four MoUs with the State of Nagaland and UTs.
 - The UTs are - Andaman & Nicobar Islands, Dadra & Nagar Haveli & Daman & Diu.
 - An overall net benefit of approximately Rs. 551 cr, Rs. 18 cr, Rs. 13 cr and Rs. 10 cr respectively would accrue to the State of Nagaland & UTs of Andaman & Nicobar, Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu.
- Assam inaugurates Namami Barak festival
 - Namami Barak festival is being celebrated in Silchar, Assam.





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- Sarbananda Sonowal, CM of Assam said that, the Namami Barak is organised to revive humanistic values, to discover resources and possibilities of the land.
- Also, a new train connecting Silchar Dibrugarh – Trivandrum was flagged off.
- First electric vehicle charging station
 - **Indian Oil Corporation launched India's first Electric Vehicle (EV) charging station** at a petrol pump in Nagpur.
 - IOC, in collaboration with Ola, has launched the charging station.
 - **Indian governments' National Electric Mobility Mission Plan launched in 2013** aims at gradually ensuring a vehicle population of about 6-7 million electric and hybrid vehicles in India by 2020.
- Int. Congress of Military Medicine
 - The 42nd World Congress of the International Committee of Military Medicine organised by the AFMS under the aegis of the Ministry of Defence began in New Delhi.
 - The five-day event is being organised for the first time in India, and is the largest medical conference ever organised by the AFMS.
 - **The theme of this 42nd World Congress is "Military Medicine in Transition: Looking Ahead."**
- IFFI to be inaugurated in Goa
 - The International Film Festival of India (IFFI) was inaugurated in Goa.
 - The opening and closing ceremonies at IFFI-2017 are being live-streamed on YouTube, Facebook & Periscope of the main Social Media Platforms.
 - The festival will be presenting 195 films from over 82 countries of which there will be 10 World Premieres, 10 Asian and international premieres.
- Bar Leadership Summit held
 - **The Indian National Bar Association organized the 'Bar Leadership Summit on Reforms in the Indian Legal Sector' in New Delhi.**



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- The Summit explored issues and concerns surrounding the liberalization of the Indian legal services sector.
- It discusses the need for addressing various reforms hastened by the process of globalization and the growing trans-nationalization of the legal profession.
- Seminar on Indian Space Programme
 - The International Seminar on Indian Space Programme was inaugurated on 20 November in New Delhi.
 - **‘Trends and Opportunities for Industry’ named seminar** is being organised by Indian Space Research Organisation.
 - The objective of this two-day conference is to deliberate on the best practices, pursue the ongoing discussion process to support further work of India's Space Sector.
- Qaumi Ekta Week Observed Across Country
 - The Qaumi Ekta Week is being observed across the country from 19th November to foster and reinforce the spirit of communal harmony and national Integration.
 - As part of the week long programmes, 19 November was observed as National Integration Day.
 - The last day of the Qaumi Ekta Week will be observed as Conservation Day and several meetings and functions will be organized.
- Ethiopians win Delhi Half Marathon
 - Ethiopians Birhanu Legese and Almaz Ayana won the Delhi Half Marathon, 2017.
 - In the Men's section, Legese clocked 59 minutes 46 seconds to claim the first spot. India's Nitendra Rawat finished 10th.





