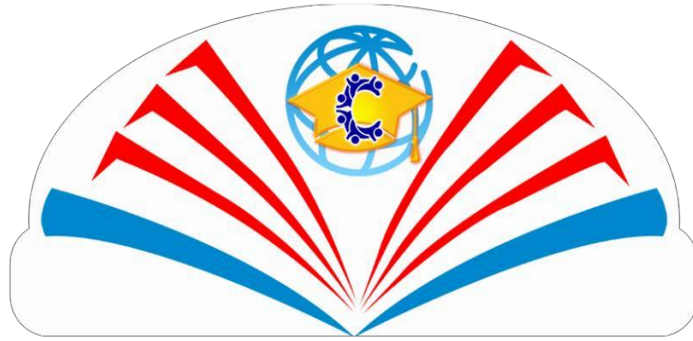


TNPSC CURRENT AFFAIRS - 2017



CHENNAI IAS ACADEMY

TNPSC CCSE - IV

6 MONTH CURRENT AFFAIRS

2017 - 2018

5, old by-Pass Road, National Theatre

(Near - opp - Benz Park) Vellore- 4

website : www.chennaiiasacademy.com

Facebook / [chennaiiasacademy](#) / Youtube

CHENNAI IAS ACADEMY 9043 211 311 / 411

JULY MONTH CURRENT AFFAIRS

New Appointments

1. India's 14th President replacing 'Pranab Mukherjee' -- **Ram Nath Kovind**.
Note: He was administered the oath of office by Chief Justice of India '**JS Khehar**' at a special function in the central hall of Parliament. Kovind was elected as the President on 20 July 2017 after he defeated the Opposition parties' nominee Meira Kumar.
2. The new Chief Election Commissioner of India – **Achal Kumar Jyoti**.
Note: Currently, Achal Kumar Jyoti is the Election Commissioner of India along with O P Rawat.
3. The Attorney General of India --**KK Venugopal**.
Note: Attorney General appointed by the President of India under Article 76(1) of the Constitution and holds office during the pleasure of the President.
4. The new Chairman of Indian Institute of Management (IIM) Amritsar -- **Sanjay Gupta**.
Note: Sanjay Gupta is the Editor in Chief of Dainik Jagran since 2014 and has been associated with the Jagran Group for more than two decades.
5. The new chief of the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) -- **Sanjay Kumar**
Note: He will succeed R K Pachnanda, who was has taken charge as DG the Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP).
6. The new Ambassador of India to the Republic of Indonesia __**Pradeep Kumar Rawat**.
Note: He will succeed Nengcha Lhouvum Mukhopadhaya.
7. Who has been appointed as the Goodwill Ambassador for Autism-- **Saima Wazed Hossain**.
Note: Saima is a globally renowned champion for the cause of Autism spectrum disorder. She will serve as the goodwill ambassador for autism in the South-East Asia region for a period of 2 years.
8. The new Chairperson of Broadcasting Content Complaints Council (BCCC) -- **Vikramajit Sen**.
Note: Former Supreme Court Judge Justice Vikramajit Sen has been appointed as the new Chairperson of Broadcasting Content Complaints Council (BCCC) for three years.
9. The president of the National Rifle Association of India (NRAI) -- **Raninder Singh**.
Note: The NRAI is associated with International Shooting Sports Federation, Asian Shooting Confederation, Commonwealth Shooting Federation, South Asian Shooting Confederation, and Indian Olympic Association.
10. The new Director General (DG) of Goods and Services Tax Intelligence (GSTI)-- **John Joseph**.
11. New secretary of the Department of Economic Affairs (DEA) in the finance ministry-- **Subhash Garg**.
Note: He will oversee capital markets, Budget preparation as well as infrastructure financing

and decide on borrowing, along with RBI.

12. Indian-origin personality appointed as the UNICEF's Global Goodwill Ambassador -- **Lilly Singh**.

Note: She will use her channel to showcase the organisation's work and urge millions of her followers to work for children's rights.

13. The governing body of Ramakrishna Mission unanimously elected the 16th president of Ramakrishna Math and Mission -- **Swami Smarananandaji Maharaj**.

Note: He succeed 'Swami Atmasthanandaji Maharaj' who passed away in June this year.

14. Who has been appointed as the Chief Minister of Nagaland -- **TR Zeliang**.

Note: Zeliang staked claim to form government in Nagaland with a majority support of 47 members of the Legislative Assembly.

15. Who has taken additional charge of Ministry of Information and Broadcasting (I&B) -- **Textiles minister Smriti Irani**.

16. The govt. has announced that Union Minister for Rural Development **Narendra Singh Tomar** will serve as the new -- **Urban Development Minister**.

17. The state's chief minister handed over the offer letter to the Rio Olympics silver medallist '**P V Sindhu**' as a **Group-I** officer -- **Andhra Pradesh**.

Note: In Olympics history, Sindhu has become the fifth Indian woman (Karnam Malleswari, Mary Kom, Saina Nehwal and Sakshi Malik) to clinch a medal.

19. New Secretary to President elect Ram Nath Kovind -- **Sanjay Kothari**.

Note: Currently, Mr. Kothari is the Chairman of Public Enterprises Selection Board.

20. India's alternate Governor on the Board of Governors of the Asian Development Bank (ADB) -- **Subhash Chandra Garg**.

Note: The secretary of Department of Economic Affairs (DEA) Subhash Chandra Garg has been appointed as India's Alternate Governor on the Board of Governors of the Asian Development Bank (ADB), Manila, Philippines.

Important News – India

1. The Union Minister has launched "**National Biopharma Mission**" to accelerate biopharmaceutical development in India -- **Harsh Vardhan**.

Note: Under the Mission, the ministry launched a programme named Innovate in India (i3) to create an enabling ecosystem to promote entrepreneurship and indigenous manufacturing in the sector.

2. India's tallest Air Traffic Control (ATC) tower has installed at -- **Indira Gandhi International Airport (IGIA), Delhi**.

