

National



Assam declared as 'disturbed area' under AFSPA for six months

The Assam Government, on 1 September 2017, declared the entire state as "disturbed area" for six months under Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act, 1958 (AFSPA). This is the first time in 27 years that the state government took call on AFSPA and extended the term of the Act. AFSPA has been continuing in Assam since November 1990.

Cabinet approves extension of time period of Udaan Scheme in J&K

The Union Cabinet, on 20 September 2017, approved Home Ministry's proposal for extension of the time period of the "Special Industry Initiative for J&K" - Udaan scheme till 31 December 2018 without any modification and cost escalation. The scheme aims to provide exposure to the youth of Jammu & Kashmir to the best of corporate India and corporate India to the rich talent pool available in the state.

Centre to form inter-ministerial committee on safety measures in schools

The Union Government on 18 September 2017 decided to form an inter-ministerial committee to monitor implementation of safety measures in its schools across the country. The committee was formed in the wake of the brutal killing of a student in Gurugram and rape of a girl by a school peon in the national capital, Delhi. The committee will have secretaries of Human Resource Development, Women and Child Development Ministry, Tribal Affairs, Minority Affairs, Social Justice and Empowerment and Drinking water and sanitation.

Centre to start helicopter and smaller aircraft services to hilly areas

The government, on 20 September 2017, announced plans to start helicopter and smaller aircraft services to hilly areas, Andaman and Nicobar and Lakshadweep Islands under the second phase of UDAN scheme. The second phase of UDAN seeks to connect unserved and under-served airports as well as make flying more affordable with fares capped at Rs 2,500 for one-hour flights.



CIPAM-DIPP launches social media campaign to promote Geographical Indications

The Cell for IPR Promotions and Management (CIPAM) on 4 September 2017 launched a social media campaign to promote Indian Geographical Indications (GIs). CIPAM comes under the aegis of the Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion (DIPP), Union Ministry of Commerce and Industry.

Environment Ministry launches Prakriti Khoj, on Teachers' Day

The Union Environment Ministry on 5 September 2017 launched an environment awareness initiative on the occasion of Teachers' Day. Under the initiative, an online environmental quiz competition named Prakriti Khoj will be conducted at the national level.

First batch of 1000 E-rickshaws 'SmartE' launched in Gurugram

SmartE is the brand name of E rickshaw fleet, operated by Treasure Vase Ventures Private Limited in partnership of Delhi Metro, that was launched by Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari in Gurugram, Haryana, on 4 September 2017. The e-rickshaw fleet will provide cost effective and pollution free substitute in transport system of Gurugram along with generating employment opportunities for marginalised youth.



Government extends deadline for obtaining Aadhaar by three months

The union government, in September 2017, extended the deadline for obtaining Aadhaar to avail benefits of government schemes and subsidies by three months to 31 December 2017. Earlier, the deadline was 30 September 2017. The extension would cover as many as 135 schemes including free cooking gas to poor women, kerosene and fertiliser subsidy, targeted public distribution system and MGNREGA.

Government holds first 'Pension Adalat'

Jitendra Singh, the Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Development of North-Eastern Region (DoNER), PMO, Personnel, Public Grievances & Pensions, on 20 September 2017, inaugurated the first 'Pension Adalat' in Delhi. The Minister also awarded the Pensioners for their outstanding contribution towards 'Anubhav' - a platform for retiring employees for sharing their experience of working with the Government.

Government launches DIKSHA Portal for teachers

The Union Ministry of Human Resource and Development (HRD) on 5 September 2017 launched DIKSHA Portal for providing digital platform to teachers for making their lifestyle more digital. DIKSHA will enable, accelerate and amplify solutions in the realm of teacher education.

Government launches Electronic Negotiable Warehouse Receipt System

Union Minister of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution Ram Vilas Paswan on 26 September 2017 launched the Web Portal of Warehousing Development and Regulatory Authority (WDRA) & Electronic Negotiable Warehouse Receipt (e-NWR) System in New Delhi. The e-NWRs would be immune from any tempering, mutilation, fudging, loss or damage and with no possibility of any multiple financing.



Government to introduce 'Food Street' at global food fair in New Delhi

With an aim to attract investment in the food processing sector under the Make in India initiative, the government has decided to introduce a curated food experience zone 'Food Street' at the global food fair in November in New Delhi. Chef Sanjeev Kapoor will be the brand ambassador of the event at the World Food India 2017 that will be held between 3 November and 5 November 2017. The experiential platform will bring together culinary practices, flavors, fragrances from cuisines across the world.

Himachal Pradesh becomes first state to launch electric bus service

The Himachal Pradesh government on 21 September 2017 launched first-of-its-kind electric bus service in the ecologically fragile 51km-long stretch between Manali and Rohtang Pass. The move has been taken amidst concern over increasing environmental degradation in the Rohtang Pass area due to plying of diesel taxis. With this initiative, the state has become the first in the world to ply electric buses at an altitude of 13 thousand feet.

Home Ministry clears granting citizenship to Chakma-Hajong refugees

The Union Home Ministry on 13 September 2017 cleared the citizenship for over one lakh Chakma-Hajongs, Buddhists, and Hindus, who fled to India in the 1960s to escape religious persecution in Chittagong Hill area of Bangladesh (the then undivided Pakistan). In 2015, the Supreme Court had asked the Centre to grant citizenship to Chakma-Hajongs. Arunachal Pradesh government had earlier opposed the move and had said it would change the demography of the State.

Home ministry gives more finance powers to chiefs of CRPF, BSF, NIA

The home ministry recently enhanced the financial powers of the directors general of CRPF, BSF, Central Industrial Security Force (CISF), Indo Tibetan Border Police Force (ITBP), Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB), National Security Guard (NSG), Assam Rifles, National Investigation Agency (NIA) and director of Intelligence Bureau (IB) to execute major projects up to Rs. 15 crores from Rs. 10 crores. The major projects include construction of buildings, purchase of vehicles besides others. Similarly, the chiefs have also been authorised to spend up to Rs1 crore for carrying out minor works like petty repairs and administrative expenditure.

India holds first National Conference on under-nutrition

The Ministry of Women and Child Development hosted the first ever National Conference in New Delhi on 19 September 2017 on Mission Mode to address Under-Nutrition in the country. The conference was organised by the WCD Ministry in collaboration with Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation and Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, keeping in mind the goal of "Malnutrition Free India-2022". The WCD ministry has identified 113 most backward districts across the country based on the composite index of NITI Aayog and prevalence of stunting from NFHS-4 data.

Government increases retirement age of doctors to 65 years

The Union cabinet on 27 September 2017 increased the retirement age of central government doctors to 65 years with an aim to meet the shortage of medical staff, especially super-specialists, in the country. The government's decision will be applicable to all AYUSH and central government doctors and dentists except those in the Central Health Service (CHS), which includes those working in the railways and armed forces.

Government launches intelligence wing of SSB and WARB App

Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh on 18 September 2017 launched the intelligence wing of Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB) and Welfare and Rehabilitation Board App (WARB) in New Delhi. SSB, which is currently one of India's Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs), guards India's borders with Bhutan and Nepal.

Government launches platform for effective enforcement for No Child Labour Portal

Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh on 26 September 2017 launched the Platform for Effective Enforcement for No Child Labour (PENCIL) Portal during the National Conference on Child Labour organised by the Union Ministry of Labour and Employment. Moreover, the ministry also launched the Standing Operating Procedures (SOPs) for the enforcement of legal framework against child labour. The SOP aims to ensure complete prohibition of child labour and protection of adolescents from hazardous labour leading to Child Labour Free India.

Government launches 'Wood is Good' Campaign to promote climate-friendly resource

Union Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Harsh Vardhan inaugurated a two-day conference on 'Sustainable landscapes and forest ecosystems: Theory to Practice' in New Delhi on 12 September 2017. The minister launched the 'Wood is Good' campaign on the occasion under the Forest-Plus programme. The purpose of the campaign is to promote wood as a climate-friendly resource and substitute to materials like steel and plastic as it is a renewable resource, having zero carbon footprint, unlike other materials that leave carbon footprint in their production.

India's first advanced Homoeopathy Virology lab inaugurated in Kolkata

Shripad Yesso Naik, Union Minister of State for AYUSH (Independent Charge), on 12 September 2017 inaugurated India's first State of art virology laboratory at Dr. Anjali Chatterjee Regional Research Institute for Homoeopathy in Kolkata, West Bengal. The laboratory is the only one in India for conducting basic and fundamental research in Homoeopathy for viral diseases like influenza, Japanese encephalitis, dengue, chikungunya and swine flu.

Jharkhand Government launches Shaheed Gram Vikas Yojana

Jharkhand state government, on 18 September 2017, launched the 'Shaheed Gram Vikas Yojana' to develop villages of

freedom fighters. The initiative was inaugurated by Amit Shah at Ulihatu village of the state, where Jharkhand's tribal icon and freedom fighter - Birsa Munda was born. Under the scheme, villages of many tribal freedom fighters will be developed and their habitants will be provided with basic amenities. The concerned villages have remained inaccessible for a long time after Independence because of Left-wing extremism.

Nirmala Sitharaman flags-off Navika Sagar Parikrama from Panaji

Union Defence Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on 10 September 2017 flagged off the all-women team of the 'Navika Sagar Parikrama' in Panaji, Goa. The crew of the 'Sagar Parikrama' comprises of six-member all women team on board the sailing vessel INSV Tarini and will circumnavigate the globe in approximately 165 days. This is the first-ever Indian circumnavigation of the globe by an all-women crew. The team comprises of- Lt CdrVartika Joshi and Lt Payal Gupta from Uttarakhand, Lt Cdr Pratibha Jamwal from Himachal, Lt Cdr P Swathi from Andhra Pradesh, Lt Aishwarya Boddapati from Telangana and Lt Shourgrakpam Vijaya Devi from Manipur.

PM Modi inaugurates Sardar Sarovar Dam

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on September 17, 2017 reached Kevadia in Gujarat and inaugurated the Sardar Sarovar Dam on river Narmada, at an event coinciding with his 67th birthday. He performed Narmada aarti and offered prayers at the dam site ahead of the inauguration.



The foundation stone of the dam was laid on April 5, 1961 by the country's first Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru. The Sardar Sarovar Dam is a gravity dam on the Narmada river near Navagam, Gujarat. Four Indian states, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra and Rajasthan, receive water and electricity supplied from the dam.

President launches 'Swachhta hi Seva' Campaign

To take the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan at a higher level, Ram Nath Kovind, the President of India, on September 15, 2017, launched a nationwide sanitation campaign, 'Swachhta hi Seva' (Cleanliness is Service), at Ishwariganj village in Kanpur. This campaign is aimed to strengthen the flagship program 'Swachh Bharat Mission'. After the launch of this campaign, the President honoured village-level champions who contributed to making Ishwariganj village 'Open Defecation Free'.

Pralay Sahayam held in Telangana

A multi-agency exercise Pralay Sahayam was conducted on 23 September 2017 on the banks of Hussain Sagar Lake in Hyderabad, Telangana. The event demonstrated efforts of all central and state agencies, National Disaster Relief Force (NDRF) and the Armed Forces towards jointly tackling an urban flooding scenario in Hyderabad.

President lays foundation stone for Link-4 of SAUNI Scheme

President Ramnath Kovind, on 4 September 2017, laid the foundation stone for link - 4 of Saurashtra Narmada Avatara Irrigation (SAUNI) Scheme in Rajkot district of Gujarat. The project aims to fill up 115 major dams by diverting excess water of Sardar Sarovar dam across river Narmada, by a web of pipeline network.

Rajaswa Gyan Sangam held in New Delhi

Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the annual conference, Rajaswa Gyan Sangam, 2017 at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi on 1 September 2017. The conference, jointly organised by the Central Board of Direct Taxes and the Central Board of Excise and Customs, aimed to enable a two-way communication between the policy-makers and senior officers in the field offices with a view to increase revenue collection and facilitate effective implementation of law and policies in key result areas.

Transgenders in Andhra Pradesh to get pension, houses

The Andhra Pradesh government on 21 September 2017 announced a slew of welfare measures for transgenders, including a monthly pension of Rs 1,000. Apart from pension, transgenders would be given ration cards and houses. Andhra Pradesh has joined a select group of states which has announced welfare measures for the members of the third gender.

Tripura becomes first state to set up district family welfare committees

Tripura on 18 September 2017 became the first state in India to set up family welfare district committees. State Governor Tathagata Roy formally launched the family welfare committees in all eight districts in Tripura at a function in Tripura High Court. The Tripura High Court is the first high court among 24 High Courts in India that has constituted family welfare district committees. The committees have been set to deal with the issue of fake and biased complaints by women against their husbands, in-laws and husband's relatives.

Union Government launches Divyang Sarathi mobile application

Union Minister for Social Justice and Empowerment Thaawarchand Gehlot on 26 September 2017 launched the Beta version of mobile application 'Divyang Sarathi'. This accessible and comprehensive mobile application will ensure easy dissemination of information to Divyangjans so that they can understand all details pertaining to the schemes, scholarships, statutes, institutional support systems and other relevant information at the click of a button. As per the Census



2011, there are more than 2.68 crore 'Divyangjans' in India which constitute over 2.2% of the population. The mobile application 'Divyang Sarathi' is compliant with the standards of UNCRPD for Universal Access and the arrangements of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016.

Venkaiah Naidu declares rural areas in Nargund Open Defecation Free

Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu on 26 September 2017 declared the rural areas in Nargund Taluk of Karnataka as Open Defecation Free (ODF) while inaugurating Swachhta Hi Seva and Shouchalayakkagi Samara (A Crusade for Toilets) Programme in Karnataka. Naidu also initiated the activity of 'Tippe Samskarane' (Waste Processing) at Konnur Village in Naragund Taluk, Gadag District and also inaugurated a "Shudda Kudiyuva Neerina Ghataka" (Purified Drinking Water Plant).

INDIA & THE WORLD

India refuses to sign Bali Declaration over Rohingya issue

India, on 7 September 2017, refused to sign Bali Declaration adopted at the World Parliamentary Forum on Sustainable Development in Indonesia. The Bali Declaration referred to the violence against Rohingya Muslims in Myanmar's Rakhine state. The United Nations officials have described Myanmar's persecution of the Rohingya as ethnic cleansing, while there have been warnings of an unfolding genocide.

Cabinet approves pact between India and Ethiopia on cooperation in communication field

The Union Cabinet led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on 27 September 2017 gave its approval to the agreement between India and Ethiopia on cooperation in the field of Information, Communication and Media. The pact mainly aims to harness the growing power of Information, Communication and Media for information dissemination and enhancing outreach between the two countries for inclusive development.

Cabinet approves MoU between India and Belarus in oil and gas sector

The Union Cabinet on 27 September 2017 gave its ex-post facto approval for a MoU signed between India and Belarus in the oil and gas sector. The agreement was signed on 12 September 2017 following delegation-level talks between Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi and visiting Belarus President Aleksander Grigoryevich Lukashenko in New Delhi.

Union Cabinet approves MoU between India and Afghanistan on cooperation on Police Training

The Union Cabinet on 27 September 2017 approved MoU between India and Afghanistan on technical cooperation on police training and development. The MoU will help in capacity building of Afghanistan National Police and improving the security apparatus in the region.

Indo-US joint military exercise Yudh Abhyas 2017 held in Washington

Indo-US joint military training 'Exercise Yudh Abhyas - 2017' was conducted at Joint Base Lewis McChord, Washington, USA from 14 to 27 September 2017 as a part of the ongoing defence cooperation between India and the United States (US). This was the 13th edition of Exercise Yudh Abhyas that is hosted alternately between the two countries. Exercise Yudh Abhyas is one of the largest joint military training and defence corporation programme between India and US.