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- In the Women's section, it was a clean sweep for Ethiopia, with world recorded holder Almaz Ayana finishing at the top of the podium. She clocked one hour, seven minutes and 11 seconds.
- **Indira Gandhi's 100th Birth Anniversary**
 - Today is Prime Minister Indira Gandhi on her 100th birth anniversary.
 - A commemorative programme to mark the anniversary of Gandhi held at Shakti Sthal, New Delhi.
 - Indira Gandhi was the only female Prime Minister of the country.
 - She served as Prime Minister from 1966 to 1977 and from 1980 until her assassination in 1984.
- **Karnataka passes SC/ST promotions bill**
 - **Karnataka passed 'Karnataka Extension of Consequential Seniority to Government Servants Promoted on the Basis of Reservation Bill 2017'.**
 - **Prior to introduction of this bill, SC had struck down Karnataka Govt.'s** provision for providing reservation in promotion for SC/ST employees.
 - Karnataka had formed a committee led by Additional Chief Secretary Ratnaprabha to study the above issues.
- **Int. Conf on Petroleum held in Jaipur**
 - The 12th Biennial International Conference & Exposition of Society of Petroleum Geophysicists India was held at Jaipur.
 - The three days International Conference & Exposition of SPG India will remain open till 19th November 2017.
 - Theme of the conference was **"Energy trough Synergy"**.
 - **Mr. Pradhan also released a special issue of SPG's half yearly** journal, 'GEOHORIZON'.
- **Delhi to form 'Mahila Suraksha Dals'**
 - Deputy CM of Delhi Manish Sisodia said that, the Delhi would form **"Mahila Suraksha Dals"** to curb crimes against women in the national capital.



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- The government would constitute these teams in coordination with the Delhi Commission for Women.
- These MSDs will comprise representatives of the local community, both men and women, besides civil defence volunteers & will work at the grassroot-level.
- President's visit to 3 NE States
 - The President of India, Shri Ram Nath Kovind, will visit three Northeastern States – Arunachal Pradesh, Assam and Manipur - from November 19 to 22, 2017.
 - This is his first visit to these states as the President of India.
 - On November 19, 2017, the President will grace the valedictory function of the completion of 40 years of the Vivekananda Kendra in Itanagar.
- Free Wi-Fi on Agra-Lucknow expressway
 - Free Wi-Fi will soon be available on the entire 302-kilometer stretch of **India's longest expressway from Agra to Lucknow.**
 - The Uttar Pradesh government has offered to lease out space for laying an Optical Fibre Cable (OFC) along the six-lane Agra to Lucknow expressway.
 - The plan is to earn revenue to maintain the expressway.
- Karnataka partners with Nasscom
 - On 16th November 2017, Karnataka government announced the launch of a Centre of Excellence for data science and artificial intelligence with Nasscom as its programme and implementation partner.
 - The Centre of Excellence is based on a public-private partnership model.
 - It will accelerate the ecosystem in Karnataka by the development of data science and artificial intelligence.
- **India's first mega CEZ in Maharashtra**
 - **Central Government has given approval for setting up India's first mega coastal economic zone at the Jawaharlal Nehru Port in Maharashtra.**





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- CEZ is an economic region comprising several districts that are well connected to the ports in the region and have a strong industrial infrastructure.
- These zones have business-friendly environment that offers enhanced ease of doing business,
- Ban on Plastic Bottle at Offices, Hotels
 - On 17th November 2017, Maharashtra government announced ban on plastic bottles, with effect from 18 March 2018.
 - It will cover government offices, functions and state educational institutes before it is extended to private institutes.
 - This was announced by Maharashtra Environment Minister Ramdas Kadam.
- MP launches Ek Bharat-Shreshtha Bharat
 - **Madhya Pradesh is the partner state of Manipur and Nagaland under 'Ek Bharat-Shreshtha Bharat' Yojana.**
 - An 8-member team from Madhya Pradesh has already toured Manipur and Nagaland in this regard.
 - This yojana was announced by Modi on October 31, 2015 (celebrated as Ekta Diwas) on the occasion of birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabh Bhai Patel.
- Karnataka passes anti-superstition bill
 - **Karnataka Legislative Assembly unanimously passed 'Karnataka Prevention and Eradication of Inhuman Evil Practices and Black Magic Bill, 2017'.**
 - This anti-superstition bill is aimed at preventing and eradicating inhuman evil practices propagated and performed in the name of black magic by a conman to exploit the common people.
 - The bill has two categories of practices – 'savings' and 'schedule'
- BS VI policy to come in 2018