Note: It will be the 7th tallest ATC tower in the world.

3. Who has launched a month-long plantation drive to mark Van Mahotsav -- **Dr. Harsh Vardhan**.

Note: Van Mahotsav is an annual tree-planting movement in India, which began in 1950. The purpose of the festival is to raise the awareness of trees among people and to highlight the need for planting and tending of trees as one of the best ways to prevent global warming and reduce pollution.

4. India's first university only for Dalit students will come up in -- **Hyderabad**.

CHENNAI IAS ACADEMY – 9043 211 311 / 411

Note: The purpose of establishing an exclusive university for Dalit students is to provide them a comprehensive education, so that they would come out as complete and knowledgeable citizens.

5. Western Railways have changed the name of **‘Elphinstone Road station** as -- **Prabhadevi**.

Note: Prabhadevi is a local deity, whose temple is located in the vicinity of the railway station. In December 2016, the Maharashtra Assembly had unanimously adopted a resolution to rename these railway stations which were subsequently followed by a nod from the Central Government.

6. The Power Ministry has launched the app and the portal for providing e-Bidding solution to states to select Independent Power Producers (IPPs) -- **MERIT**.

Note: The objective of is to increase transparency and accountability and transfer maximum benefit to the consumer reflects a 360-degree approach of a ‘government in action’.The app also gives information regarding reasons for deviation from merit order such as must run conditions, transmission constraints etc.

7. The first government hospital in the country to perform a lung transplant -- **PGIMER, Chandigarh**.

Note: The institute has been successfully performing heart, kidney, pancreas, liver, and Cornea transplants.

8. Indian Railways has launched virtual server to optimize server usage and faster connectivity -- **RailCloud**.

Note: The technology is developed by rail PSU RailTel at an estimated cost of approx Rs 53 crore. The RailCloud technology enables maximising the usage of available server and

storage resulting in accommodation of bigger data and more applications within same server space.

9. The two programmes to take education to the remotest corners of the country with the help of technology --**Swayam and Swayam Prabha**.

Note: Under Swayam, courses would be offered through digital classrooms with online study material available free of cost in videos. Swayam Prabha would tap into the potential of Direct to Home Service wherein a person can install a dish antenna for about Rs 1,500 & have access to 32 digital educational channels run by the HRD Ministry.

10. The union Cabinet has approved the establishment of the International Rice Research Institute, South Asia Regional Center at the campus of National Seed Research and Training Center in -- **Varanasi**.

Note: This Center will be the first international Center in eastern India and it will play a major role in harnessing and sustaining rice production in the region. The Centre will also undertake capacity building exercises for stakeholders across the rice value chain.

11. Indian scientists have discovered an extremely large supercluster of galaxies, which is as big as 20 million billion suns-- **Saraswati**.

Note: Inter University Centre for Astronomy and Astrophysics (IUCAA) team of astronomers has named it ‘Saraswati’.This is one of the largest known structures in the neighborhood of the universe, 4,000 million light-years away from Earth and roughly more than 10 billion years old.

12. The union minister ‘Arun Jaitley’ has launched a new pension scheme for the senior citizens in

new Delhi --**Pradhan Mantri Vaya Vandana Yojana.**

Note: The scheme provides an assured return of **8% per annum payable monthly for 10 years** and exempted from Service Tax or GST. The scheme can be purchased offline as well as online through Life Insurance Corporation of India(LIC). The PMVVY scheme will be available till 3rd May,2018.

13. The first solar-powered 1600 HP DEMU train in India has launched from the station -- **Safdarjung railway station.**

14. The ministry will launch a new sub-scheme '**Aajeevika Grameen Express Yojana**' (AGEY) under the Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana -- **The Union Rural Development ministry.**

Note: The AGEY aims to provide an alternative source of livelihoods to members of Self Help Groups (SHGs) under DAY-NRLM by facilitating them to operate public transport services in backward rural areas.

15. The Indian Railways has launched an integrated mobile application to cater various passenger requirements --**SAARTHI.**

Note: The Rail SAARTHI (synergised advanced application rail travel help and information) such as safety for women, complaint facility and suggestion for improvement.

16. The **5th 'North East Connectivity Summit-2018'** will be held in the state -- **Arunachal Pradesh.**

Note: The summit organised by the FICCI is one of the most important forums for action oriented deliberations on sub-regional economic integration and connectivity between North East

India and South-East Asia. The **4th North East Connectivity Summit** will be held in Nagaland in September 2017.

17. The Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) has launched the mobile app for syncing Aadhaar data on the mobile phone-- **mAadhaar app.**

Note: Once you register in mAadhaar app, your Aadhaar card profile including phone number, address and other details get stored on the app.

18. The railway station has become the India's first station to run by all women staff -- **Matunga railway station.**

19. The science & technology ministry has launched a low-cost indigenously developed hearing screening device for newborns -- **Sohum.**

Note: The Sohum uses brain-stem auditory evoked response technology which is recommended as best screening choice. SOHUM, has been developed by School of International Biodesign (SIB), a startup M/S Sohum Innovation Labs India Pvt. Ltd.

20. The city will host the tenth edition of Urban Mobility India conference beginning 4th November this year --**Hyderabad.**

Note: The three-day event will be jointly organised by the Union Ministry of Urban Development and the Telangana Government. The theme of this year's conference is intelligent, inclusive and sustainable mobility.

21. The union Minister Maneka Gandhi has launched online complaint system for registering sexual harassment complaints at workplace in New Delhi -- **sexual harassment e-box.**

Note: This online portal is open for central government women employees only and later

on, complaints from private sector will be entertained effectively. The Ministry will soon conduct a national level survey to examine the magnitude of sexual harassment at workplace.

22. The National Dairy Development Board's (NDDB) quality logo for milk and milk products to signify safe and quality milk and milk products from dairy cooperatives launched by --**Radha Mohan Singh**.

Note: This move will reinforce the consumers' recognition that the quality mark is synonymous with good quality. NDDB's quality mark will provide dairy cooperatives and producer institutions the much-needed brand identity and a competitive edge.