India and Norway sign Letter of Intent for cooperation in health sector

India and Norway, on 28 September 2017, signed a Letter of Intent to extend bilateral cooperation within health sector through the Norway India Partnership Initiative (NIPI) for a period of three years starting from 2018. Through this initiative, the cooperation between India and Norway will continue to be aligned with the development goals of the Indian Government as outlined in its National Health Policy 2017 for the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

India to collaborate with Russia for establishing Rooppur Nuclear Power Plant in Bangladesh

India, on 20 September 2017, announced a collaboration with Russia for establishing the Rooppur Nuclear Power Plant in Bangladesh. The move is the first initiative under the Indo-Russia deal to undertake atomic energy projects in the third-world nations. It will also be India's first atomic energy venture abroad. The Rooppur project, which is being built near Dhaka, will be Bangladesh's first atomic energy project. After commissioning of two units, each with a capacity of 1200 MWs, Bangladesh will be the third South Asian country after India and Pakistan to harness energy from atomic fission.

India and Sri Lanka conduct SLINEX 2017

Indian Navy and Sri Lankan Navy, in September 2017, held the 2017 Sri Lanka-India Exercise (SLINEX) at Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh. The exercise aimed at reinforcing strong neighbourly ties between both countries underscored by extensive maritime interaction and improved understanding. SLINEX 2017 focuses on fleet work, seamanship, communication, replenishment at sea, Visit Board Search and Seize (VBSS) operations as well as helicopter operations.

India, Afghanistan exchange four pacts in areas including health, transport

India and Afghanistan on 11 September 2017 exchanged four pacts in areas of health, transport, space and new development partnership. The agreements were exchanged after delegation level talks between the External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj and Foreign Minister of Afghanistan Salahuddin Rabbani in New Delhi.

Union Cabinet approves MoU between India and Armenia on Disaster Management

The Union Cabinet on 12 September 2017 approved the signing of a MoU between India and Armenia on cooperation in the field of disaster management.



India, Japan sign 15 agreements for enhancing bilateral cooperation

India and Japan on 14 September 2017 signed 15 agreements for enhancing bilateral cooperation in key areas including civil aviation, trade, science and technology, and skill development during the visit of Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe to India. the list of agreements is as follows:

S. No.	Memorandums	Description
1	MOC between the Ministry of Home Affairs and the Cabinet Office of Japan	It aims to cooperate and collaborate in the field of disaster risk reduction and to share the experiences, knowledge and policies on disaster prevention.
2	MoC in the field of Japanese Language Education in India	It calls for strengthening bilateral relations and cooperation in the field of Japanese language education in India.
3	India Japan Act East Forum	It aims to enhance connectivity and promote developmental projects in the North-Eastern Region of India in an efficient and effective manner.
4	Arrangement between India Post and Japan Post for the Implementation of Cool EMS service	It calls for implementing the commercial arrangement of "Cool EMS" service through which fresh food can be sent from Japan to India in cool boxes for the Japanese expatriates in India.
5	India-Japan Investment Promotion Road map between DIPP and METI	It facilitates and accelerates the Japanese investments in India.
6	MOC between METI and Gujarat on 'Japan-India special programme for Make In India'	It calls for cooperation in infrastructure development programmes in the Mandal Bechraj-Khoraj region.
7	Exchange of RoD on Civil Aviation Cooperation (Open Sky)	It opens skies between India and Japan i.e. Indian and Japanese carriers can mount now unlimited number of flights to the selected cities of each other's countries.
8	Agreement for International joint exchange programme between interdisciplinary theoretical and mathematical sciences programme (iTHEMS), RIKEN and National Centres for Biological Sciences (Simons-NCBS)	It aims to establish a Joint Exchange Program to identify and foster talented young scientists from both the countries to collaborate in the field of theoretical biology.
9	Joint Research Contract between National Institute of Advanced Industrial Science & Technology of Japan and Department of Biotechnology (DBT) of India	It calls for conducting joint research and to establish an International Centre named as "DBT-AIST International Centre for Translational & Environmental Research (DAICENTER) at AIST, Japan.
10	MOU Between DBT and National Institute of Advanced Science & Technology (AIST)	It aims to promote research collaboration between DBT Research Institutes and AIST in the field of Life Science and Biotechnology
11	MoU on International Academic and Sports Exchange between Lakshmbai National Institute of Physical Education and Nippon Sports Science University, Japan (NSSU)	It will facilitate and deepen international education cooperation and exchanges between both the institutions.
12	MoU on International Academic and Sports Exchange between Sports Authority of India and Nippon Sports Science University, Japan (NSSU)	It will facilitate and deepen international education cooperation and exchanges between both Sports Authority of India and Nippon Sport Science University, Japan.
13	Letter of Intent between Lakshmbai National Institute of Physical Education (LNPIE) and University of Tsukuba, Japan	It will strengthen strategic collaboration, joint research programme and exchanges between Lakshmbai National Institute of Physical Education, India and University of Tsukuba, Japan
14	Letter of Intent between Sports Authority of India and University of Tsukuba, Japan	It will strengthen strategic collaboration, joint research programme and exchanges between University of Tsukuba, Japan and Sports Authority of India
15	MoU between RIS and IDE-JETRO for promotion of Cooperation in Research Related Activities	It will promote institutional cooperation between RIS and IDE-JETRO to strengthen the capacity of research and effectiveness of dissemination of research findings



Second Indian Workers' Resource Centre inaugurated in UAE

To provide support and counseling to Indians in distress, India on 10 September 2017 opened the second Indian Workers' Resource Centre (IWRC) in Sharjah, UAE. Inaugurated by Indian Ambassador in UAE Navdeep Singh Suri, IWRC will help the overseas Indian community on legal, personal and financial matters, free of cost. The first IWRC was opened in Dubai in 2010.

India, Myanmar sign 11 Agreements: India and Myanmar on 6 September 2017 signed eleven agreements following delegation-level talks headed by Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Myanmar State Counsellor Aung San Suu Kyi at Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar. The highlights of the agreements are as follows:

- MoU between the Election Commission of India and Union Election of Myanmar.
- MoU on cooperation between Myanmar Press Council and the Press Council of India.
- An agreement for cultural exchange programme for the years 2017 to 2020.
- Two MoUs on establishment of the India-Myanmar Centre for Enhancement of IT Skill and the Myanmar Institute of Information Technology (MIIT).
- MoU on enhancing cooperation for upgrade of the Women's Police Training Centre at Yamethin, Myanmar.
- Technical Agreement for providing Coastal Surveillance System.

SUPREME COURT & JUDICIARY

Chhattisgarh HC orders state to grant books, uniform instead of cash to BPL students

The Chhattisgarh High Court on 18 September 2017 ordered the state government to grant books and uniform instead of cash to the Below Poverty Line (BPL) students studying in private schools under Right to education. The High Court issued the order to the Chief Secretary of Chhattisgarh Government, stating that the government should start providing free uniforms, textbooks, and stationery to BPL children studying in private schools from the present session.

Six months cooling period in divorce cases can be waived off: Supreme Court

The Supreme Court on 12 September 2017 held that the minimum cooling period of six months for granting the decree of divorce under the Hindu marriage law can be waived by a trial court if there was no possibility of cohabitation between an estranged couple. The 1955 Hindu Marriage Act provides for a statutory cooling period of six months between the first and the last motion for seeking divorce by mutual consent to explore the possibility of settlement and cohabitation.

INTERNATIONAL

BRICS nations sign agreement to establish credit lines

Five banks of the Brics Bank Cooperation Mechanism—Brazilian Development Bank (BNDES), Vnesheconombank, Export-Import Bank of India, China Development Bank and

Development Bank of South Africa (DBSA)—have signed an agreement to establish credit lines in the national currencies, as well as a memorandum of cooperation on credit ratings. The agreement was signed ahead of the Brics (Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa) summit in China's Xiamen city in September 2017 in which leaders of the five countries, including Prime Minister Narendra Modi took part.

Ahead of the Brics summit, the New Development Bank (NDB) of the five nations had approved \$1.4 billion loans for sustainable development projects in China, India and Russia. For India, the bank approved \$470 million loan for Madhya Pradesh's Multi-Village Rural Drinking Water Supply Scheme Project.

Jordan launches Sahara Desert project

Jordan's King Abdullah II and Crown Prince Haakon of Norway, on 7 September 2017, inaugurated the Sahara Forest project using seawater to produce crops with clean energy from sun, saltwater, and carbon dioxide to grow food and generate clean energy and freshwater in the Red Sea port city of Aqaba. The facility, surrounded by rocky desert, uses seawater to cool greenhouses. A solar-powered plant then desalinates the water for irrigation. Inside the greenhouses, pesticide-free cucumbers flourish. The project is set to produce 130 tons of vegetables a year and 10,000 liters of freshwater a day.

US inaugurates its first permanent American military base in Israel

Israel and U.S. officials on 18 September 2017 inaugurated the first permanent American military base in the country, which will house dozens of U.S. troops and a missile defense system. The base will be located within the Israel Defense Forces Air Defense School in southern Israel, near Beersheba. The Pentagon already operates an independent facility nearby in the Negev Desert. The facility is used only by Americans and is meant to detect and warn of a possible ballistic missile attack from Iran.

London tops in 2017 Global Financial Centres Index

London has topped in the 2017 Global Financial Centres Index (GFCI) among 92 financial centres released by the Z/Yen and China Development Institute. India's financial capital Mumbai was ranked at 60th position, up by three positions compared to previous edition. The index assesses the competitiveness of financial centres based on aggregate of indices from five key areas: business environment, financial sector development, infrastructure factors, human capital, reputation and general factors. It is published twice a year. It is widely quoted as a source for ranking financial centres.

World running out of antibiotics: WHO

The World Health Organisation on 20 September 2017 released a report titled 'Antibacterial agents in clinical development – an analysis of the antibacterial clinical development pipeline, including tuberculosis'. According to the report, 51 antibiotic drugs that are under various clinical stages of discovery, only eight of them can be termed as novel solutions limiting the treatment options for the antibiotic resistant infections identified by WHO as the greatest threat to health.

SCIENCE / TECHNOLOGY / ENVIRONMENT

SPACE

Crash site of Europe's first lunar mission found

Scientists have found the final resting place of European Space Agency's first lunar mission, SMART-1, 11 years after the spacecraft crashed into the Moon. Researchers from European Space Agency (ESA) found the location to be 34.262 degree south and 46.193 degree west, consistent with the coordinates of impact calculated initially. The spacecraft launched on September 27, 2003 and was sent into a controlled impact on September 3, 2006 with the lunar surface.

NASA's \$3.9 billion Cassini spacecraft makes death plunge into Saturn

NASA's Cassini spacecraft disintegrated in the skies above Saturn on 15 September 2017 in a final, fateful blaze of cosmic



glory, following a remarkable journey of 20 years. Launched on 15 October 1997, Cassini's mission to explore Saturn ended with a deliberate plunge into Saturn's atmosphere. The Cassini-Huygens mission, commonly called Cassini, was a collaboration between NASA, the European Space Agency (ESA), and the Italian Space Agency (ASI) to send a probe to study the planet Saturn and its system, including its rings and natural satellites.

Pluto mountain range named after Tenzing Norgay

Assigning the first set of official names of surface features on Pluto, the International Astronomical Union has approved a mountain range on the icy dwarf planet to be named after Tenzing Norgay. Tenzing Montes and Hillary Montes are mountain ranges honouring Tenzing Norgay (1914-1986) and Sir Edmund Hillary (1919-2008), the Indian/Nepali Sherpa and New Zealand mountaineer, respectively, who were the first to reach the summit of Mount Everest and return safely.



Pluto mountain range named after Tenzing Norgay | Bangla Times

New US travel ban includes N Korea, Venezuela, Chad among 8 countries

The President of United States, Donald Trump on 24 September 2017 issued a new travel ban that includes North Korea, Venezuela and Chad in the list of eight countries.



Trump cited reasons such as poor security and lack of cooperation with US authorities for including the nations on the travel ban list. The new order expands to countries beyond just Muslim-majority ones.

Hurricane Harvey to be costliest natural disaster in US history: Report

As per a report released by AccuWeather, a US weather forecasting firm, on 1 September 2017, Hurricane Harvey is likely to be the most expensive weather disaster in the history of the United States of America. The total losses from Harvey, which has created havoc in Texas and Louisiana in southeast US, would reach USD 190 billion or one per cent of the nation's Gross Domestic Product (GDP), countering the expected growth in the economy for the remaining months of the year 2017.

Saudi king issues decree allowing women to drive

Saudi King Salman on 26 September 2017 ordered that women be allowed to drive cars, state media said, ending the conservative Islamic kingdom's status as the only country where that is forbidden. The royal decree ordered the formation of a ministerial body to give advice within 30 days and then implement the order by June 2018.



50 nations sign United Nations Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons

50 countries on 20 September 2017 inked United Nations Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons. Brazil was the first country to sign onto the ban, followed by nations from Algeria to Venezuela. The countries signing the treaty would be barred from developing, testing, producing, manufacturing, otherwise acquiring, possessing or stockpiling nuclear weapons under any circumstances.

UNSC adopts new North Korea sanctions

The United Nations Security Council (UNSC) on 11 September 2017 unanimously adopted a set of new sanctions on North Korea over its recent nuclear test in violation of previous Security Council resolutions. The fresh resolution curtails the country's oil supply by almost 30 per cent and bans all its textile exports worth USD 800 million. It also takes steps to stop North Koreans working abroad from sending their earnings back to the country and provides new tools for combating smuggling of prohibited products by sea.



NASA captures images of strongest Solar Flare in 12 years

NASA's Solar Dynamics Observatory (SDO), which watches the sun constantly, on 6 September 2017 captured the images of two significant Solar Flares emitted by Sun. The Solar flares are powerful bursts of radiation. These solar flares are seen as the strongest ever in a decade.

ISRO's Mars Orbiter Mission completes 3 years in orbit

ISRO's globally acclaimed Mars Orbiter Mission (MOM) also known as Mangalyaan, on 24 September 2017, completed three years in Martian orbit. Mangalyaan spacecraft was launched on board of PSLV C25 rocket from Sriharikota in Andhra Pradesh on November 5, 2013 with aim of studying Martian surface and mineral composition as well as scan its atmosphere for methane (an indicator of life on Mars). It had entered Mar's orbit on September 24, 2014, in its first attempt. It was nine-month-long mission. The spacecraft was indigenously designed, built and launched by ISRO in record period of less than two years in Rs.450 crore (\$73 million US) budget.



Osiris-Rex: NASA's asteroid-bound spacecraft swings by Earth

NASA's asteroid-chasing spacecraft Osiris-Rex, in September 2017, successfully swung by Earth to put it on desired trajectory towards near earth asteroid Bennu using Earth's gravity. It passed within 17,237 kilometres from Earth above Antarctica. During closest flyby, Osiris-Rex's science instruments were tested by scanning Earth and moon as a practice for its operations at Bennu. The OSIRIS-REx (Origins, Spectral Interpretation, Resource Identification, Security, Regolith Explorer) mission was launched in September 2016 for studying 101955 Bennu, a carbonaceous asteroid. It is NASA's first asteroid sampling mission.

Scientists create first global map of water on Moon

Scientists from Brown University in US, in September 2017, announced to have created first map of water trapped in uppermost layer of Moon's soil. The map was built using NASA's Moon Mineralogy Mapper onboard of India's Chandrayaan-1 spacecraft. The map builds on initial discovery of water and related molecule – hydroxyl (consists of one atom each of hydrogen and oxygen) in lunar soil in 2009. It may prove useful to future lunar explorers.