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- Petroleum Ministry announced that Bharat Stage VI fuel will be introduced in Delhi from April 1, 2018, much ahead of the earlier deadline of 2020.
- BS-VI is the cleanest fuel. Thus, advancing its introduction will help to curb air pollution in Delhi that has reached alarming levels.
- BS-VI grade fuel contains 10 parts per million (ppm) of sulphur as against 50 ppm in BS-IV fuels.
- Stone sculptures of Mamallapuram get GI
 - The hand-crafted stone sculptures of Mamallapuram have been granted the Geographical Indications tag by the GI registry, in recognition of the art's uniqueness to the region.
 - GI protection affords better legal protection against infringement .
 - Now that the state-owned corporation has been recognised as the GI tag-holder, it has become the authorised user of Mahabalipuram Stone Sculpture name
- Int Conference & Exposition of SPG
 - The 12th Biennial International Conference & Exposition of Society of Petroleum Geophysicists (SPG) India was inaugurated by Union Minister of Petroleum & Natural Gas and Skill Development & Entrepreneurship at Jaipur.
 - The three days International Conference & Exposition of SPG India will remain open until 19th November 2017.
 - **The theme of the conference is “Energy trough Synergy”.**
- **Seminar on ‘Cyber Security’ in New Delhi**
 - A seminar on ‘Cyber Security in the Context of Indian Navy’ was held on 17 November 2017 at Dr. DS Kothari Auditorium, DRDO Bhawan, New Delhi.
 - It was conducted by Directorate of Information Warfare, Integrated Headquarters Ministry of Defence (Navy).



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- The seminar was conducted to address the thoughts on cybersecurity and the challenges faced by the Indian Navy in the domain.
- PoS for elect. bill payments: Nagaland
 - Nagaland became the first among the North Eastern states to launch Point of Sale (PoS) for electricity bill payment.
 - Through the PoS, a consumer can make cashless payment of the electricity **bills, which is in line with India's digitisation.**
 - The PoS facility was formally launched by State Chief Secretary, Pankaj Kumar, at Kohima Electrical Sub-division-1 in Kohima on 16th November 2017.
- Karnataka to install WiFi in panchayats
 - Karnataka unveiled an ambitious project to install Wi-Fi facility in all gram panchayats across the state.
 - At Bengaluru Tech Summit 2017, Karnataka CM, Siddaramaiah stated that the objective of this project is to bridge the digital divide.
 - By this, each and every entrepreneur from the cities and towns across Karnataka will be provided an opportunity to benefit from the enabling eco-system.
- 'Saubhagya' Web-Portal launched
 - Ministry of State (IC) for Power and New & Renewable Energy, launched the PM Sahaj Bijli Har Ghar Yojana – **'Saubhagya' Web Portal.**
 - The portal can be accessed at <http://saubhagya.gov.in>.
 - The Saubhagya Dashboard is a platform for monitoring household electrification progress, which would disseminate information on Household Electrification Status.
- 1st WHO Conference on Ending TB: Russia
 - India reaffirmed its commitment to eliminating TB by 2025 at 1st WHO Global Ministerial Conference on Ending TB in Sustainable Development **Era' at Moscow, Russia.**



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- Ministry of Health and Family Welfare is also organizing a side event on 'Ending TB: Our Promise to Our People'.
- The National Strategic Plan for TB elimination in India has 4 pillars, namely- "Detect, Treat, Build and Prevent".
- Global Conference on Cyber Space 2017
 - India, for the first time ever, is going to host the Global Conference on Cyber Space on 23 & 24 November 2017, at Aerocity, New Delhi.
 - **It is one of the world's largest conferences in the field of Cyber Space and related issues.**
 - It was incepted in 2011 in London and the fourth version GCCS 2015 was held on April 16-17, 2015 in The Hague, Netherlands which saw participation from 97 countries.

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