23. The Union minister has launched a mobile app for road maintenance in all the States -- **Aarambh**.

Note: The mobile phone app aims at use of Geographic Information System (GIS) based mapping for making road inventories, condition surveys, and producing cost estimates and other relevant data for preparation and monitoring of annual road maintenance plans.

24. The first two Naval Offshore Patrol Vessels (NOPVs) '**Shachi**' and '**Shruti**' at their shipyard in Pipavav, Gujarat -- **Reliance Defence and Engineering Limited (RDEL)**.

Note: These two NOPVs are the first warships to be launched by a private sector shipyard in India.

25. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has inaugurated a national memorial on the second death anniversary of former president Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam in -- **Rameshwaram (Tamil Nadu)**.

Note: The Kalam memorial was built by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) in Pei Karumbu. The

memorial, build at a cost of 20 crores, blends Mughal and Indian architecture. Its main entrance resembles **Delhi's India gate** and the main door is a replica of the entrance of the **Brihadiswara Temple in Tanjavur**.

26. The High Court ordered that "Vande Mataram" must be played and sung in all schools, colleges, and universities at least once a week -- **Madras High Court**.

Note: The court also ruled that the national song must be played and sung in all government offices and institutions, private companies, factories, and industries at least once a month.

27. Scientists have developed new Artificial intelligence (AI) software to create three dimensional (3D) models from 2D photographs -- **SurfNet**.

Note: It will give them the ability to understand the 3D environment around them using standard 2D cameras. SurfNet software can be used in object recognition, robotics, and even self-driving cars.

States News

1. The state government has launched a digital ride sharing app '**G-Ride**' for techies -- **Kerala**.

Note: The G-Ride app automatically matches co-workers and neighbours and help them travel together to work.

2. India's biggest **Global Skill Park** will be set up in the city - - **Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh**.

Note: 37-acre land has been allotted in Narela Shankari area of Bhopal for the Global Skill Park. Training will be imparted to 1000 students every year by trainers of international standard. The park will function on the spirit of 'With Industry -For Industry'."

3. Delhi Traffic Police relaunched its mobile app in an improved avatar that will allow general-

CHENNAI IAS ACADEMY – 9043 211 311 / 411

public to report traffic offences occurring on city roads – **Traffic Sentinel**.

Note: The mobile application was launched under the Traffic Sentinel scheme in December 2015, that allowed users to report traffic violations by uploading photos and videos and earn reward points.

4. The state government will set up modern ornamental fish hatchery in the state-- **Haryana**

Note: The fish hatchery would be set up in district Jhajjar at a cost of Rs.13.68 crore.

5. The state govt. has decided to merge all regional Co- Operative Banks into a mega State Co-Operative Bank-- **Chhattisgarh**.

Note: Now, the 264 branches will remain functional and will hereon work as Scheduled Co-Operative Banks. It will help in reducing the interests on farm loans by up to 2%. The farmers will get modern facilities including core- banking, mobile and internet banking.

6. Uttar Pradesh government has signed Memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the Centre for setting up of an All India Institutes of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) hospital in -- **Gorakhpur**

Note: The hospital will have 750 free beds and the project will cost 1,750 crore rupees. The OPD of the new AIIMS will start by September,2018 and trauma centers will be established by 2020

7. The first Technology and Innovation Support centers (TISC) of India will be set up in – **Punjab**

Note: TISC will be set up at Patent Information Centre in Punjab under the World Intellectual Property Organization's (WIPO) TISC program.

8. The state hosted the National conference on crowd management – **Kerala**

Note:The conference was organized by the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) jointly with the Kerala State Disaster Management Authority (KSDMA)

9. Odisha CM has dedicated the state's longest road bridge to the nation named it after -- **Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose**.

10. The state government has formally named the Outer Wheeler island in Bhadrak district as APJ Abdul Kalam Island as a tribute to the former president -- **Odisha government**.

Note: Dr Kalam's emotional attachment with the interim test range at Chandipur in Balasore district and Wheeler Island in Bhadrak district.

11. The state government has launched its flagship health scheme Care Companion Programme (CCP) -- **Punjab**.

Note: The CCP scheme is targeted to improve patient outcome by implementing better family engagement.

Important News – World

1. Prime Minister Narendra Modi embarked on a two-nation tour to -- **Israel and Germany**.

Note: In first leg (three- day tour), PM Modi went to Israel where he holds talks with his Israeli counterpart 'Benjamin Netanyahu' on all matters of mutual interest. In his second leg, Mr. Modi participated in the G 20 summit at Hamburg in Germany.

2. The 41st session of UNESCO World Heritage Committee has started in -- **Krakow, Poland**.

Note: The World Heritage Committee consists of representatives from 21 of the States Parties to the Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage, elected by the General Assembly of States Parties to the Convention.

3. The 2017 Indo-Thai joint military exercise has started in Himachal Pradesh -- **Maitree**.

Note: The aim of the joint military exercise is to

CHENNAI IAS ACADEMY – 9043 211 311 / 411

build and promote bilateral Army-to-Army relations and enhance interoperability between the two armies

4. The city is hosting the **12th edition of G-20 Summit 2017--Hamburg(Germany).**

Note: The 12th edition of G20 summit was held at Hamburg in Germany with theme 'Shaping an interconnected world'.

5. A new fast-growing Israeli flower has named after Prime Minister Narendra Modi -- **Crysanthumun.**

Note: The Danziger flower farm is one of Israel's leading floriculture companies with approximately 80,000 square meters of state-of-the-art greenhouses specializing in reproduction of plants.

6. The **Informal Leader's Meeting of the 5 BRICS** countries was held in -- **Hamburg, Germany.**

Note: The meeting was held in run up for the upcoming 9th BRICS Summit, which will take place in Xiamen, China in September.

7. The country hosted the 2017 Everest International Model United Nations (EIMUN) Regional Conference -- **Nepal.**

Note: The fourth edition of Everest International Model United Nations (EIMUN) Regional Conference was held in Kathmandu, Nepal from 10-14 July, 2017.