DEFENCE

INS Kalvari delivered to Indian Navy

INS Kalvari, the first of the six Scorpene-class submarines, was delivered to the Indian Navy by Mazagon Dock Limited (MDL) on 21 September 2017. The submarine is equipped with state of the art technology, including superior stealth features such as advanced acoustic silencing techniques and low radiated noise. It is also loaded with the ability to launch a crippling attack on the enemy.

Indian Navy commissions INS Tarasa

A Water Jet Fast Attack Craft named INS Tarasa on 26 September 2017 was commissioned into the Indian Navy. It is decked with proven design, good endurance, low draught,



high speed and maneuverability. Therefore, the craft is most suited for its primary role of extended coastal and offshore surveillance and patrol. It is the fourth and last of the follow-on Water Jet FAC's built by the Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers (GRSE), Kolkata.

DRDO successfully test-fires NAG

The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) on 9 September 2017 successfully test fired 3rd generation Anti-Tank Guided Missile (ATGM) 'Nag'. The missile was tested twice against two different targets in the



ranges of Rajasthan and it successfully hit both the targets under different conditions with very high accuracy as desired. With this second missile test, the complete functionality of Nag missile along with launcher system NAMICA has been established. NAG is a third generation "fire and forget" anti-tank missile that can be launched from both land and air-based platforms. Its helicopter launched version is known as Helicopter-Launched NAG (HELINA) that can be fired from Dhruv Advanced Light Helicopter (ALH) and HAL Rudra attack helicopter.

North Korea claims successful test of hydrogen bomb

North Korea on 3 September 2017 announced that it successfully tested a hydrogen bomb that can be placed on an intercontinental ballistic missile. The announcement was made by the state news agency after geological agencies registered a man-made quake in the northeast of the country.





EARTH & ENVIRONMENT

China operationalizes new-generation weather satellite

China, on 25 September 2017, operationalized its new weather satellite, marking an upgrade of its meteorological satellites



in geostationary orbit. The Fengyun-4 satellite, the first of China's second-generation weather satellites in geostationary orbit is also the country's first quantitative remote-sensing satellite in highest orbit. The satellite was launched from the Xichang Satellite Launch Centre in southwest China's Sichuan Province on December 11, 2016.

TECHNOLOGY

World's largest aircraft successfully passes first engine tests

Spaceflight company Stratolaunch, in September 2017, announced that a colossal airplane with the world's largest wingspan - has successfully completed its initial engine tests. The company is led by Microsoft co-founder Paul Allen. The 747 turbofan engines were loaded with fuel, started one at a time and then allowed to idle at the Mojave Air and Space Port in California, US. The double-bodied airplane is designed to serve as a mobile launch platform to carry rockets into low-Earth orbit. It will make a runway-style takeoff, and when the aircraft reaches a cruising altitude of 11,000 meters, the rockets it is carrying will detach and then launch small satellites into low-Earth orbit.

Indian scientists develop artificial leaf that creates fuel from sunlight, water

Scientists at the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR)-National Chemical Laboratory in Pune, in September 2017, announced to have developed an ultra-thin artificial leaf that absorbs sunlight to generate hydrogen fuel from water, similar to an actual plant leaf.

World's biggest X-ray laser opens vast research vistas

The biggest X-ray laser gun on earth named, European X-ray Free Electron Laser (XFEL), began operating in Germany in September 2017. It will shoot 27000 laser pulses per second, 200 times more per second than the next highest-performing gun in California. The 1.5 billion-euro laser replaces its predecessor, FLASH, in Germany. XFEL is lodged in a series of tunnels up to 38 metres (125 feet) underground near the city of Hamburg. Its centerpiece is the world's longest – 1.7

kilometres (one mile) – superconducting linear accelerator, designed to provide the energy needed to generate X-ray flashes a billion times brighter than the best conventional radiation sources.

Scientists create world's first molecular robot

Scientists from University of Manchester, in September 2017, announced to have created world's first 'molecular robot' – millionth of a millimetre in size. It can be used to build molecules and may help discover novel drugs. The molecular robot is millionth of millimetre in size. It is made up of just 150 carbon, hydrogen, oxygen and nitrogen atoms which are basic building blocks required to form molecules.

India's first Hyperloop to come up in Andhra Pradesh

India's first Hyperloop project will come up in Andhra Pradesh, connecting its city centres, Vijayawada and Amaravati. In this regard, Andhra Pradesh Economic Development Board (APEDB) recently inked MoU with Hyperloop Transportation Technologies (HTT) for developing the project. Hyperloop Technology is brainchild idea of technology entrepreneur Elon Musk who dubs it as fifth mode of transportation. It is system of magnetically levitating capsules (pods) that are sent at high speeds through low-pressure tubes. It envisages tube modular transport system that runs free of friction.

PERSONALITIES

NEWSMAKERS

Mother Teresa declared as co-patron of Kolkata Roman Catholic Archdiocese

Saint Teresa, also known as Mother Teresa, was on 6 September 2017 declared the as the co-patron of the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Calcutta, 131 years after St Francis Xavier was declared as first patron. The decision was taken to commemorate the first anniversary of St Teresa's canonization which was held on 4 September 2016.



Peggy Whitson returns to earth after record-breaking space flight

Astronaut Peggy Whitson, on 2 September 2017, returned to Earth, wrapping up a record-breaking flight that catapulted her to first place for U.S. space endurance. Whitson's 665 days off the planet 288 days on this mission alone exceeded that of any other American and any other woman worldwide. Besides duration, Whitson set multiple other records while in orbit – world's oldest spacewoman, at age 57, and most experienced female spacewalker, with 10. She also became the first woman to command the space station twice following her launch in November 2016.





Raj Shah appointed to key position in Trump's team

US President Donald Trump on 12 September 2017 appointed Indian-American Raj Shah to a key position in his Communications team. Shah will serve as Deputy Assistant to the President and Principal Deputy Press Secretary. Formerly, he was serving as Deputy Assistant to the President and Deputy Communications Director.

Yuvaraj Pillay appointed as interim president of Singapore

Indian-origin civil servant Joseph Yuvaraj Pillay was on 1 September 2017 appointed as Interim President of Singapore until the new President is sworn-in. Pillay succeeded Tony Tan Keng Yam who completed a six-year term on 31 August 2017. At present, Pillay is serving as the Chairman of the Council of Presidential Advisers (CPA). This is the first time that the office of President of Singapore has fallen vacant since the elected presidency was introduced in 1991.



APPOINTMENT

Ban Ki-moon elected as Chair of Ethics Commission of IOC

Former United Nations (UN) Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon was, on 14 September 2017, elected as Chair of Ethics Commission of the International Olympic Committee (IOC) for a four-year term. His appointment was approved during the IOC Session in Lima. Ban was the eighth Secretary-General of the United Nations from January 2007 to December 2016.



Inderjit Singh assumes additional charge of NACWC

Inderjit Singh was, on 7 September 2017, given the additional charge of the post of Chairperson of National Authority Chemical Weapons Convention (NACWC). Inderjit Singh is a 1985-batch IAS officer of Kerala cadre.

Mercedes Aráoz Fernández appointed as PM Of Peru

Mercedes Aráoz Fernández is a Peruvian economist, professor, politician and the current Second Vice President of Peru, as well as Prime Minister, since September 17, 2017. Her appointment as Prime Minister came two days after a no-confidence vote by the opposition-led Congress forced the entire Cabinet to resign.

Viveck Goenka elected as chairman of PTI

Viveck Goenka was on 7 September 2017 unanimously elected as the Chairman of Press Trust of India (PTI). He succeeded Riyad Mathew of the Malayala Manorama group. Prior to this appointment, Goenka was serving as the Vice-Chairman of PTI. The post of Vice-Chairman of PTI will now be administered by N Ravi, former editor-in-chief of The Hindu.

Nirmala Sitharaman appointed as India's Defence Minister

Nirmala Sitharaman, the former Minister of State (Independent Charge) Commerce, was appointed as the new Defence Minister on 3 September 2017, becoming India's first full-time Defence Minister and second all-time one, after Indira Gandhi who had held the portfolio twice, first from 1- 21 December in 1975 and the second time from 14 January 1980 to 15 January 1982.

Peter Thomson appointed as first UN Special envoy for oceans

United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres has appointed Peter Thomson, the outgoing president of the UN General Assembly as the first Special Envoy for the oceans. Peter Thomson had played a leading role in the first-ever UN conference on oceans, which was held in June 2017.

Rajiv Mehrishi takes over as CAG of India

Rajiv Mehrishi took over as the 13th Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) of India on 25 September 2017, succeeding Shashi Kant Sharma, who left office on 22 September. Mehrishi was administered the oath of office and secrecy by President Ram Nath Kovind at a function in Rashtrapati Bhavan, Delhi.

Rajnikant Mishra named as new chief of SSB

Rajnikant Mishra was, in September 2017, named as the new Chief of the Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB). He had been posted as Special Director General in Border Security Force (BSF) since 2012.

Royana Singh appointed as first woman chief proctor of BHU: The Banaras Hindu University (BHU) on 28 September 2017 appointed Royana Singh as the first woman Chief Proctor of the institution. She succeeded O.N. Singh, who resigned on 26 September taking "moral responsibility" for the recent incidents of violence on students inside the premises of the university.

Shashi Shanker appointed as Chairman and Managing Director of ONGC

Shashi Shanker was, in September 2017, appointed the Chairman and Managing Director of Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC).

Y.C. Modi appointed as the new DG of NIA

Senior Indian Police Service (IPS) officer Y C Modi was, on 18 September 2017, appointed the new Director General of the National Investigation Agency (NIA). The order regarding the appointment was issued by the Union Ministry for Home Affairs. Modi is an IPS officer of the 1979 batch of the Haryana cadre. He had been part of a Supreme Court-appointed Special Investigation Team (SIT) that probed 2002 Gujarat riots case.

RESIGNATION

Rajiv Kumar resigns from DHFL

Niti Aayog Vice Chairman Rajiv Kumar, in September 2017, resigned from his post of independent director in the board of Dewan Housing Finance Corporation (DHFL), the third

largest home loan & housing finance company in India. The move came after Kumar was appointed to the position of Niti Aayog Vice Chairman on 5 August 2017, succeeding Arvind Panagariya, who announced his sudden decision to resign in order to return to the field of academics in the US. Kumar officially took over the position on 1 September 2017.

DEATH

Arjan Singh

Arjan Singh, an Indian Air Force marshal who served as Chief of the Air Staff from 1964 to 1969, passed away in New Delhi on 16 September 2017. For his distinguished service in commanding the IAF during the Indo-Pakistani War of 1965, he was awarded the Padma Vibhushan and in 1966 became the first IAF officer to be promoted to air chief marshal. In 2002, he became the first and only officer of the Indian Air Force to be promoted to five-star rank as Marshal of the Indian Air Force, equal to the army rank of Field Marshal.



Edith Windsor

Gay rights activist Edith Windsor, whose same-sex marriage fight led to a landmark US ruling, passed away on 12 September 2017. It was Windsor's efforts that the US Supreme Court struck down the Defense of Marriage Act in 2013, granting same-sex married couples' federal recognition for the first time.

Liliane Bettencourt

Liliane Bettencourt, world's richest woman and heiress to the L'Oréal cosmetics fortune, passed away on 21 September 2017 at her home in Paris. She was 94. Bettencourt was ranked as the richest woman in the world with a fortune of USD 39.5bn by Forbes magazine in 2016. She was suffering from dementia and Alzheimer's disease since 2006.



Shakila

Yesteryear Bollywood actress Shakila passed away on 20 September 2017 following a massive heart attack. She was 82. She was best known for her roles in Aar Par and CID. She was referred as the fairy queen of Indian fantasies.

AWARDS / HONOURS / DISTINCTIONS

Nobel Prizes 2017

The 2017 Nobel Prizes in various fields were announced in October 2017. Nobel Prizes are considered the most prestigious honour worldwide and the awards are conferred in December every year. The 2017 Nobel Peace Prize was awarded to the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN). The youngest laureate of Nobel Peace Prize in Malala Yousafzai of Pakistan who was honoured with the

prize in 2014 when she was 17-year old. Joseph Rotblat is the oldest laureate who received the Nobel Peace Prize in 1995 at the age of 87 years.

Peace

The 2017 Nobel Peace Prize was awarded to the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN) on October 6, 2017 for its work to draw attention to the catastrophic humanitarian consequences of any use of nuclear weapons.

Founded in Vienna in 2007 on the fringes of an international conference on the nuclear non-proliferation treaty, ICAN (the International Coalition to Abolish Nuclear Weapons) has mobilised campaigners and celebrities alike in its cause.

Literature

The Nobel Prize in Literature for 2017 was awarded to British novelist and screenwriter Kazuo Ishiguro on October 5, 2017 for his emotionally resonating prose style and his inventive subversion of literary genres.

Physics

Three United States-based scientists – Rainer Weiss of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and Barry Barish and Kip S Throne of the California Institute of Technology on October 3, 2017 won the 2017 Nobel Prize in Physics for their contributions to detection of the gravitational waves arising from the collision between two black holes.

Chemistry

A trio of Swiss, American and British scientists – Jacques Dubochet, Joachim Frank and Richard Henderson – won the 2017 Nobel Prize in Chemistry on October 4, 2017 for the development of cryo-electron microscopy (cryo-EM), which simplifies and improves the imaging of biomolecules.

Medicine or Physiology

Three Americans – Jeffery C Hall, Michael Rosbash and Michael W Young – were jointly awarded the 2017 Nobel Prize in Medicine or Physiology on October 2, 2017 for their discoveries about the body's biological clock, opening up whole new fields of research and raising awareness about the importance of getting enough sleep. The three scientists won the 9-million-kronor (\$1.1 million) prize for their work on finding genetic mechanisms behind circadian rhythms, which adapt the workings of the body to different phases of the day, influencing sleep, behaviour, hormone levels, body temperature and metabolism. The work was done using fruit flies.

Economics

U.S. economist Richard Thaler won the 2017 Nobel Economics Prize for his contributions in the field of behavioural economics, showing how human traits affect supposedly rational markets.

Thaler brought to prominence the idea of "nudge" economics, where humans are subtly guided toward beneficial behaviors without heavy-handed compulsion, the theme of a 2008 book he co-wrote which caught the eye of policymakers around the world.



Zannah Mustapha wins 2017 UNHCR Nansen Refugee Award

Nigerian lawyer Zannah Mustapha in September 2017 won the 2017 UNHCR Nansen Refugee Award for his crucial mediating role and efforts to help children affected by the insurgency in his country. He had



negotiated and helped secure the release of more than 100 schoolgirls from Chibok kidnapped by the Boko Haram militant group.

JNPT wins Rajbhasha Kirti Award for 11th consecutive time

The Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust (JNPT) was, in September 2017, awarded the Rajbhasha Kirti Puraskar for the year 2016-17 in the category of 'B' region for autonomous bodies and boards. It won the prize for its excellent implementation of the official language. This is the 11th consecutive year that Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust has won this award.

Ahmedabad becomes India's first 'World Heritage City'

The city of Ahmedabad, known as the commercial hub of Gujarat, was on 1 September 2017 formally accorded the status of India's first 'World Heritage City' by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO). India secured the nomination for Ahmedabad on UNESCO's World Heritage list during the 41st Session of World Heritage Committee on 8 July 2017. The honour makes the walled city the first one in India and the third in Asia to feature on the esteemed list. India now has a total of 36 World Heritage Inscriptions, which include 28 cultural, 7 natural and 1 mixed site. India is second after China in terms of number of world heritage properties in ASPAC (Asia and Pacific) region and seventh overall.

C N R Rao chosen for 2017 Von Hippel Award

Renowned scientist C N R Rao, in September 2017, became the first Asian to be chosen for the Von Hippel Award for his immense contribution in materials research. The Award is the US-based Materials Research Society's (MRS) highest honour.

69th Primetime Emmy Awards

In the 69th Annual Primetime Emmy Awards ceremony, held in Los Angeles, California, in November 2016, Netflix shows earned 20 total Emmys, following HBO with 29 awards, and leading



NBC with 15 awards. Hulu's *The Handmaid's Tale* became the first online TV show to win the award for Outstanding Drama Series. Additionally, online TV also won their first Emmys in Lead Actress, Drama (Elisabeth Moss for *The Handmaid's Tale*), Guest Actress, Drama (Alexis Bledel for

The Handmaid's Tale), Writing, Drama (*The Handmaid's Tale*) and TV Movie (*Black Mirror* from Netflix). The night saw several other historic firsts. Donald Glover became the first African-American to win Outstanding Directing for a Comedy Series. Riz Ahmed, with his win for Outstanding Lead Actor in a Limited Series or Movie, became the first Asian to win the category as well as the first South Asian male to win an acting award and first South Asian to win a lead acting award.

Indian economist among 2017 Balzan Prize awardees

The International Balzan Foundation on 11 September 2017 announced the winners of the 2017 Balzan Prize. Indian Economist Bina Agarwal of University of Manchester (UK) was recognised in the Gender Studies category for her heroic work studying women's contributions to agriculture in India.

UNESCO announces winners for Girls' and Women's Education Prize 2017

The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) in September 2017 announced the winners of 2017 edition of the UNESCO Prize for Girls' and Women's Education. The Development and Education Programme for Daughters and Communities Centre in the Greater Mekong Sub-Region (DEPDC/GMS) in Thailand was awarded for its project entitled "Education and Life Skills Training Programme to Help Stateless Children and Women Migrating from Shan State to Thailand".

Narayana Murthy conferred with PLuS Alliance Prize 2017

Infosys co-founder N R Narayana Murthy was on 3 September 2017 conferred with the PLuS Alliance Prize 2017 along with Mumbai-born scientist Veena Sahajwalla. Both the winners were recognised for the development and implementation of innovative solutions to significant global issues.



SPORTS

BAI to confer first Lifetime Achievement award on Prakash Padukone

The Badminton Association of India (BAI) on 11 September 2017 named former badminton player Prakash Padukone as the first recipient of its Lifetime Achievement Award. The legendary player, who is the only Indian male player to reach world No.1 ranking, will be awarded a cash reward of Rs 10 lakh and a citation. Padukone had won the 1980 All England, besides bagging a bronze at the 1983 World Championship in Copenhagen. He also won a gold medal at the 1978 Commonwealth Games.



FIFA U-17 World Cup song officially launched

The official song for the FIFA Under-17 World Cup football tournament was formally launched in Mumbai by the Local



Organising Committee (LOC) and Sony Pictures Networks India (SPN) on 4 September 2017. Called "Kar Ke Dikha De Goal", the song has been written by lyricist Amitabh Bhattacharya and composed by Pritam.

Dhoni becomes the first wicketkeeper to have 100 stumpings in ODI Cricket

Former India captain MS Dhoni, on 3 September 2017, became the first wicketkeeper in the history of ODI cricket to effect 100 stumpings. He past Kumar Sangakkara's mark of 99 during the fifth match against Sri Lanka at R Premadasa Stadium in Colombo. Dhoni reached the landmark in his record 301st ODI when he stumped Akila Dananjaya. Of Dhoni's stumpings, the most have come off Harbhajan Singh - 19. Then comes Ravindra Jadeja, off whom he has effected 15 stumpings, followed by 14 off R Ashwin.

BCCI nominates MS Dhoni for Padma Bhushan award

The BCCI, in September 2017, nominated former Indian cricket team captain Mahendra Singh Dhoni for Padma Bhushan, country's third highest civilian award for his contribution to game.



He is only cricketer nominated by BCCI for this year's Padma Awards. Dhoni is one of greatest names in contemporary cricket and has impeccable credentials to his name. He is only Indian captain to record two wins at World Cup titles (2011 50-over World Cup and 2007 World T20).

East Bengal wins 8th consecutive Calcutta Football League title

East Bengal, on 24 September 2017, registered a record-extending eighth consecutive Calcutta Football League (CFL) title. The team held



Mohun Bagan to a 2-2 draw in a thrilling match at the Kanchenjunga Stadium in Siliguri, West Bengal. East Bengal have won all the CFL titles since 2010.

French anti-doping laboratory suspended by WADA

French anti-doping laboratory of Chatenay-Malabry was, in September 2017, provisionally suspended by the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA). The provisional suspension prohibits the Paris Laboratory from carrying out any anti-doping activities, including all analyses of urine and blood samples.

Kuldeep Yadav becomes third Indian bowler to pick up an ODI hat-trick

Kuldeep Yadav created history on 21 September 2017 when he became the third Indian bowler to pick up a hat-trick in one-day international cricket. He achieved the feat against Australia at the Eden Gardens in Kolkata. The two other Indian bowlers to register a hat-trick in one-day cricket are the legendary Kapil Dev and Chetan Sharma.

Maharashtra government launches Mission 1 Million initiative

Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis on 15 September 2017 launched the 'Maharashtra Mission 1 Million' initiative under which, over 10 lakh students across the state will play football. Under the initiative, the state government aims to ensure that children come out in open spaces and play football.

Goa to host 36th National Games

The Indian Olympic Association (IOA), on 13 September 2017, formally awarded the rights to host the 36th National Games to Goa. The National Games were formerly known as the Indian Olympic Games.

Mary Kom to be AIBA representative at IOC Athletes' Forum

Five-time world champion and Olympic bronze-medallist M C Mary Kom, in September 2017, became the first Indian to be picked as representative of the International Boxing Association (AIBA) for the IOC Athletes' Forum. The 33-year-old athlete has been invited to attend the 8th International Olympic Committee's (IOC) Athletes' Forum in Lausanne from 11 November to 13 November 2017

PV Sindhu wins 2017 Korea Open Super Series

PV Sindhu on 17 September 2017 became the first Indian shuttler to win the BWF Korean Open Super Series when she defeated Nozomi Okuhara of Japan 22-20, 11-21, 21-18 to grab the prestigious title. The duo had already fought-out the longest match in the final of the BWF World Championship in August 2017, when Okuhara emerged victorious after a 110-minute match.

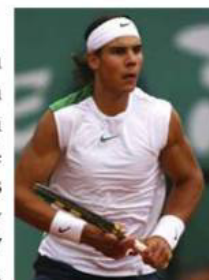


Union Cabinet approves revamped Khelo India Programme

The Union Cabinet on 20 September 2017 approved the revamped Khelo India programme at a cost of Rs 1756 crore for the period 2017-18 to 2019-20. This revamped programme aims at mainstreaming sport as a tool for individual development, community development, economic development and national development. It will impact the entire sports ecosystem including infrastructure, community sports, coaching and sports economy.

US Open 2017

Rafael Nadal on 10 September 2017 won his third US Open and 16th Grand Slam title in New York. Nadal defeated South Africa's Kevin Anderson 6-3 6-3 6-4 to grab the prestigious title. Women's Singles title of the US Open was won by Sloane Stephens on 10 September 2017 who defeated Madison Keys 6-3 6-0 to grab the prestigious title. Among other titles, Men's Doubles title was won by Jean-Julien Rojer and Horia Tecău. The winners of the 2017 US Open Women's Doubles title were Chan Yung-jan and Martina Hingis. The 2017 US Open Mixed Doubles title was won by Martina Hingis and Jamie Murray.



BOOKS & AUTHORS

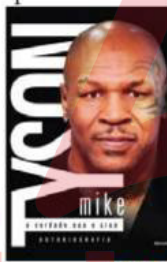
Unstoppable: My Life So: by Maria Sharapova: The book talks about Sharapova's rise from nowhere to tennis stardom, and the unending fight to stay on top.

Rare 'Mein Kampf' copy signed by Hitler auctioned for \$13,000: A rare, personally signed copy of German dictator Adolf Hitler's autobiography 'Mein Kampf' was recently sold for \$13,000 at an auction in the US. The front flyleaf of the book is boldly inscribed and signed by Hitler with the words: "Only in battle will the nobleman survive! Adolf Hitler on 18/August 1930".

Pakistan invokes Arundhati Roy to attack Sushma Swaraj's UN speech: Pakistan, in September 2017, invoked acclaimed Indian novelist Arundhati Roy to attack External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj's UN General Assembly speech where she denounced Islamabad as the "world's greatest exporter of havoc, death and inhumanity". Roy, who won the 1997 Booker Prize for her novel, "The God of Small Things", recently published her second novel, "The Ministry of Utmost Happiness", which unlike her first is political.

Harry Potter's Hogwarts letter auctioned for £7,000!: A sealed envelope used in the first Harry Potter movie 'Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone' was on 12 September 2017 sold for 7000 pounds at an auction by the Prop Store in the United States. This 13x8x0.5 centimetres envelope is accompanied by a letter of donation from Warner Brothers. The prop envelope was used in the scene in 'Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone'.

Iron Ambition: My Life with Cus D'Amato: by Mike Tyson & Larry Sloman



MISCELLANEOUS

Narmada Mahotsav Yatra held in Gujarat

Gujarat Chief Minister, Vijay Rupani flagged off statewide 'Narmada Mahotsav Yatra' from Surendranagar district on 6 September 2017, as part of a two-week celebration to mark the completion of Sardar Sarovar Dam on the Narmada River. The yatra culminated in Dabhoi town of Vadodara district, in the presence of Prime Minister Narendra Modi on the occasion of his birthday on 17 September 2017.

Himachal Pradesh Cabinet to provide Rs 2500 monthly honorarium for 'Jal Rakshaks'

The Himachal Pradesh Cabinet on 18 September 2017 decided to provide a monthly honorarium of Rs 2500 to 'Jal Rakshaks'. The qualified Jal Rakshaks with ITI diplomas will be given quota for pump operators and fitters. Those with matric and 12 years of experience will be inducted against the post of Chowkidar and pump attendants.

Government to release commemorative coins to mark Ramachandran's birth centenary

The Union Finance Ministry on 13 September 2017 decided to release a commemorative Coins of Rs 100 and Rs 10 denomination to celebrate the birth centenary of the popular

politician and former Tamil Nadu Chief Minister Dr MG Ramachandran. The commemorative coins of denominations of Rs 100 and Rs 5 are being released at the request of Government of Tamil Nadu. The aforesaid Commemorative Coins will be minted by Security Printing and Minting Corporation of India Limited (SPMCIL).

Kandla Port renamed as Deendayal Port

The Ministry of Shipping, in September 2017, issued a notice renaming Kandla Port Trust as Deendayal Port Trust. The government renamed the port in exercise of power presented on it under Indian Ports Act, 1908. Kandla Port, situated on the Gulf of Kutch in Gujarat, is one of the twelve major ports in the nation.

NDMA celebrates 13th Formation Day

The 13th Formation Day of National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) was celebrated in New Delhi on 28 September 2017 with the theme 'School Safety'. The event was inaugurated by the Union Home Minister, Rajnath Singh.

Zero Hunger Programme to be launched in Gorakhpur, Koraput and Thane

As per a recent announcement, India's ambitious Zero Hunger Programme through interventions in formal sector will be launched in three districts, namely- Gorakhpur in Uttar Pradesh, Koraput in Odisha and Thane in Maharashtra, on 16 October 2017. 16 October is observed globally as World Food Day

Vice President releases commemorative coin on MS Subbulakshmi

Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu on 19 September 2017 released a commemorative coin on Bharat Ratna Dr MS Subbulakshmi on the occasion of her birth centenary. She was the first musician to be awarded Bharat Ratna, the country's highest civilian honour and first Indian musician to have performed at the United Nations General Assembly on 50th anniversary celebration of the United Nations.

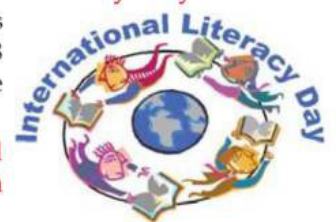
IMPORTANT DAYS

5 September: International Day of Charity: The International Day of Charity was observed across the globe on 5 September 2017 to commemorate the death anniversary of Mother Teresa.

5 September: Teacher's Day: Teacher's Day was celebrated on 5 September 2017 to celebrate the birth anniversary of Former President Dr. Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan. The Union Environment Ministry launched an environment awareness initiative, Prakriti Khoj, on the occasion of Teachers' Day.

8 September: International Literacy Day: The 51st International Literacy Day was celebrated across the world on 8 September 2017 with the theme 'Literacy in a Digital World'.

12 September: International Day for South-South Cooperation



14 September: National Hindi Diwas: The day marks the adaptation of Hindi language as the official language of India by the Constituent Assembly of India on 14 September 1949. During the 2017 Hindi Diwas celebrations, the Union Government announced the launch of 'Lila App' that uses Artificial Intelligence to teach Hindi in various languages.

15 September: International Day of Democracy: The International Day of Democracy was observed across the world on 15 September 2017 with the theme 'Democracy and Conflict prevention'.



16 September: International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer: The International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer was observed globally on 16 September 2017 with the theme 'Caring for all life under the sun'. The Day commemorates the date of the signing of the 'Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer' in 1987.

21 September: International Day of Peace: The International Day of Peace was observed across the world on 21 September

2017 with the theme Together for Peace: Respect, Safety and Dignity for All.

26 September: International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons

27 September: World Tourism Day: The World Tourism Day was observed across the world on 27 September 2017 with the theme Sustainable Tourism - a Tool for Development. It is notable that the year 2017 in itself is being celebrated as 'International Year of Sustainable Tourism for Development'.

28 September: World Maritime Day: The World Maritime Day was celebrated across the world on 28 September 2017 with the theme 'Connecting Ships, Ports and People'.

28 September: World Rabies Day: World Rabies Day was observed on 28 September 2017 with the theme, Rabies: Zero by 30. The day's theme sets the goal of reaching zero human deaths from canine rabies by the year 2030.

28 September: International Day for Universal Access to Information

30 September: International Translation Day: The International Translation Day was observed for the first time on 30 September 2017. The day honours St Jerome, the Bible translator who is considered as the patron saint of translators.



RBI Updates



RBI notifies P2P lending platforms as NBFCs

The RBI, on 20 September 2017, notified that peer-to-peer (P2P) lending platforms would be treated as non-banking financial companies (NBFCs), an agency reported. This suggests the lending interface will now come under the purview of RBI's regulation under the RBI Act.

- What is P2P lending? P2P lending is a form of crowd-funding used to raise loans which are paid back with interest. It can be defined as the use of an online platform that matches lenders with borrowers in order to provide unsecured loans.