8. The world's first centre for breeding Saola will be constructed at Bach Ma National Park in -- **Vietnam.**

Note: Saola is recognised by two parallel horns with sharp ends, which can reach 51cm in length and are found on both males and females.

9. The eighth meeting of the SAARC Ministers of Law and Order preceded by meeting of the SAARC Secretaries of Law and Order and Immigration Authorities has begun in -- **Colombo, Sri Lanka.**

Note: The meeting focused on the issue of tackling terrorism apart from discussing

liberalization of visa, illegal trafficking in narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances, and small arms. The South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) is the regional intergovernmental organization and geopolitical union of nations in South Asia.

10. The country hosted the 2017 Family Planning Summit (FPS) -- **United Kingdom.**

Note: The summit has been organized by the UNFPA, the United Kingdom and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.

11. The country will introduce a new procedure for officials visiting the country to meet political representatives and prisoners -- **Sri Lanka.**

Note: The move comes as government is unhappy with the outcome of the visit by UN Special Rapporteur on Human Rights and Counter-terrorism.

12. Tri-Nation navies concluded the eight days 'Malabar Naval Exercise' aimed at achieving deeper military ties between the three nations near Chennai in Bay of Bengal -- **US, Japanese and Indian**

Note: The naval exercise featured 95 aircraft, 16 ships and two sub marines. Aim of exercise is to Increase interoperability amongst the three navies and develop common understanding of procedures for Maritime Security Operations.

13. The country who has successfully launched an advanced satellite-carrying rocket "**Simorgh**" -- **Iran.**

Note: Iran has successfully launched Simorgh' into space from the Imam Khomeini National Space Station in Semnan.

14. The **2017 BRICS Youth Forum** opened to discuss the development of the youth in the countries of the grouping in -- **Beijing, China.**

Note: The three-day forum gathered 50 youth representatives working as civil servants, scholars, entrepreneurs, artists and journalists from the BRICS countries. The theme of the

CHENNAI IAS ACADEMY – 9043 211 311 / 411

forum is 'Enhance BRICS Partnership, Promote Youth Development'.

15. The **7th edition of South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC)** Artists Camp & Exhibition of Paintings begins in -- **Nepal**.

Note: These events provide platform to artists for exchanging ideas with fellow artists and helping in creating special bonding among them. Around 40 artists from SAARC member countries (except Afghanistan) taking part in the camp.

Important Day

1. The National Doctors' Day (NDD) is celebrated every year in India on -- **1st July**.

Note: The day honour the legendary physician and the 2nd Chief Minister of West Bengal, Dr. Bidhan Chandra Roy.

2. International Co-operative Day is an annual celebration of the co-operative movement observed on -- **the first Saturday in July**.

Note: The theme for the 2017 International Day of Cooperatives is Co-operatives ensure no-one is left behind.

3. The World Sports Journalist Day (WSJD) is observed on -- **2nd July**.

Note: The day mark the services of sports journalists for the promotion of sports.

4. The 2017 International Plastic Bag Free Day (IPBFD) is observed on -- **3rd July**.

Note: The day highlight the need to phase-out plastic bags and to promote organic reusable bags.

5. The World Population Day is observed across the world on -- **11th July**.

Note: The day increase the awareness of the people towards the worldwide population issues. The theme of this year is 'Family Planning-Empowering People, Developing Nations'.

6. The World Youth Skills Day is observed globally every year on -- **15th July**.

Note: The theme of 2017 is "Skills for the Future of Work".

7. The 2017 World Day for International Justice (WDIJ) is observed on -- **17th July**.

8. Nelson Mandela International Day' celebrated every year in honour of Mandela's birthday on -- **18th July**.

Note: The day is observed annually with the slogan 'Take Action! Inspire Change'.

9. The 2017 National Broadcasting Day (NBD) is celebrated in India -- **23rd July**.

10. Kargil Vijay Diwas is observed every year in honour of the Kargil War's Heroes -- **26th July**.

Note: On this day in 1999 that the Indian Armed Forces, as part of Operation Vijay recaptured Indian posts in Kargil which had been occupied by Pakistan's army. The Kargil war was fought for more than 60 days, 527 soldiers from Indian Armed Forces sacrificed their lives during the war.

11. The World Hepatitis Day is being observed world-wide to raise global awareness of Hepatitis and encourage prevention, diagnosis and treatment -- **28th July**.

Note: The Theme of this year is "Eliminate Hepatitis" to mobilize intensified action towards the health targets in the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals. Hepatitis is a group of infectious diseases known as Hepatitis A, B, C, D, and E.

12. The International Tiger Day is observed globally to raise awareness for tiger conservation -- **29th July**.

Note: The goal of the day is to promote a global system for protecting the natural habitats of tigers and to raise public awareness and support for tiger conservation issues. According to the World Wildlife Fund (WWF), only 3,890 tigers are left in the world.

13. The World Day against Trafficking in Persons is

CHENNAI IAS ACADEMY – 9043 211 311 / 411

observed across the world to raise awareness of the plight of victims of human trafficking and to protect their rights -- **30th July**.

Note: The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) selected this year 'Act to Protect and Assist Trafficked Persons' as the focus of the Day.

Honors & Award

1. Indian personality has been bestowed with the 2017 Trafficking in Persons (TIP) Report Heroes Award -- **Mahesh Bhagwat**.

Note: Currently, he is serving as the first Commissioner of Police of Rachakonda (Telangana).

2. The Indian metro has become the world's first completely green metro system -- **Delhi Metro**.

Note: Delhi Metro has secured the platinum rating for adherence to green building norms for its 10 residential colonies from the Indian Green Building Council (IGBC).

3. Anti-hunger activist has been awarded the Young Leaders Award for 2017 by Queen Elizabeth II at a ceremony in the Buckingham Palace -- **Ankit Kawatra**.