WHAT TO EXPECT FROM RBI REGULATIONS

In its consultation paper released in April 2016, some of the RBI suggested regulatory framework for P2P lenders were:

- P2P platforms should be set up as a company
- Minimum capital of Rs2 crore may be required
- Funds should move directly from lender's bank account to borrower's bank account to remove threat of money laundering
- Leverage ratio may be prescribed
- Need a business continuity plan
- P2P firms will be responsible for maintaining confidentiality of customer data
- Prohibit P2P firms from guaranteeing extraordinary or assured returns
- They will have to set up proper grievance redressal mechanisms
- Make adequate disclosures to RBI
- Their loan recovery practices may be aligned with existing NBFCs

- The borrower can either be an individual or a legal person requiring a loan.
- The interest rate may be set by the platform or mutual agreement between the borrower and the lender.
- Fees are paid to the platform by both the lender as well as the borrower. Borrowers pay an origination fee -- either a flat rate fee or as a percentage of the loan amount raised -- according to their risk category.
- With recognition as NBFCs, these companies can get credit records from the credit bureaus. For lenders, this means they too can take more informed lending decisions.
- Similarly, borrowers' information from these platforms will get shared with the credit bureaus. This means, a P2P borrower too has an opportunity to build her credit history.

RBI nod for banks to invest in PE, venture debt funds

In amendments to the Master Direction- Reserve Bank of India (Financial Services provided by banks) Directions, 2016, issued on 25 September 2017, the RBI allowed banks to invest in the capital of Category II Alternative Investment Funds, which includes private equity and venture debt funds. It had earlier allowed banks to invest in the paid-up or unit capital of Category I AIFs, which include venture capital funds and social venture funds. RBI has amended an earlier order issued in May 2016, permitting this investment and has maintained the cap at 10 per cent of the capital of VC, PE and venture debt funds. It has, however, continued with the bar on banks investing in Category III AIFs, which include hedge funds.

National



Government gives LoI to 7 companies for 14 monuments under Adopt a Heritage Scheme

The Union Ministry of Tourism, in October 2017, gave Letters of Intent (LoI) to seven shortlisted companies for adopting 14 monuments under Adopt a Heritage Scheme at the closing ceremony of 'Paryatan Parv' held in New Delhi. The shortlisted companies will be future 'Monument Mitras' who would associate pride with their Corporate Social Responsibilities (CSR) activities.

The 14 adopted monuments include

Jantar Mantar, Purana Quila, Safdarjung Tomb, Agrasen ki Baoli, and Qutub Minar (Delhi), Hampi (Karnataka), Ajanta Caves (Maharashtra), Sun Temple, Raja Rani Temple and Ratnagiri Monuments (Odisha), Leh Palace and Mt. Stok Kangri (Jammu & Kashmir), Mattancherry Palace Museum (Kerala), Gangotri Temple Area and Trail (Uttarakhand).

India's first STP under Hybrid Annuity Mode to come up in Haridwar and Varanasi

India's first Sewage Treatment Plant (STP) under Hybrid Annuity Mode will come up in Haridwar (Uttarakhand) and Varanasi (Uttar Pradesh). In this regard, a tripartite agreement was signed between National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) and state level executing agencies Uttar Pradesh Jal Nigam and Uttarakhand Pey Jal Nigam and with concessionaires in October 2017.



Union Cabinet approves change of status for marine body IALA

The Union Cabinet, in October 2017, approved status change of International Association of Marine Aids to Navigation and Lighthouse Authorities (IALA) from Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) to Inter-Governmental Organization (IGO). The move will bring IALA at par with International Maritime Organisation (IMO) and International Hydrographic Organisation (IHO). Moreover, it will facilitate safe, economic and efficient movement of vessels.

Paik Rebellion to be named 'First War of Independence'

Union Human Resource Development Minister Prakash Javadekar, in October 2017, announced that Paika rebellion (Paika Bidroha) of 1817 will be named as First War of Independence against British Rule in history books from next academic session. Earlier, 1857 Sepoy Mutiny was regarded as the First War of Indian Independence, but Paika Bidroha predates it.

NMCG approves eight projects under Namami Gange Programme

The Executive Committee of National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG), in October 2017, approved eight projects worth Rs. 700 crore under Namami Gange Programme. The four 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. NMCG is implementation wing of National Council for Rejuvenation, Protection and Management of River Ganga (also referred as National Ganga Council). It was established in 2011.

Government launches Start-up Sangam Initiative for oil sector

The Union Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas has launched Start-up Sangam initiative to develop new business models, marketing plans, technology and innovations in heavy oil and gas industry sector by supporting 30 start-ups. The corpus was created by contributions from India Oil Corporation (IOL), ONGC, Engineers India, Oil India, Numaligarh Refinery, Bharat Petroleum Corporation (BPCL), Hindustan Petroleum Corporation (HP), GAIL, Balmer Lawrie and Mangalore Refinery and Petrochemicals.



TRAI recommends 40% reduction in carbon emission by 2022-23

The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI), in October 2017, recommended 40% reduction in carbon emissions in telecom networks by 2022-23 considering 2011-12 as the base year in order to make telecom sector greener. The target for reduction in carbon emission will be set as 30% by year 2019-20 taking base year as 2011-12 and 40% by year 2022-23. The targets will be reviewed in year 2022-23. TRAI has set target of 5% by year 2012-2013, 8% by 2014-2015, 12% by 2016-2017 and 17% by 2018-2019 for carbon emission reduction.

Foundation stone for national waterway on Krishna River laid

Vice president Venkaiah Naidu on 3 October 2017 laid the foundation stone for the first phase of the 2,890-km National Waterway-4 (NW-4) at Amravati in Andhra Pradesh. The first phase involves development of a water channel from Muktyala to Vijayawada on Krishna river along with four floating terminals and three fixed terminals to handle cargo operations. The inland waterway was declared National Waterway-4 in November 2008 with a total length of 1,078 km. Under the National Waterway Act, 2016, this was increased to 2,890 km.

First Meeting of EAC-PM held in New Delhi

The first-ever meeting of newly-constituted Economic Advisory Council to Prime Minister (EAC-PM) was held at NITI Aayog, in New Delhi in October 2017. It was chaired by Dr. Bibek Debroy, Member NITI Aayog. The EAC-PM



identified ten themes around which Council Report will be structured in the coming months. The ten themes identified are Economic Growth, Employment and job creation, fiscal framework, informal sector and integration, public expenditure, monetary policy, institutions of Economic Governance, Patterns of Consumption & Production, Agriculture & Animal Husbandry and Social Sector.

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi constituted five-member EAC-PM in September 2017 as an independent body to provide advice on economic issues to the government.

Government launches Pradhan Mantri Gramin Digital Saksharta Abhiyan in Gujarat

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, in October 2017, launched Pradhan Mantri Gramin Digital Saksharta Abhiyan (PMGDISHA) at Gandhinagar in Gujarat. PMGDISHA is expected to make 6 crore rural households digitally literate by March 2019, making it one of the largest digital literacy programmes in the world.

PMGDISHA for New India - Building a Digitally Literate Rural India

1. The scheme was initiated by the Govt. in February 2017
2. Aims to make 6 crore people digitally literate within a period of 2 years
3. Envisages making at least one person digitally literate in every household in rural India
4. Priority would be given to digitally illiterate school students from class 9 to 12
5. Training to be provided through identified training centres mainly CSCs
6. Empower citizens with access to information, knowledge skills for operating digital devices

India to host UN wildlife summit CMS COP13 in 2020

The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), in October 2017, announced that India will host next Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS) Conference of Parties 13 (CMS COP13) in year 2020. CMS COP is also known as a Global Wildlife Conference. The announcement was made during 12th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties 12 (COP12) to CMS held in Manila, Philippines.

India tops list of new TB cases in 2016

According to a Global TB Report 2017, released by the World Health Organisation (WHO) on 30 October 2017, India tops the list of seven nations, accounting for 64 per cent of the 10.4 million new tuberculosis (TB) cases worldwide in 2016. India is followed by Indonesia, China, Philippines, Pakistan, Nigeria and South Africa. The report added that TB remains the top infectious killer in 2016. TB is also the main cause of deaths related to antimicrobial resistance and the leading killer of people with HIV.

Government launches Paryatan Parv to boost tourism

The Union Ministry of Tourism in collaboration with Other Union Ministries and State Governments has launched nationwide 'Paryatan Parv' to showcase cultural diversity of country and reinforce the principle of 'Tourism for All'. Its objective is to draw focus on the benefits of tourism. It was inaugurated at Humayun's Tomb and will be held across the country from the 5th to 25th October 2017. During this period, 'Adopt A Heritage' project launched by Ministry of Tourism will be implemented at key sites.



Bihar cabinet approves reservation for 'Divyangs' in government jobs

The Bihar cabinet, in October 2017, approved reservations for persons with disabilities in government jobs and educational institutions in accordance with the Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016.

India International Science Festival 2017 held in Chennai

The third edition of India International Science Festival (IISF) 2017 was held in Chennai in October 2017. It was organised jointly by the Union Ministry of Science and Technology, Union Ministry of Earth Sciences and Vijnana Bharati (VIBHA).

WCD Ministry launches 'women for women': #IamThatWoman campaign

The Ministry of Women and Child Development (WCD), on 17 October 2017, launched an online campaign on 'women for women': #IamThatWoman in an attempt to end gender bias in women against women. The WCD Ministry aims to highlight through the campaign, the various aspects of women standing by and for other women. In order to make this campaign a nation-wide one, social media users such as those with twitter and Facebook accounts have been encouraged to tag and share stories of women helping women with a photograph and post online with the hashtag #IamThatWoman.

Vrindavan, Barsana declared as sacred sites

The Uttar Pradesh government on 27 October 2017 issued an order notifying Vrindavan and Barsana towns in Mathura district as 'sacred pilgrimage sites' ('pavitra teerth sthals'). With this, Vrindavan and Barsana became the first two places to be notified as teerth sthal in government records. No meat and liquor shops will be allowed in these towns anymore. The Uttar Pradesh government recently merged Vrindavan, a former nagar palika parishad, with the Mathura municipal board to create Mathura Nagar Nigam. While, Barsana is a Nagar Panchayat.

Fighter and transport aircraft of the Indian air force land on Yamuna Expressway

Agra Lucknow Expressway, the longest expressway in India, was in the news on 24 October 2017 when Fighter and transport aircraft of the Indian Air Force (IAF) on 24 October 2017 performed breathtaking landings and takeoffs on a



stretch of the Expressway in Unnao, showing that highways can be used as landing strips in case of any emergency. Over a dozen IAF planes, including Mirage-2000 and Sukhoi 30 fighters, besides a 35,000-kg C-130J Super Hercules transport aircraft, took part in the exercise near Bangarmau in the district. It was the first time a transport aircraft – a Super Hercules that can carry 200 commandos – landed on the expressway.

Haryana government announces lifetime pensions for 'Hindi Satyagrahis'

Haryana state government, on 31 October 2017, announced lifetime monthly pension of Rs 10,000 for 'Hindi Satyagrahis' and those from the state who were jailed during the Emergency. The state government also announced that it would be providing enhanced financial assistance to World War-II veterans and their widows.

PM Modi dedicates first ever All India Institute of Ayurveda to nation

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on 17 October 2017 dedicated the All India Institute of Ayurveda to the nation on the occasion of National Ayurveda Day. The Prime Minister also gave away the Yoga Award to the Ramamani Iyengar Memorial Yoga Institute, Pune, which was announced on the occasion of International Day of Yoga.

Gandhi's 150th Anniversary to be celebrated from 2 October 2019 to 2 October 2020

The Union Government on 12 October 2017 announced to observe the 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi from 2 October 2019 to 2 October 2020. To commemorate the same, the Union Government constituted a National Committee headed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

INDIA & THE WORLD

US President Trump celebrates Diwali at White House

US President Donald Trump, on 17 October 2017, celebrated his first Diwali at the White House during which he hailed the incredible contributions of the Indian-American community. Mr. Trump and his daughter Ivanka was joined by senior Indian-American members of his administration including Nikki Haley, his Ambassador to the United Nations and Seema Verma, Administrator, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services.

India and Russia hold INDRA 2017

The Joint Indo-Russia Tri-Services Exercise INDRA-2017 was successfully conducted from 19 to 29 October 2017 at Vladivostok, Russia. It was India's first joint tri-services exercise and also first between Russia and India. It was also first time Russia has hosted Tri-Services Exercise on its soil. The theme of INDRA-2017 Exercise was 'Preparation and Conduct of Operations by Joint Force for Suppression of International Terror Activity at the request of a host country under UN mandate'.

14th India-EU Summit

The 14th annual Summit between India and the European Union (EU) was held in New Delhi on 6 October 2017. Prime Minister Narendra Modi represented India at the summit, while the EU was represented by Donald Tusk, President of the European Council, and Jean Claude Juncker, President of the European Commission. The following agreements were signed during the summit:

- Implementing Arrangement between the European Commission and the Science and Engineering Research Board (SERB) for Indian Researchers hosted by the European Research Council grantees in Europe
- Finance Contract of Bangalore Metro Rail Project Phase-2-Line R6 for Euro 300 million out of total loan of Euro 500 million
- Joint Declaration between the Interim Secretariat of the International Solar Alliance and the European Investment Bank

India and Japan hold anti-submarine warfare exercise

The naval forces of India and Japan held an intensive air anti-submarine warfare exercise in the Indian Ocean in October 2017. The exercise saw participation from a P-8 I Long Range Maritime Reconnaissance Anti-Submarine Warfare aircraft of Indian Navy and two P-3 Orion Anti-Submarine Warfare aircraft of Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force (JMDSF). India and Japan, along with US had also focused on anti-submarine warfare in the trilateral exercise Malabar in July 2017.

Nepal, India to conduct first joint tiger count

As per an announcement made on 3 October 2017, for the first time, Nepal and India will undertake a joint tiger census next month in their national parks, forests and protected areas adjoining the two countries using a globally-recognised method. This is the first time that both the countries are counting tiger heads using the same method that is recognised globally. The Chitwan National Park in Chitwan and Parsa Wildlife Reserve of Nepal are adjacent to the Balmiki Tiger Reserve in Bihar. Likewise, Nepal's Bardiya National Park adjoins India's Katarniaghat Wildlife Sanctuary while the Shuklaphant National Park in Nepal adjoins India's Dudhwa Tiger Reserve.

Mitra Shakti 2017 between Indian and Sri Lanka is held in Pune

The 5th India-Sri Lanka joint training exercise "Mitra Shakti 2017" was held at Aundh Military Station in Pune, Maharashtra, in October 2017. The two weeks exercise was based on Counter Terrorist Operations (CTO). It aimed to exchange best of military practices of two countries and build strong military-to-military (M2M) relation between two armies.

Indian Air Force to participate in air exercise 'Blue Flag-17' in Israel

As per a recent announcement, the Indian Air Force (IAF) would be participating in a two-week-long multilateral air exercise- 'Blue Flag-17'- in Israel in November 2017. It would be conducted at the Uvda Air Force Base in Israel from 2 November to 16 November 2017. This is the first time that the Indian Air Force would be operating with its counterpart in Israel in a multilateral exercise.



India holds International Conference on Dialogue of Civilizations - IV

The Ministry of Culture, Government of India and Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) in partnership with NGS-National Geographic Society, in October 2017, hosted an international conference on "Dialogue of Civilizations - IV" at Delhi, Gandhinagar and Dholavira. This conference was 4th in this series of 'dialogues' initiated by NGS in 2013 with a purpose to promote scholarly and public dialogue about the five ancient, literate civilizations of the world, i.e. Egypt, China, Mesopotamia, South Asia and Mesoamerica and how the study of the past can share our present and future towards the right direction.

11th India-US Trade Policy Forum Meeting held in Washington D.C

The 11th India-United States Trade Policy Forum (TPF) Meeting was held in Washington D.C, capital city of US, in October 2017. It was chaired jointly by Union Minister for Commerce and Industry Suresh Prabhu and US Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer. Both sides held discussions on issues related to bilateral trade, areas of mutual cooperation, market access in agriculture, non-agricultural goods and services and Intellectual Property Rights (IPR).

India, Sri Lanka ink MoU for housing project deal in Hambantota

Sri Lanka, in October 2017, signed Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with India to build 1,200 houses in strategically located southern port city of Hambantota. Of the 1,200 houses to be built, 600 will be constructed in Southern Province, while remaining will be built across Sri Lanka, through one model village in each of country's 25 districts. Hambantota port is located right in middle of vital energy supply lines in Indian Ocean, connecting Middle East and East Asia.

APEDA to promote NE products in Bangladesh and Myanmar

The Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) has taken up a programme for promotion of north eastern products in Bangladesh and Myanmar. In this regard, it has proposed to organize promotional programmes in Bangladesh and Myanmar in association with the High Commission of India in Dhaka and its Embassy in Yangon. The export of APEDA scheduled products to Bangladesh during 2016-17 was of US \$396.44 million. The major products exported to Bangladesh include rice, fruits, wheat, vegetables, maize, dairy products and pulses.

India, Brazil, South Africa sign IBSA Trust Fund agreement

India, Brazil and South Africa (IBSA) have signed the IBSA Trust Fund Agreement that seeks to fight poverty in developing countries. It was signed at the 8th IBSA trilateral Ministerial Commission Meeting in Durban, South Africa. Each country will contribute US \$1 million annually to this fund which is managed by the UN Development Programme's (UNDP) Special Unit for South-South Cooperation.

India, Italy sign six pacts and to enhance counter-terror cooperation

India and Italy, in October 2017, signed six agreements to boost cooperation in the fields of railways safety, energy and promoting mutual investments, among others after detailed talks between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his Italian counterpart Paolo Gentiloni.

Cabinet approves MoC for the establishment of Liquid, Flexible and Global LNG Market

The Union Cabinet, in October 2017, approved signing of Memorandum of Cooperation (MoC) between India and Japan on establishing a liquid, flexible and global Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) Market. The MoC provides framework to cooperate in facilitating flexibility in LNG contracts, explore possibilities of cooperation in establishing reliable LNG spot price indices reflecting true LNG demand and supply and abolition of Destination Restriction Clause.

India gets first-ever U.S. crude shipment

India recently received first ever shipment of US crude oil of 1.6 million barrels, purchased by state-run Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) at Paradip Port in Odisha. It was imported on board of MT New Prosperity, a very large crude carrier (VLCC) that had left US Gulf Coast on August 19, 2017 and arrived at Paradip port. IOC will process crude at its refineries located at Paradip, Haldia (in West Bengal), Barauni (in Bihar) and Bongaigaon (in Assam). This was one of first shipments to India since United States stopped oil exports in 1975.

Union Cabinet approves MoU with Switzerland on technical cooperation in Rail sector

The Union Cabinet, in October 2017, approved MoU signed between Ministry of Railways, and Federal Department of Environment, Transport, Energy and Communications of Swiss Confederation on Technical Cooperation in Rail Sector. The MoU will enable technical cooperation in areas such as traction rolling stock, traction propulsion equipments, freight and passenger cars, EMU and train sets, railway electrification equipments, train scheduling and operation improvement, tilting trains, railway station modernization, multimodal transport and tunneling technology.

India, Ethiopia sign agreements on trade, communication

India and Ethiopia recently signed agreements on trade, communication and media to boost bilateral ties. The agreements were signed after wide ranging talks between President Ram Nath Kovind and his Ethiopian counterpart Mulatu Teshome at Addis Ababa in Ethiopia. The agreement was signed during President Ram Nath Kovind's second leg of his maiden visit abroad to Djibouti and Ethiopia

SUPREME COURT & JUDICIARY

Standing for National Anthem in movie theatres not a measure of patriotism: SC

The Supreme Court, on 23 October 2017, said that people do not need to stand up in cinema halls to prove their patriotism, asking the Centre to consider amending the rules



that regulate playing of the National Anthem before a movie. On 30 November 2016, the Supreme Court ordered that the National Anthem must be played in public theaters across the country before a movie, without any dramatization. It also ordered that the national flag be shown on screen when the anthem is being played.

SC refers case of ban on women's entry into Sabarimala temple to Constitution Bench

The Supreme Court on 13 October 2017 referred to a five-judge Constitution Bench the question whether the fundamental right of women to pray at the place of their choice can be discriminated against solely based "on a biological factor exclusive to the female gender." With this, a Constitution Bench of the Supreme Court will scrutinize the age-old practice in Kerala's famed Sabarimala temple of restricting entry for women aged between 10 and 50 – that is, those who are in the menstruating age. The court questioned how a temple managed by a statutory board – the Travancore Devaswom Board – and financed out of the Consolidated Fund of Kerala and Tamil Nadu "can indulge in practices violating constitutional principles/ morality." The temple authorities have justified the restriction, saying it is a practice founded in tradition.

Sex with minor wife is to be considered rape: SC

In a landmark verdict, the Supreme Court (SC) on 11 October 2017 ruled that sex with a wife who is under 18 years of age is rape and therefore a crime. The top court did not rule on 'marital rape', which is sexual intercourse forced upon a spouse no matter what their age. Before SC's ruling, there was an exception in Section 375 rape law provisions that protected a man who had sexual relations with his wife even if she was under 18, which is the age of consent. The apex court said that exception 2 in Section 375 of IPC (Indian Penal Code) granting protection to husband is violative of constitution and fundamental rights of minor bride.

SC pulls up West Bengal for plea against Aadhaar-benefits linking

The Supreme Court on 30 October 2017 pulled up the State of West Bengal for directly approaching the apex court against the Centre's move to make Aadhaar mandatory for availing the benefits of various social welfare schemes. The State had filed a writ petition under Article 32 of the Constitution. The specific Article can only be used by individuals to approach the Supreme Court against state actions which violate their fundamental rights. Article 32 cannot be agitated by a State against the Centre. The Centre had, on 25 October 2017, proposed to the Supreme Court its intention to extend the deadline for the mandatory linking of Aadhaar with PAN, bank accounts, mobile phones and several welfare schemes to March 31, 2018 from the current December 31, 2017.

SC refuses nod to Jaypee Group to hive off Yamuna Expressway

The Supreme Court, on 25 October 2017, refused permission to embattled Jaiprakash Associates Ltd to hive-off the rights of multi-crore six-lane Yamuna Expressway connecting Greater

Noida with Agra in Uttar Pradesh. The apex court, however, extended the time from October 27 to November 5 for the company to deposit Rs 2000 crore.

SC bans use of pet coke in NCR

The Supreme Court on 24 October 2017 directed the prohibition of industrial use of pet coke and furnace oil in NCR regions from November 1, 2017. The order follows the recommendation of the Supreme Court-appointed Environment Pollution Control Authority (EPCA) to ban the sale, distribution and use of furnace oil and pet coke in the NCR. Their use is already prohibited in Delhi.

SC allows Centre to withdraw half of its forces from Darjeeling, Kalimpong

The Supreme Court on 27 October 2017 told the Mamata government in West Bengal that "law and order is your problem" and allowed the Union government to withdraw seven of the 15 companies of the central police forces stationed in the restive Darjeeling and Kalimpong districts and deploy them in poll-bound States. Himachal Pradesh and Gujarat are scheduled to go to the polls in November and December 2017. The Centre had appealed to the Supreme Court against a recent Calcutta High Court order restraining it from withdrawing any troops deployed in the two districts.

SC adjourns hearing on J&K's special status by 3 months

The Supreme Court on 30 October 2017 adjourned the hearing of the plea challenging Article 35A of the Constitution which empowers the Jammu and Kashmir legislature to define its 'permanent residents' and bestow on them special rights and privileges. Article 35A, which was added to the Constitution by a Presidential Order in 1954, accords special rights and privileges to the citizens of Jammu and Kashmir and denies property rights to a woman who marries a person from outside the state. The article gives Jammu and Kashmir State Legislature a carte blanche to decide who all are the 'permanent residents' of the State and grant them special right and privileges in State public sector jobs, acquisition of property within the State, scholarships and other public aid and welfare programmes. The provision mandates that no act of the State legislature coming under the ambit of Article 35A can be challenged for violating the Indian Constitution or any other law of the land.

Need to balance national interest, human rights on Rohingya refugees: SC

The Supreme Court, in October 2017, asked Union Government to strike a balance between humanitarian concern for Rohingya community staying in India and country's economic and national security interests. The apex court unlined that both executive and judiciary cannot be totally oblivious to condition of women and children among Rohingya refugees and said that crisis has thrown up an extraordinary situation. With this, the status quo held by Government continues even though the court gave the community liberty to approach it in case of any contingency.

INTERNATIONAL

Burundi becomes first country to leave International Criminal Court

Burundi, on 27 October 2017, became the first country to withdraw from the International Criminal Court, a year after it had notified the United Nations secretary-general of its intention to leave the court that prosecutes the world's worst atrocities. Burundi is the only one of three African nations to go ahead with withdrawal after they made moves in 2016 to leave, amid accusations that the court focuses too much on the continent.



Catalonia chooses separation from Spain

The its regional parliament of Catalonia, on 27 October 2017, passed a motion to establish an independent Catalan Republic, voting to secede from Spain after an acrimonious debate that saw opposition lawmakers walk out in protest before the vote. The vote in Catalonia's capital city Barcelona came after Spanish Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy delivered an impassioned speech in Madrid, urging the country's Senate to grant his government special constitutional measures that would allow it to take control of Catalonia's autonomous powers and halt the region's independence bid.

Nepal tops Asia-Pacific list of nations elected to UNHRC

The United Nations General Assembly (UNGA), on 15 October 2017, elected 15 States to serve on the Human Rights Council (UNHRC) of which Nepal topped the countries representing the Asian Group in the 47-member council. Nepal topped the Asia-Pacific group with 165 votes followed by Qatar with 155 Pakistan with 151 and Afghanistan by 130. All got elected. The newly elected countries are Afghanistan, Angola, Australia, Chile, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Mexico, Nepal, Nigeria, Pakistan, Peru, Qatar, Senegal, Slovakia, Spain and Ukraine.

US withdraws from UNESCO accusing it for anti-Israel bias

The United States, in October 2017, announced its withdrawal from Paris-based United Nations Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO), UN's cultural agency accusing the body of anti-Israel bias. Besides US, Israel also decided to pull out of UNESCO. USA and UNESCO were at loggerheads since 2011 when UNESCO admitted Palestinian territories to the organization as an independent member-state called Palestine.

Saudi Arabia to allow women into sports stadiums from 2018

Saudi Arabia, in October 2017, announced to allow women into three sports stadiums for the first time from 2018, in a landmark move that would open up the previously male-only venues to families. The kingdom, which has some of the world's tightest restrictions on women, has long barred women from sports arenas by strict rules on segregation of the sexes in public.

Peru approves medicinal use of marijuana

The Peruvian Congress, in October 2017, approved a bill to authorize the medicinal and therapeutic use of cannabis (marijuana) in the country. It makes production, import and commercial sale of marijuana and its derivatives legal. With this Peru has become the sixth country in Latin America to legalise cannabis.

WHO releases guidelines to address overweight and obesity in children

With increasing evidence that childhood obesity is a "global epidemic", affecting even the poorer nations, the World Health Organization (WHO), on 4 October 2017, released new guidelines on how trained professionals can better identify youngsters in need of help. The WHO guidelines, titled "Assessing and managing children at primary healthcare facilities to prevent overweight and obesity in the context of the double burden of malnutrition", provides updates for the Integrated Management of Childhood Illness (IMCI). The guidelines include counselling, dieting and assessment of eating habits along with the usual weight and height measurements. India has the second highest number of obese children in the world after China.



2nd World Congress on Marxism to be held in Beijing

As per an announcement made in October 2017, the 2nd World Congress on Marxism is scheduled to be held in Peking University in Beijing in May 2018. The congress coincides with the 200th anniversary of Karl Marx's birth and 40th anniversary of China's reform and opening-up. The 2018 conference, with the theme of "Marxism and the current world and China", will have 17 sub-forums covering topics like Chinese solution and modernization approach by the developing countries.

14th SAARCLAW Conference held in Colombo

The 14th South Asian Association for Regional Co-operation in Law (SAARCLAW) Conference was held in Colombo, Sri Lanka, in October 2017 along with 11th SAARC Chief Justices Conference. The three-day conference was inaugurated by Sri Lankan Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe and saw participation from South Asia's top Judges, legal practitioners and academics.

Nicaragua signs Paris agreement

Nicaragua on 23 October 2017 signed the Paris Agreement on climate change, leaving the United States and Syria as the only two countries not to be giving the accord their support. Later, Syria, too, signed the deal in November 2017. Nicaragua has no oil and vigorously pursues green energy policies - more than 50% of its electricity is produced by geothermic, wind, solar, biomass and wave power. It is a country that is believed to be especially at risk from climate change.

Rohingya children refugees face 'hell on earth': UNICEF

UNICEF, in October 2017, said that the children who make up most of the nearly 6,00,000 Rohingya Muslims who have fled violence in Myanmar are seeing a "hell on earth"



in overcrowded, muddy and squalid refugee camps in neighbouring Bangladesh. The UN children's agency has issued a report that documents the plight of children who account for 58 per cent of the refugees who have poured into Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh, over the last eight weeks. The influx of Rohingya refugees from Myanmar began on 25 August 2017 following militant attacks on border guards. Refugees have fled burning villages and provided accounts, like the children's drawings, of security forces gunning down civilians.

World's oldest warship takes to sails again

USS Constitution is the name of the world's oldest warship that took its first sails in three years after refurbishment on 20 October 2017 from Charlestown Navy Yard in Boston to Fort Independence on Castle Island. It marked the celebration of the U.S. Navy's 242nd birthday and the 220th anniversary of the iconic vessel's maiden voyage. It fired a 21-gun salute in the waters off the fort and then passed the U.S. Coast Guard station - the former site of the shipyard where the Constitution was built and launched in 1797. The ship earned its nickname "Old Ironsides" during the War of 1812 with Britain.

China plans to build gigantic DNA database platform

China, in October 2017, announced plans to build a \$1 billion super-sized DNA sequencing platform in the Jiangsu Province aimed at storing genetic information of millions of its ethnic Chinese population. The DNA project is part of the National Health & Medicine Big Data (Nanjing) Center, a 6 billion yuan (about \$ one billion) project. The DNA sequencing project will be jointly undertaken by the state-owned Yangzi Group, Southeast University and Nanjing Medical University. Researchers will then use big data created in the database to study genetic mutations related to major diseases, look for the impact of interaction between genes and environmental concerns on human health, and provide statistical support for diagnosis and treatment of major diseases

Japan launches fourth Michibiki satellite for hi-tech GPS

The Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA), in October 2017, successfully launched Michibiki-4 satellite (QZSS-4) onboard of H-IIA rocket from Tanegashima Space Centre. It was fourth satellite in Michibiki series i.e. Quasi-Zenith Satellite System (QZSS), which is a satellite-based high-precision global positioning system similar to US operated GPS. Moreover, it was 36th H-IIA vehicle to be launched so far and fifth launch of an H-IIA rocket in 2017.

Astronomers discover Kronos, Sun like planet-eater

Astronomers have discovered that a Sun-like star lurking around 350 light-years away consumed the rocky equivalent of 15 Earths. Dubbed Kronos after the child-eating Titan of Greek mythology, the star is the clearest and most dramatic case yet of a Sun-like star consuming its own planets.