Note: The Queen's Young Leaders Award recognizes exceptional work towards solving hunger and malnutrition. Ankit Kawatra is the founder of Feeding India, an organization which works towards eradicating hunger and food wastage in India.

4. Indian NGO has won the 2017 UNDP Equator Prize for sustainable farming model -- **Swayam Shikshan Prayog**.

5. The old city of Hebron in the west bank has been declared as the Palestinian World Heritage Site by -- **UNESCO**.

Note: The decision has also put Hebron in UNESCO's list of heritage sites in danger. The world heritage sites in danger list has also included Vienna's historic centre.

6. The Sports person of the Year award during the '**Maruti Suzuki Sports person of the Year**' Charity Gala Awards -- **P V Sindhu**.

7. Bangladeshi champion has been appointed as WHO Goodwill Ambassador for Autism in South-East Asia Region -- **Saima Wazed Hossain**.

8. Indian city has been declared as a World Heritage City (WHC) by UNESCO -- **Ahmedabad**.

9. Veteran Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leader has received the Lifetime Achievement Award for his contributions as a Lok Sabha member -- **LK Advani**.

JD(U) leader has also received the Lifetime Achievement Award as a Rajya Sabha MP -- **Sharad Yadav**.

Note: The award was given by the Vice President 'Hamid Ansari' at a function organised by the Lokmat Media Group to honour distinguished Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha members in New Delhi.

10. Who has extended Megastar Amitabh Bachchan's ambassadorship for another two years after success of polio drive -- **United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)**.

Note: Earlier, He had served as UNICEF Goodwill Ambassador for Polio in India. The World Health Organisation (WHO) also appointed Bachchan as its goodwill ambassador for hepatitis in South-East Asia region to boost awareness and intensify action to arrest the epidemic.

11. Who handed over the offer letter to the Rio Olympics silver medallist 'P V Sindhu' as a Group-I officer in the state -- **N Chandrababu Naidu**.

Note: Since 2013, She has been working with Bharat Petroleum Corp Ltd (BPCL) and is currently an assistant manager (sports) at its Hyderabad office.

12. Mohun Bagan has conferred the former club captain and coach with the prestigious Mohun Bagan Ratna Award 2017 -- **Subrata Bhattacharya**.

Note: Former club striker Balwant Singh has been awarded the Best Football Player of the Year prize.

➤ Debabrata Das was honoured with the Best Cricket Player of the Year award.

Sports News

1. Who has won the 10th edition of FIFA Confederation cup Football-2017 title -- **Germany**.

Note: The four-time World Cup winners, Germany won the 2017 FIFA Confederations Cup by defeating Chile 1–0 in the final to win their first title. The FIFA

Confederations Cup is an international association football tournament for national teams, currently held every four years by FIFA.

2. The flag bearer athlete for the Indian contingent in the 22nd Asian Athletics Championship (AAC)-2017 – **Tintu Luke**.

3. Who has won the 2017 Asian Team Snooker championship – **India**

Note: India's leading cueist **Pankaj Advani** teamed up with Laxman Rawat to demolish Pakistan in the final of the Asian Team Snooker Championship in Bishkek Kyrgyzstan.

4. Indian women's cricket team skipper has surpassed former England captain' Charlotte Edwards' (5992 to become the highest run-scorer in the One-Day Internationals (ODI) -- **Mithali Raj**

5. **Note:** Mithali Raj became the first women's player reach 6000 ODI runs. Now, Mithali Raj has 6,028 runs 181 ODIs at an average of 51.37.

6. Finnish racing driver has won the Formula One Austrian Grand Prix tournament 2017-- **Valtteri Bottas**.

7. ICC has chosen captain of the ICC Women's World Cup 2017 team -- **Mithali Raj**.

Note: The side includes four players from England (Tamsin Beaumont, Anya Shrubsole, Sarah Taylor and Alex Hartley), three from South Africa (Laura Wolvaardt, Marizanne Kapp and Dane van Niekerk) three from India (Harmanpreet Kaur, Deepti Sharma and Mithali Raj) and Australia all-rounder Ellyse Perry.

8. Indian weightlifter has bagged a gold medal at the Asian Youth and Junior Weightlifting Championships in Kathmandu, Nepal -- **Konsam Ormila Devi**.

Note: The weightlifter from Manipur lifted 56kg in snatch and 70kg in clean & jerk for a total effort of 126kg in the 44kg weight category to finish on the top of the podium.

9. The world youth champion Indian boxer has clinched a gold medal in Commonwealth Youth Games Bahamas -- **Sachin Siwach**.

Note: Siwach defeated Welsh boxer James Nathan Probert 4-1 in the final to claim the gold in the light flyweight (49kg) category.

10. Who has won the women's 100m backstroke gold in a new world-record time at the world aquatics championships in Budapest -- **Kylie Masse**.

Note: Earlier, she tied for the bronze medal at the 2016 Summer Olympics in 100 m backstroke.

11. Who has won bronze medal in Asian Youth and Junior Weightlifting Championships at Kathmandu, Nepal -- **Ajay Singh**.

Note: He got third place in 77 Kgs men's junior category, lifting 143 kgs in snatch and 172 kgs in clean and jerk.

12. American newest star of the pool has become the first swimmer to win three gold medals on a

single night at either the worlds or the Olympics -- **Caleb Dressel**.

Note: Dressel won the 50m freestyle (22.76) and the 100m butterfly before leading off a world-record performance in the 4x100-meter mixed freestyle relay. Dressel has become the second swimmer to win seven gold medals at a single World Championships, after Michael Phelps.

AUGUST MONTH CURRENT AFFAIRS

NEW APPOINTMENTS

1. Who has resigned as vice chairman of government think tank NITI Aayog -- **Arvind Panagariya**.

Note: He has submitted a letter to PM Narendra Modi and requested to be relieved by the end of this month. The Union Government of India announced the formation of NITI Aayog on 1st January 2015 and the Prime Minister serves as the Ex-officio chairman.