India's Space mission to Moon 'Chandrayaan-II' in 2018

Dr Jitendra Singh, the Union Minister of State (IC) for Atomic Energy and Space announced on 23 October 2017 that India's second space mission to moon, 'Chandrayaan-II', will take place in 2018, most likely in the first quarter of the year. The Minister announced this while addressing the inaugural session of the 38th Asian Conference on Remote Sensing at New Delhi. India's first mission to Moon, Chandrayaan-1, was launched successfully on 22 October 2008 from Satish Dhawan Space Centre or Sriharikota High Altitude Range, a rocket launch centre in Sriharikota, Andhra Pradesh.



SCIENCE / TECHNOLOGY / ENVIRONMENT

SPACE

NASA extends Dawn Mission at dwarf planet Ceres

The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), in October 2017, approved second extension of Dawn mission at Ceres dwarf planet which is the largest object in the asteroid belt between Mars and Jupiter. During this extension, Dawn spacecraft will descend to lower altitudes than ever before at dwarf planet, which it has been orbiting since March 2015. It will continue remainder of its science investigation of Ceres and will remain in a stable orbit indefinitely after its hydrazine fuel runs out. The priority of second extension mission is to collect data with Dawn's gamma ray and neutron spectrometer, which measures number and energy of gamma rays and neutrons.



World's largest combustion research centre inaugurated at IIT Madras

National Centre for Combustion Research and Development (NCCRD) was, in October 2017, inaugurated at Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Madras in Tamil Nadu. It is world's largest combustion research centre and one of best diagnostic centres in the country to understand combustion. NCCRD is supported by state-run Science and Engineering Research Board (SERB) of Department of Science and Technology (DST), Ministry of Science and Technology.

ENERGY

ENVIRONMENT

World's first negative emissions carbon-capture plant begins operations in Iceland

The world's first negative emissions plant under the CarbFix Project to turn atmospheric carbon dioxide (CO2) into stone began operations in Hellisheidi, Iceland, in October 2017. It is intended to lock away carbon dioxide by reacting it with basaltic rocks. Under the CarbFix project, the CO2 is captured from ambient air, bound to water, and sent to more than 700 meters underground. There, the CO2 reacts with the basaltic bedrock using enhanced weathering process and forms solid minerals, creating a permanent storage solution.



Scientists develop new tool to improve monsoon forecast

Scientists from Florida State University in the US, in October 2017, announced to have developed new tool for objectively defining onset and demise of Indian Summer Monsoon (ISM). The new method uses rainfall rates to mark span of ISM at any given location throughout affected region. The new model takes into consideration specific locations by covering whole country, and objectively defines onset and demise dates for any given year.

HEALTH

Scientists link new virus to kala-azar

Scientists have found that parasite called *Leptomonas seymouri* hosting virus called Lepsey NLV1 may be also responsible for spread of kala-azar (visceral leishmaniasis). Earlier it was believed that parasite *Leishmania donovani* (sandfly) alone is responsible for spread of the dreaded infection. Kala-azar or visceral leishmaniasis (VL), also known as black fever and Dum Dum fever is most severe form of leishmaniasis. Kala-azar is endemic to the Indian subcontinent in 119 districts in four countries (Bangladesh, Bhutan, India and Nepal). India itself accounts for half the global burden of the disease.

Indian Scientist develop rapid test to diagnose Zika and dengue

Researchers including from India have developed low-cost, rapid diagnostic test consisting of pan-dengue strip for diagnosing Zika and dengue viruses and differentiating four serotypes of dengue virus. Zika and dengue both belong to same viral family, which are called flaviviruses. They are two closely related viruses spread by the same mosquito. The test resembles pregnancy test strip and contains antibodies that react to presence of Zika or dengue virus, and also contains gold nanoparticles that respond to antibody reaction.

Scientists develop RNA editing tool to combat genetic disease

Scientists from The Broad Institute and Massachusetts Institute of Technology in US have developed RNA Editing for Programmable A to I Replacement (REPAIR), a new gene editing tool therapies that can reverse disease-causing mutations in humans. REPAIR gene editing tool can tweak an individual RNA 'letters' in human cells without making changes to entire genome and can have profound potential as a tool for both research and disease treatment. REPAIR is based on gene editing tool CRISPR (Clustered Regularly Interspaced Short Palindromic Repeats) that can be used to modify DNA in cells.

US approves first test to screen Zika virus in donated blood

United States Food and Drug Administration (FDA), in October 2017, approved 'Cbas Zika test' for detecting Zika virus in donated blood. It is first of kind test approved by FDA for detecting Zika virus in donated blood. The cobas Zika test is manufactured by Roche Molecular Systems Inc. It is intended for use by blood collection establishments to detect Zika virus in blood donations and not for individual diagnosis of Zika virus infection.

DEFENCE

OPV Vikram handed to Coast Guard

OPV Vikram, the first-ever defence vessel to be entirely built in a private shipyard, was handed over by Larsen and Toubro (L&T) to the Indian Coast Guard in October 2017, ahead of the March 2018 delivery schedule. The vessel has been indigenously developed in-house at L&T's Kattupalli shipyard. Its entire design and construction processes have undergone dual certification from American Bureau of Shipping and Indian Registrar of Shipping.

Indigenously-built anti-submarine warship, INS Kiltan, commissioned

Defence Minister Nirmala Sitharaman commissioned INS Kiltan, an indigenously-built anti-submarine warfare, at the Naval Dockyard in Visakhapatnam on 16 October 2017. It is a stealth corvette that portrays growing capability of the Indian Navy. It is an addition to indigenous warships after Shivalik Class, Kolkata Class and sister ships INS Kamorta and INS Kadmat. It is the third of the four Kamorta-class corvettes being built under Project 28. It is designed by the Indian Navy's in-house organisation, Directorate of Naval Design and built by Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers in Kolkata. It is India's first major warship to have a superstructure of carbon fibre composite material.

Russian scientists develop futuristic military watch that can survive nuclear blast

Research experts of the Central Scientific - Research Institute for Precision Machine Engineering (TsNIITochMash) - a part of the Rostec State Corporation in Russia recently announced to have developed a new military watch for the Russian army kit, which is capable of resisting high impact and can even survive a nuclear explosion. It has been included in the new combat system for land forces, airborne forces, coastal troops of the Russian Navy, special operations units.

TECHNOLOGY

World's first hydrogen tram begins operation in China

The world's first hybrid electric tram powered by hydrogen fuel cells started running in China in October 2017, marking a big step in the application of green energy in public transport. Researched and manufactured by Chinese, it is the world's first hybrid electric tram, with hydrogen being the main power source. The tram was put into commercial operation for the first time in Tangshan, north China's Hebei Province. With water being its only emission, the tram emits no pollutants. No nitrogen oxides will be produced as the temperature of the reaction inside hydrogen fuel cells is controlled under 100 degrees Celsius.

World's fastest, shortest laser pulse created

Scientists from ETH Zurich in Switzerland, in October 2017, announced to have successfully created the world's shortest X-ray laser pulse with duration of just 43 attoseconds (1×10^{-18} of a second). This laser pulse is the shortest controlled event that has ever been created by humans. Using this laser pulse, researchers can now observe in high detail how electrons movement within molecule and fully understand dynamics during chemical reaction. Laser is an acronym for Light Amplification by Stimulated Emission of Radiation.



Kilogram will get new measure set by value of Planck constant from 2019

The International Conference of heads of Metrology Institutes held in Sevres, France has decided that the measure of kilogram will no longer be pegged to cylinder. From 2019 onwards, it will be set by value of Planck constant in combination with definitions of meter and second. Till now, the kilogram is the only one among units of measures pegged to real object. It was pegged to a cylinder (shown in fig) made up of 90% platinum and 10% iridium (In India, salt-shaker-sized cylinder weighing exactly a kilogram in National Physical Laboratory was used as ideal measure of kilogram since 1957).

CSIR-NIIST scientists develop organic near-infrared filter

Scientists from Thiruvananthapuram based CSIR-National Institute for Interdisciplinary Science and Technology (CSIR-NIIST) have developed organic filter that allows only near-infrared (NIR) light to pass through it. The filter was found to absorb light from 300-850 nm (both ultraviolet, visible and part of NIR light) and transmit NIR light from 850-1500 nm. The filter can be used for night vision glasses, night photography.

PERSONALITIES

NEWSMAKERS

Jagmeet Singh becomes first non-white politician to lead major party in Canada

Thirty-eight-year-old lawyer Jagmeet Singh, on 1 October 2017, made history by becoming the first person belonging to a visible minority group, and obviously the first of Indian and Sikh heritage, to be elected leader of New Democratic Party, one of Canada's three largest national political parties. He will now captain the NDP in the next federal election to be held in October 2019. Singhis a member of the Ontario provincial parliament, representing Bramalea-Gore-Malton.



Oxford college drops Aung San Suu Kyi from common room's name

Students of St Hugh's College at the prestigious Oxford University college where Myanmar's de-facto leader Aung San Suu Kyi studied, on 19 October 2017, voted to remove her name from the title of their Junior Common Room for her inability to condemn severe human rights abuses against Rohingyas in Myanmar. Suu Kyi had graduated from St. Hugh's in 1967 and was granted an honorary doctorate from the university in 2012.

Nisha Desai Biswal appointed as President of USIBC

Nisha Desai Biswal was on 10 October 2017 appointed as the President of the US-India Business Council (USIBC). Biswal served as Assistant Secretary for South and Central Asian Affairs in the US Department of State from 2013 to 2017, where she oversaw the US-India strategic partnership including the

launching of US-India Strategic and Commercial Dialogue. She previously served as Assistant Administrator for Asia at the US Agency for International Development (USAID).

APPOINTMENT/ELECTION

Jacinda Ardern sworn in as PM of New Zealand

Jacinda Ardern was sworn in as the New Prime Minister of New Zealand on 26 October 2017, becoming the youngest New Zealand female leader in 150 years. Dame Jenny Shipley was the first woman Prime Minister followed by Helen Clark.



Senior IPS Officer YC Modi takes charge as new NIA Chief

Yogesh Chander Modi, a 1984-batch Assam-Meghalaya cadre IPS officer, on 30 October 2017, took over the reins of the country's premier anti-terror organisation – the National Investigation Agency (NIA) – as its new Director-General.



Modi government picks ex-intel chief Dineshwar Sharma to lead Kashmir talks

The Union Government on 23 October 2017 appointed Dineshwar Sharma, former Director of Intelligence Bureau, as a representative of the government to initiate and carry forward a dialogue with the elected representatives, various organizations and concerned individuals in the state of Jammu and Kashmir. Sharma is a Retired IPS officer from 1979 Batch of Kerala Cadre.

Rakesh Asthana promoted as Special Director of CBI

In a major bureaucratic reshuffle, the government on 22 October 2017 promoted senior IPS officers Rakesh Asthana and Gurbachan Singh as Special Directors of Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) and Intelligence Bureau (IB) respectively. Deepak Kumar Mishra and Sudeep Lakhtakia have been promoted as Special DG in the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF).

Anupam Kher takes charge as FTII Chairman

Anupam Kher on 11 October 2017 took charge as the Chief of Film and Television Institute of India (FTII), Pune. Kher succeeds Gajendra Chauhan, whose appointment as FTII Chairman triggered massive student protests. Chauhan's term ended in March 2017.



Soumya Swaminathan appointed as DDP of ICMR

Dr Soumya Swaminathan, director general of the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), was appointed the deputy director general for programmes (DDP) of World Health Organisation (WHO) in October 2017. Dr Swaminathan, a pediatrician by speciality, has more than 30 years of experience in clinical care, research and translating those findings into programs. From 2009 to 2011, she served as coordinator of UNICEF, UN Development Programme (UNDP), World Bank and WHO Special Programme for Research and Training in Tropical Diseases (TDR) in Geneva.



Audrey Azoulay elected as DG of UNESCO

Audrey Azoulay was on 14 October 2017 elected as the Director General of United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO). Her election will now be put forward for approval to UNESCO's 195 members on 10 November 2017. Azoulay will become the second French leader of the UNESCO after Rene Maheu, who was UNESCO's Director General from 1961-74.

G. Rohini to head commission on OBCs

Retired justice G Rohini was, in October 2017, announced to head the 5-member commission to examine the politically-sensitive issue of sub-categorization of Other Backward Castes (OBCs) and give in its report within 3-months. President Ram Nath Kovind appointed the commission under Justice G Rohini, who has the distinction of being first woman Chief Justice of Delhi high court and had retired earlier in 2017.

RESIGNATION/REMOVAL

Robert Mugabe's appointment as WHO Goodwill Ambassador is cancelled

The World Health Organisation (WHO) on 22 October 2017 cancelled the appointment of Zimbabwe President Robert Mugabe's appointment as its Goodwill Ambassador for Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs) in Africa. Mugabe's removal as Goodwill Ambassador came following outrage among Western donors and rights groups at his appointment. He is blamed in the West for destroying Zimbabwe's economy and for numerous human rights abuses during his 37 years tenure of leading the country as either President or Prime Minister.

Ranjit Kumar resigns as Solicitor General of India

Ranjit Kumar on 20 October 2017 resigned as the Solicitor-General of India, the second highest ranking law officer of the Union Government. Kumar had earlier served as a counsel for the Gujarat government and represented the Gujarat government in Sohrabuddin Sheikh fake encounter case. As Solicitor General, he had appeared for the Union Government in the Cauvery river water sharing litigation in which he argued that the government should take the final decision on the water-sharing scheme.

DEATH

Girija Devi

Indian classical singer Girija Devi, who was the recipient of India's second highest civilian honour-Padma Vibhushan, passed away on 24 October 2017 in Kolkata after suffering from a cardiac arrest. She was 88. She was an Indian classical singer of the Seniya and Banaras gharanas. She performed classical and light classical music and helped elevate the profile of thumri. Devi sang in the Banaras gharana and performed the purabi ang thumri style typical of the tradition. She is considered as Queen of Thumri.



She was 88. She was an Indian classical singer of the Seniya and Banaras gharanas. She performed classical and light classical music and helped elevate the profile of thumri. Devi sang in the Banaras gharana and performed the purabi ang thumri style typical of the tradition. She is considered as Queen of Thumri.

AWARDS / HONOURS / DISTINCTIONS

Ajay Raju honored with 3rd American Bazaar Philanthropy award

Noted Indian-American attorney Ajay Raju was, in October 2017, honoured with the third American Bazaar Philanthropy award in recognition of his philanthropic activities in the United States. He was honoured for his commitment to revive Philadelphia through the Germination Project, a signature initiative that recruits talented teenagers and prepares them to be tomorrow's leaders.



Gauri Lankesh gets Anna Politkovskaya Award posthumously

Journalist-activist Gauri Lankesh, who was shot dead by unknown assailants on 5 September 2017 was posthumously accorded with the prestigious Anna Politkovskaya Award, instituted by Reach All Women (RAW) in War in October 2017. Lankesh shares the award with a brave Pakistani activist Gulalai Ismail, who similarly is fighting against Islamic extremism.

George Saunders wins 2017 Man Booker Prize

US author George Saunders on 17 October 2017 won Britain's renowned 2017 Man Booker Prize for fiction for his first full-length novel 'Lincoln in the Bardo'. With this, Saunders became second American writer to win the award.

Girish Karnad to be honoured with Tata Literature Lifetime Achievement Award 2017

Veteran actor and playwright Girish Karnad was, in October 2017, announced to be honoured by Tata Literature Live! Lifetime Achievement Award 2017 at the literature festivals annual awards ceremony which will be held at the National Centre for the Performing Arts (NCPA) in Mumbai in November 2017.

ICMR awards for UoH researcher

Nooruddin Khan of the University of Hyderabad, in October 2017, bagged two ICMR Awards – Shakuntala Amir Chand Prize and Chaturvedi Kalawati Jagmohan Das Memorial for his contributions in biomedical research.