2. Noted economist will be the new Vice-Chairman of NITI Aayog -- **Dr. Rajiv Kumar**.

Note: Currently, Rajiv Kumar is a senior fellow at the Centre for Policy Research, a non-governmental think tank on public policy based out of New Delhi.

3. Who has been appointed as the Chief of the Indian Army's Eastern Command -- **Lt General Abhay Krishna**.

Note: He succeeds Lt Gen Praveen Bakshi. Currently, Krishna was serving as the Head of the Army's Jaipur-based Southwestern Command.

4. The new Ambassador of India to the Republic of Kazakhstan -- **Prabhat Kumar**.

5. Newly elected Prime Minister of Papua New Guinea -- **Peter O'Neill**.

Note: Peter O'Neill is the leader of the People's National Congress and represents the constituency of Ialibu-Pangia.

6. Who has been appointed brand ambassador for Swachh Bharat Mission in UP-- **Akshay Kumar**.

Note: The chief minister Yogi Aditya Nath has announced to make his upcoming movie 'Toilet Ek Prem Katha' tax-free in the state. The movie stresses on the importance of building toilets and ending open defecation in the country.

7. The new Chief Justice of India (CJI) -- **Justice Dipak Misra**.

Note: He replaced incumbent Justice J S Khehar. The Chief Justice of India (CJI) is the head of the judiciary of India and the Supreme Court of India.

8. Who sworn in as the Vice President of India - **-Muppavarapu Venkaiah Naidu.**

Note: Naidu was elected as the Vice President by defeating opposition candidate **Gopal Krishna Gandhi (Mahatma Gandhi's grandson)**. The Vice-President of India is elected by an electoral college consisting of Elected and nominated members of both house (Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha) of Parliament.

9. Retired IAS officer has been appointed secretary to **Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu -- I V Subba Rao.**

Note: He held several important posts in Andhra Pradesh and later served the UNESCO. N Yuvaraj (IAS officer of Andhra Pradesh cadre - 2006 batch), will be the private secretary to Naidu.

10. The Executive Director of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI) -- **Mamta Suri.**

Note: Earlier, Dr. Suri was serving as the Chief General Manager of the Insurance Regulatory Development Authority of India. IBBI is a regulator over the Insolvency Professionals, Insolvency Professional Agencies and Information Utilities.

11. Pakistan's High Commissioner to India -- **SohailMahmood.**

Note: He replaced 'Abdul Basit' after his premature retirement earlier this month.

12. The Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Rajya Sabha TV --**Shashi Shekhar Vempati.**

Note: The Chief Executive Officer (CEO) at public broadcaster Prasar Bharati 'Shashi Shekhar Vempati' has been given the additional charge of CEO in Rajya Sabha TV (RSTV).

13. India has ranked in 2017 Global Retirement Index (GRI) published by French asset management company Natixis Global-- **43rd position.**

Note: The Global Retirement Index ranks 43 countries on the basis of four factors, which are the material means to live comfortably in retirement (Material Well-being), access to quality financial services to help preserve savings value and maximize income (Finances), access to quality health services (Health), and a clean and safe environment (Quality of Life).

14. Who has been appointed as the Managing Director (MD) of Export-Import Bank of India (**Exim Bank**) for a period of three years -- **David Rasquinha.**

Note: EXIM Bank commenced operations in 1982 under the Export-Import Bank of India Act, 1981 and head office in Mumbai.

IMPORTANT NEWS – INDIA

1. **Justice B N Srikrishna** committee of experts under the chairmanship of a former judge of supreme court to study and identify key data protection issues.

Note: The purpose to form the committee is to recognize the importance of data protection and keeping personal data of citizens secure and protection. The committee will also suggest a draft Data Protection Bill.

2. The Union government has launched a portal to provide a **platform to sell agricultural produce -- e-RaKAM.**

Note: The e-RaKAM is a first of its kind initiative that leverages technology to connect farmers of the smallest villages to the biggest markets of the world through internet.

3. Indian Army has developed a mobile app for soldiers to track promotion and postings— **Humraaz app**

Note: with the help of this app soldiers can view their monthly “ **salary Slips’ &’ Form 16’** and also download them . The app will be launched in the second week of August for prompt communication of information to junior commissioner officers and other personnel.

4. Minister of Housing and Urban Affairs ‘**Narendra Singh Tomar**’ has launched ‘Swachh Survekshan-2018’ in – **New Delhi.**

Note: Mr. Tomar also released a comprehensive Survey Tool Kit, explaining the methodology, weightages and new features. This first Pan-India sanitation survey will start on 4th January next year.

5. India’s first private sector missile sub-systems manufacturing facility has set up in the city -- **Hyderabad.**

Note:It has been established a line with the ‘Make in India’ initiative and Government’s policy to encourage private sector participation in defense product.

6. The Union Ministry has launched a contest for designing a logo for the 'Women of India Festival' to be held at ‘**Dilli Haat**’ in October 2017 -- **Women and Child Development Ministry.**

Note: The event is organized and fully sponsored by the Ministry as part of their major initiative of economic empowerment of women. The Women of India Festival offers the biggest selection of organic products prepared or grown by women.

7. The World Bank has allowed India to construct hydro- electric power facilities on tributaries of the Jhelum and Chenab rivers under the Treaty -- **Indus Waters Treaty.**

Note: Earlier, Pakistan is opposed to the construction of the Kishanganga and Ratle hydroelectric power plants being built by India in Jammu and Kashmir. India is permitted to construct hydroelectric power facilities on these rivers subject to specified constraints.

8. The union Govt. has proposed to establish new AIIMS under various phases of Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojana in different parts of the country -- **14.**

Note: An additional 1,563 new beds will be added in the existing capacity of AIIMS at Delhi and 73 existing medical institutions are being upgraded by setting up of super specialty blocks, trauma centres in the country.

9. Union ministry has launched a 2017 Swachh Survekshan (Gramin) -- **Drinking Water and Sanitation ministry.**

Note: All districts of the country will be ranked on the basis of performance, sustainability and transparency Under the Swachh Survekshan Gramin.

10. **NITI Aayog** shortlisted Uttar Pradesh, Assam, and Karnataka under its 'Sustainable Action for Transforming Human Capital', SATH initiative to handhold them and transform their health sector.

Note: To give major push to competitive, cooperative federalism, the government think tank had invited all states and Union Territories to participate in its SATH initiative to transform Health and Education sectors.

11. India's first micro forest being built in -- **Chhattisgarh**.

Note: **Micro forest (land of 19 acres)**, housed around 70 government office buildings in Raipur (Chhattisgarh) is being converted into India's first micro forest to create an oxy-zone.

12. Indian city to host the India – **ASEAN Youth summit** 2017-- **Bhopal**.

Note: The India – ASEAN Youth summit-2017 held in Bhopal (Madhya Pradesh) with theme 'Shared values, common destiny'. Over 175 delegations of youths from Indonesia, Singapore, Philippines, Malaysia, Brunei, Thailand, Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, Vietnam and India will attend the Summit.

13. The union govt. has set a target of providing skill training to one crore people in next three years under – **Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana**.

Note: The skill training will be provided through Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Kendra (PMKK). The target is to set up five hundred such Kendras in various parts of the country out of which two hundred are

functional. A separate national skill certification board will be set up in the Ministry to enable the ITIs to provide equivalence to class 10th and 12th at par with CBSE and ICSE.

14. **National Green Tribunal (NGT)** has imposed an interim ban on use of non-biodegradable plastic bags which are less than 50 microns in the entire Delhi

Note: An environment compensation of Rs. 5,000 on anyone found in possession of such banned plastic. The tribunal directed Delhi government to seize the entire stock of plastic within one week. The National Green Tribunal (NGT) was established in 2010 by the National Green Tribunal Act.

15. The ministry will **celebrate Sankalp to Siddhi-New India Manthan** in all the districts of the country from 19th to 30th of this month -- **Agriculture and Farmers Welfare ministry**.

Note: This program will last for two and a half hours in which the first video message of the Prime Minister to be shown. A film will be shown on the efforts being made by the government for agricultural development and the resolution will be taken to free the country from poverty, corruption, terrorism, communalism and casteism.

16. The nationwide campaign **Gaj Yatra** has been launched by the Union Govt. **to protect elephant**.

17. The parliamentary panel **B C Khanduri** has recommended **100% pension** to widow of deceased soldier.

Note: In the report, the panel has recommended the 100% pension to widow of deceased soldier so that she can take care of her family.

18. The union minister **Rajnath Singh** has launched the twitter wall for promoting **Bharat Ke Veer portal**

Note: This portal facilitates online donation directly to families of CAPF Martyrs who have sacrificed their lives for the country in line of duty from January 2016.

19. **JP Nadda** has launched **15 medical outlets of AMRIT Deendayal'** in Assam, Uttar Pradesh, and Punjab through Video Conference from Shimla

Note: Mr Nadda has also inaugurated one outlet of AMRIT Deendayal at Indira Gandhi Medical College (IGMC) Shimla. The purpose of AMRIT Deendayal programme is to provide different kind of medicines and equipment's on cheap rates to the patients.

20. **Dr. Harsh vardhan** has launched the '**Harit Diwali, Swasth Diwali**' campaign in New Delhi.

Note: As a part of the campaign, the Environment Ministry will undertake various stakeholders and encourage people to participate in combating air pollution.

21. India's first museum on the **Partition of the Indian Sub- continent will open in the state -- Punjab.**

Note: The museum will include newspaper clippings and donated personal items meant to tell the story of how the region's struggle

for freedom from colonial rule turned into one of its most violent episodes.

22. The National Highways Authority of India has launched a mobile app for smooth functioning of electronic toll collection -- **MyFASTag.**

Note: The mobile apps will ease the process and will make it possible to buy or recharge FASTags at the click of a mobile button.

23. The task force has been constituted by the Union Government on Artificial Intelligence (AI) for India's

Note: The eighteen members panel, headed by Dr. V Kamakoti will comprise of experts, academics, researchers and industry leaders. It will explore possibilities to various fields.

24. **Rajnath Singh** has inaugurated an initiative under Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana '**YUVA – a skill development program**', by Delhi Police.

Note: This initiative will connect with youth by upgrading their skill as per their competencies. Now, the Delhi Police has tied up with National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) and Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) for providing mass job linked skill training for selected youth.

25. **Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)** has launched its navigation satellite '**IRNSS-1H**' from **Satish Dhavan Space Centre at Sriharikotta**, on board the rocket PSLV C39.

Note: The satellite IRNSS-1H is a part of the indigenous navigation system called 'NavIC'. NavIC system is equivalent to the GPS service, having footprint over the whole of India and about 1500 kilometers from its borders on all sides.

STATE NEWS:

1. The union Govt. has approved establishment of Post Graduate Institutes for **Research in Yoga and Naturopathy** at -- **Nagmangla(Karnataka)** and **Jhajjar(Haryana)**.

Note: An autonomous Research body, Central Council for Research in Yoga and Naturopathy (CCRYN) is working under the Ministry of AYUSH as the apex body for Research and Education in the field of Yoga and Naturopathy.

2. **Telangana** state has tied up with Microsoft to use its AI- based MINE platform to screen children for eye problems.

Note:The Microsoft Intelligent Network for Eyecare (MINE) is an artificial intelligence platform to reduce avoidable blindness.

3. The **Punjab govt.** has initiated the process of inducting Harmanpreet Kaur to the post of Deputy Superintendent of Police (DSP) in the state police.

Note: The state Chief Minister Amarinder Singh has directed the state Director General of Police (DGP) to complete the necessary formalities for her appointment.

4. The Maharashtra government has constituted committee on safety measures for women in IT sector – **Rashmi Shukla committee**.

Note:The committee will suggest measures that can be undertaken to ensure safety of women working in the IT sector.