Indian peacekeepers in Sudan awarded with UN medal

Fifty Indian peacekeepers stationed in South Sudan were on 17 October 2017 awarded with the UN Medal for their professionalism and service in protecting civilians and building durable peace in the conflict-ridden country. These Indian peacekeepers are part of the UN Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS).

ISKCON's Govardhan Eco Village gets green platinum award

The Govardhan Eco Village, set up by the International Society for Krishna Consciousness (ISKCON) in Palghar district, has won the 'green platinum award'. The Govardhan Eco Village is a self-sustained farm community that has

made steady progress in organic farming, cow protection, rural education, rural development, alternative energy, eco-friendly constructions and sustainable living.

Jaipur and Srinagar Airport ranked first and second in ACI-ASQ Survey

Jaipur and Srinagar Airport were, on 17 October 2017, ranked first and second respectively in ACI (Airports Council International)-ASQ (Airport Service Quality) Survey in the category of 2-5 million passengers. It was for second consecutive time Jaipur Airport was rated Best Airport in the World in the 2 to 5 million passengers per year traffic volume.

Javed Akhtar receives Hridaynath Mangeshkar Award

Veteran writer-lyricist Javed Akhtar was, on 26 October 2017, honoured with the Hridaynath Mangeshkar Award in Mumbai.

Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas awarded with Swachh Bharat Inter-Ministerial Award

Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas (MoPNG) was, on 2 October 2017, awarded with Swachh Bharat Inter-Ministerial Award by Minister of State, Ministry of Drinking Water & Sanitation Shri S.S. Ahluwalia.

Rajesh Nath gets Germany's highest civilian honour

Rajesh Nath, Managing Director of VDMA India, was in October 2017 conferred the 'Cross of the Order of Merit', the highest civilian honour awarded to individuals for their services to Germany.

T M Krishna wins Indira Gandhi National Integration award

Carnatic vocalist T M Krishna has won the Indira Gandhi Award for National Integration for 2015 -16. The singer, who won the Ramon Magsaysay award for bringing "social inclusiveness in culture" in 2016, was presented with the honour by Congress president Sonia Gandhi on 31 October 2017, Indira Gandhi's death anniversary.

SPORTS

WOMEN HOCKEY ASIA CUP 2017

Indian women hockey players, on 5 November 2017, won their biggest title in recent years as they completed a historic win over China in the women's Hockey Asia Cup. This was India's second Asia Cup title win after they had beaten Japan in 2004 in New Delhi. Playing the final for the first time since 2009, India managed to hold off China 5-4 in shootout in the final in Kakamighara, Japan. India had defeated defending champions Japan 4-2 in the semi-final to make the final. The team had also beaten China 4-1 in the group stages. During the Asian Champions Trophy in 2016, India had lost to China 2-3 in the pool stage but came back strongly in the final to beat them 2-1 in a crunch game. India won all their matches in the group stages in the women's Hockey Asia Cup as they beat Malaysia, Singapore and China. They remained unbeaten in the tournament. With the Asia Cup win, India also qualified for the 2018 World Cup in England as Continental champion.

- The triumph of the women's team at the Asia Cup follows the Asia Cup victory of the men's side at Dhaka,

Bangladesh, in October 2017. India had to wait long for their second Women's Asia Cup title with the last one coming in 2004. The final day of play at the Women's Asia Cup 2017 also saw Korea beat Japan in a close 1-0 match to take bronze, while Malaysia finished fifth after defeating Thailand. The 2017 Women's Hockey Asia Cup was the ninth Hockey Asia Cup for women.

- The result: Final: India 1 (Navjot Kaur) bt China 1 (Tiantian Luo) in shootout.
- Third place: Korea 1 (Hyejeong Shin) bt Japan 0.

Rank	Team
1	India
2	China
3	South Korea
4	Japan
5	Malaysia
6	Thailand
7	Kazakhstan
8	Singapore

The Final

Navjot Kaur gave India the lead in the second quarter through a field goal in the 25th minute before Tiantian Luo equalized in the 47th minute. The match went to shootouts where India scored every goal while China missed one. The score was 1-1 after regular time and 5-4 in the shootout. In the penalty shootout Rani scored twice, while Monica, Lilima Minz and Navjot scored once each. It was skipper Rani Rampal who scored the winning goal while Savita Punia made a great save in sudden death. Savita was adjudged Goalkeeper-of-the-Tournament while Monica won the Woman-of-the-Match award. India's men's team had also emerged Asia Cup champions early in 2017.

World Cup 2018

The 2018 edition will be India's seventh appearance at the Women's Hockey World Cup. They took fourth place in the World Cup held in Mandelate, France in 1974, losing to West Germany in the bronze medal match. Since then they have finished seventh, ninth, 11th twice and 12th. Their performance at the Women's Asia Cup will give new Head Coach Harendra Singh high hopes of a strong performance in London. The Hockey Women's World Cup 2018 will be held at the Lee Valley Hockey and Tennis Centre at the Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park in London, England from July 21 to August 5, 2018.

Ashish Nehra bids adieu to all forms of cricket

Ashish Nehra on 11 October 2017 announced retirement from all forms of international and domestic cricket. He played his last match T20 International (T20I) against New Zealand on 1 November 2017 at the Feroz Shah Kotla Ground, Delhi. Left arm medium fast bowler Nehra will also retire from the Indian Premier League, which played a huge role at his international comeback in 2016.





Delhi Olympics to be held in December 2017

In a bid to promote the Olympics, the Delhi State Olympic Association has decided to organize Delhi Olympic Games in the national capital. The games will feature 35 disciplines, including hockey, boxing, wrestling, weightlifting, swimming, karate, wushu among others. The opening ceremony will take place on December 9 and the closing ceremony will be on December 18, both at the Talkatora Stadium.

England beats Spain to win maiden FIFA U-17 World Cup

England's under-17s came from behind to beat Spain 5-2 in the final of the FIFA U-17 World Cup in Kolkata on 28 October 2017. England had never gone beyond the quarterfinal stage in their earlier attempts, but they conquered the world and also avenged their loss to Spain in penalty shootouts in the European Championships in Croatia in May 2017.

FIFA suspends Pakistan Football Federation

FIFA, on 11 October 2017, banned the Pakistan Football Federation (PFF), barring the country's national and club teams from competing in international competition with immediate effect. Zurich-based FIFA cited "undue third-party interference" as the reason for its decision.

Kavita Devi becomes first Indian woman to sign for WWE

Kavita Devi, a former competitive powerlifter, in October 2017, became the first ever Indian woman to be signed by the World Wrestling Entertainment (WWE). She also has the distinction of being the first Indian woman to compete in a WWE ring, as she was a featured participant in the Mae Young Classic women's tournament.

India beat Malaysia to clinch 3rd Asia Cup hockey title

India, on 22 October 2017, ended their 10-year wait for continental triumph when they beat a gutsy Malaysia 2-1 in a nail-biting final to clinch their third Asia Cup hockey title in Dhaka, Bangladesh. India, who won the Asia Cup last time in 2007 in Chennai, scored from field efforts through Ramandeep Singh (3rd minute) and Lalit Upadhyay (29th) to dash Malaysian hopes. India had previously appeared in seven Asia Cup finals but had won on only two occasions in 2003 and 2007 consecutively.

Kidambi Srikanth clinches Denmark Open badminton title

India ace Kidmabi Srikanth clinched his third Superseries Premier title with a dominating straight-game victory over Korean veteran Lee Hyun II in a lop-sided final of the \$750,000 Denmark Open in Odense on 22 October 2017.



Kohli becomes fastest batsman to break 9000-run mark: Indian skipper Virat Kohli on 29 October 2017 became the sixth Indian and fastest to complete 9000 ODI runs during India's third and final one-day international against New Zealand in Kanpur. India beat New Zealand by six runs to take the series 2-1. While Rohit Sharma was named Man of the Match for his astounding knock of 147, winning Captain Virat Kohli was named Man of the Series. Kohli and Sharma together added 230 runs for the second wicket thus, becoming the first pair to achieve double century partnerships on four occasions.

Patna Pirates clinch Pro Kabaddi League title

Patna Pirates, on 28 October 2017, thumped Gujarat Fortunegiants 55-38 at the Jawaharlal Nehru Indoor Stadium in Chennai to clinch the Pro Kabaddi League (PKL) season 5 title. Patna have won the PKL title for third consecutive season now.

Rafael Nadal wins China Open

Rafael Nadal on 8 October 2017 beat Nick Kyrgios of Australia in straight sets of 6-2, 6-1 in the China Open final to win his sixth ATP title of 2017. In the women's event, France's Caroline Garcia also defeated world no.1 Simona Halep from Romania in straight sets of 6-4, 7-6 (3).

Ronaldo wins the Best FIFA Men's Player Award

Portuguese player Cristiano Ronaldo on 23 October 2017 won the Best FIFA Men's Player Award in London. For the fifth time in his career, Ronaldo has been named the best men's player in the world by FIFA. The other awards were as follows: -

- Best FIFA Men's Player: Cristiano Ronaldo (Real Madrid)
- Best FIFA Women's Player: Lieke Martens (Rosengård, Barcelona)
- Best FIFA Men's Coach: Zinedine Zidane (Real Madrid)
- Best FIFA Women's Coach: Sarina Wiegman (Netherlands)
- Best FIFA Goalkeeper: Gianluigi Buffon (Juventus)
- FIFA Fair Play Award: Francis Kone
- FIFA Puskás Award (best goal): Olivier Giroud (Arsenal)
- FIFA Fan Award: Celtic

Virat Kohli, Mithali Raj top ICC ODI rankings

Virat Kohli and Mithali Raj climbed to the No.1 spots in their respective ODI batting rankings in the latest ICC charts released on 29 October 2017. While Kohli reclaimed the top spot with a career-best 889 points, Mithali moved up one place to occupy the first position with 753 points. Kohli overtook South Africa's AB de Villiers in the rankings and that mirrored his achievement in the final ODI against New Zealand when the Indian captain surpassed de Villiers to become the fastest to 9000 ODI runs in 194 innings -- 11 lesser than the South African.



BOOKS & AUTHORS

An Ordinary Life: A Memoir: co-authored by Nawazuddin Siddiqui and Rituparna Chatterjee: The memoir narrates the story of Bollywood actor Nawazuddin's struggle, hope, relentless persistence, the desire to dream and his affairs. It made headlines for all the wrong reasons when it was released in October 2017. It was withdrawn from the stands within a week of its release.

Raising Trump: by Ivana Trump: Raising Trump is a new book from Donald Trump's first wife Ivana Trump who was married to the real estate magnate from 1977 to 1992.

What Happened: by Hillary Rodham Clinton

The Coalition Years: 1996-2012: by Pranab Mukherjee: Former President Pranab Mukherjee, in October 2017, released the third part of his memoir 'The Coalition Years:



1996-2012'; the other two books in the series being The Dramatic Decade: The Indira Gandhi Years and The Turbulent Years: 1980-1996.

Sleeping Beauties: by Stephen and Owen King

From 'gulab jamun' to 'jugaad': 70 Indian words added to Oxford English dictionary: From endearing words like 'Abba' and 'Anna' to Indian delicacies like 'gulab jamun' and 'vada' can now be found in the Oxford English Dictionary (OED). As per the latest list of inclusions, 70 new Indian words from Telugu, Urdu, Tamil, Hindi and Gujarati languages have been added to the dictionary. Several most-commonly used words in India like 'jugaad', 'dadagiri', 'achcha', 'bapu' and 'surya namaskar' are now part of the Oxford dictionary

Ruskin Bond autobiography wins literary award: Beloved children's author Ruskin Bond's autobiography, "Lone Fox Dancing: My Autobiography" was recently awarded the 2017 Atta Galatta-Bangalore Literature Festival Book Prize in the non-fiction category. The book, launched earlier in 2017, talks about the octogenarian writer's eventful life, often taking readers back in time to the genesis of some of his memorable works.

MISCELLANEOUS

Madras HC bans photographs of living persons on sign-boards and banners

The Madras High Court on 24 October 2017 banned the use of photographs or pictures of living persons on banners, flex boards and sign-boards across the state of Tamil Nadu. The ban would imply no more hoardings carrying publicity material of political parties or actors with images of living personalities in public spaces. This applies to random flex boards erected by individuals as well.

Meghalaya Election department enters Limca Book of Records

The Meghalaya Election Department, in October 2017, 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 in the age categories of 18 to 21 years held in July 2017 at the Jawaharlal Nehru Sports Complex in Shillong.

Indian Air Force launches health mobile app 'MedWatch'

The Indian Air Force (IAF) on 11 October 2017 launched an innovative health mobile App named 'MedWatch' on the occasion of its 85th anniversary. The app has been developed in-house with zero financial outlay by the Directorate of Information Technology (DIT). It is the first health mobile app among the three-Armed Services- Indian Army, Indian Navy and IAF. It is available on the IAF's AFCEL network.

First ASEAN-India Music Festival held in New Delhi

The first ever ASEAN-India music festival was held at Purana Qila in New Delhi in October 2017. The three-day festival was organised by the Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India in collaboration with Culture Ministry to celebrate the 25th year anniversary of ASEAN-India Dialogue Relations. The theme for this commemorative year is 'Shared Values, Common Destiny'.

IMPORTANT DAYS

2 October: World Habitat Day: The World Habitat Day was celebrated across the world on 2 October 2017 with the theme 'Housing Policies: Affordable Homes'.

10 October: World Mental Health Day: The World Mental Health Day was observed by the World Health Organisation (WHO) ON 10 October 2017 with the theme 'Mental health in the workplace'.

11 October: International Day of the Girl Child: The International Day of the Girl Child was observed across the world on 11 October 2017 with the theme 'EmPOWER girls: Before, during and after crises'.

13 October: International Day for Disaster Reduction: The International Day for Disaster Reduction was observed across the world on 13 October 2017 with the theme 'Home Safe Home: Reducing Exposure, Reducing Displacement'.

15 October: International Day of Rural Women: The International Day of Rural Women was celebrated across the world on 15 October 2017 with the theme 'Challenges and opportunities in climate-resilient agriculture for gender equality and the empowerment of rural women and girls'.

16 October: World Food Day: World Food Day was observed globally on 16 October 2017 with the theme 'Change the future of migration. Invest in food security and rural development'.



17 October: International Day for the Eradication of Poverty: International Day for the Eradication of Poverty was observed on 17 October 2017 with the theme 'Answering the Call of October 17 to end poverty.'

21 October: Police Commemoration Day: Observed on October 21 every year, the Police Commemoration Day remembers the sacrifices of ten policemen who died in Chinese firing in 1959.

24 October: World Development Information Day

24 October: United Nations Day: UN Day marks the anniversary of the entry into force in 1945 of the UN Charter. With the ratification of this founding document by the majority of its signatories, including the five permanent members of the Security Council, the United Nations officially came into being. 24 October has been celebrated as United Nations Day since 1948.

27 October: Infantry Day: Infantry Day was observed across India on 27 October 2017 to commemorate the sacrifices made by the infantry who fought against Pakistan in Jammu and Kashmir in 1947.

27 October: World Day for Audiovisual Heritage: World Day for Audiovisual Heritage was observed across the world on 27 October 2017 with the theme 'Discover, remember and share'.

31 October: Rashtriya Ekta Diwas: Rashtriya Ekta Diwas (National Unity Day) is celebrated on 31 October every year as annual commemoration of the birthday of the Iron Man of India Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel.

31 October: World Cities Day: The World Cities Day was observed across the world on 31 October 2017 with the theme 'Innovative Governance, Open Cities'.