5. **Jharkhand** state Cabinet has approved Religious Freedom Bill 2017 in which forceful or allurements induced religious conversion will be a non-bailable criminal offence.

Note: In the event of violation of section three, there will be up to three years imprisonment or Rs. 50,000 penalties or both.

If the crime involved a minor, woman or person from SC or ST community then the prison term would be up to four years and a penalty of one lakh rupees.

6. The **Uttar Pradesh** state cabinet has decided to go Digital by transforming all state-run offices into e-offices.

Note: 'e-office' would commence from the state secretariat from 1st October and by January next year all the state government offices would be equipped with the system. The Cabinet has also decided to spend around 57 crore rupees for purchase of computers and training of the employees for the purpose.

7. The **Maharashtra Govt.** has launched two online portals '**MahaDBT & MahaVASTU**' to streamline the process of Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT)

Note: The portals were launched with an aim to bring in more transparency in construction sector and to provide direct benefits with 'Aadhaar' authentication. **MahaDBT** portal is Aadhaar-authenticated electronic mechanism that will enable direct transfer of benefits for over 40 schemes and DBT scheme, Aadhaar will be mandatory to claim benefits through this portal. **MahaVASTU** portal is an Online Building Permission Management System with an electronic workflow for sanctioning building approvals with full transparency.

8. India's initiative to **develop green airports**, two airports in Andhra Pradesh are going to go completely green -- **Tirupati and Vijayawada**.

Note: Airports Authority of India (AAI) has commenced installation of 1MWp solar power plant at both the airports. It has also completed installation of solar power plants at 29 airports/locations with a total capacity of 12.84 MWp.

9. The state govt. to provide land with record to landless slum dwellers -- **Odisha**.

Note: According to the decision, 600 square feet land will be provided in 112 Notified Area Councils while 450 square feet land would be provided in 107 municipal areas. In corporation areas, government will provide houses to the slum dwellers.

10. The **UP** govt. has launched awareness drive along banks of river Ganga to maintain cleanliness.

Note: The Chief Minister 'Yogi Adityanath' flagged off an awareness drive the 'Namami Gange Jagriti Yatra' in 25 districts situated on the banks of river Ganga for maintaining the cleanliness and ever-flowing nature of the river. Around one lakh Home guard volunteers will organise public gathering and other awareness programmes in the district under this project till the 6th Sep 2017.

11. The **Gujarat** govt. has distributed NAMO e-tabs to college students across the state.

Note: e-tablet which costs Rs 8000 is being distributed to the students for one thousand Rupees only. The Government will distribute e-tablets to 4 lakh students during this year for which provision of Rs.300 crore has been made. 21.5 lakh students have already registered for this NAMO- e-TAB.

12. India's **first-ever railways disaster management centre** will come up in the city -- **Bengaluru**.

Note: India's first-ever railways disaster management centre will come up near Bengaluru, Karnataka by 2018.

13. India's first-ever aviation university Rajiv Gandhi National Aviation University (RGNAU) will come up in **Uttar Pradesh**.

Note: India's first-ever aviation university will be inaugurated at Fursatganj in Rae Bareli, Uttar Pradesh.

14. **New Delhi** hosted the Chief Electoral Officers' Conference of all States and Union Territories.

Note: The Chief Electoral Officers' Conference of all States and Union Territories has been inaugurated by Chief Election Commissioner **Achal Kumar Joti and Election Commissioner OP Rawat** in New Delhi.

15. The **Telangana govt.** has launched an exclusive **24x7 helpline '181' for women**.

Note: The helpline will respond to calls on dowry harassment cases, stalking, domestic violence, sale of girl child and immoral trafficking.

16. The state govt. has decided to build an Eco-Park on thirty-four acres of land -- **Jammu and Kashmir (J&K)**.

Note: The park is a first-of-its-kind project in the region, planned under the convergence of local resources and it is expected to be completed by end of this year. The eco-park will have a botanical garden, a cactus garden, a cafeteria and other amenities

17. The state government has launched a new **'E-Waste Disposal'** scheme in state schools -- **Kerala**.

Note: The E-waste includes old monitors, mice, keyboards and UPS, among other things that have been lying unused since 2000 in the state.

18. **The Gurugram** city to host **Digital Haryana Summit (SHS)**.

Note: The Haryana government will organize Digital Haryana Summit (DHS) in Gurugram

on 15th September 2017. The purpose of the summit is to bring together different stakeholders and develop a singular agenda for the digital transformation of Haryana, in line with the Digital India initiative.

19. **Bihar Govt.** has launched mobile therapy vans which would provide basic medical assistance to elderly people, widows and other section who requires social security.

Note: The vans equipped with basic medical apparatus and accompanied by technical team would provide basic medical care to elderly people, widows and disabled in the districts. The van is an outcome of a joint project of the world Bank and the Bihar government which is run by social welfare departments.

20. Chief minister of Maharashtra ‘Devendra Fadnavis has launched an initiative providing job opportunities to unemployed youth in Mumbai – **Namo Yuva Rojgar Kendra.**

Note: under this yuva Rojgar Kendra and Mumbaikars can get fresh and healthy foods as well as farm produce procured directly from farmers.

21. Chief Minister of **Odisha’Naveen patnaik’** has launched facebook’s programme for women entrepreneurs in the state – **She Means Business.**

Note: The ‘She means Business programme has been launched in 16 countries across the world including India. The programme was launched in partnership with odisha’s micro, small and medium enterprises (MSME) department and project Mission shakti. Around 25000 women entrepreneurs and self-help Group (SHG) members will get training on digital marketing skills by the end of 2018.

22. The Indian cities have been selected for the implementation of a biodiversity conservation project supported by Germany – **Kochi, Mangaluru and panaji.**

Note: These cities will receive support for the project, which aims to support the

“implementation of National Biodiversity strategy and Action plans through the mainstreaming of biodiversity objectives across city regions”. The project’s primarily aims to achieve Aichi Target 2.

23. The state government has launched **“Indira canteen’ for urban poor – Karnataka.**

Note: Congress vice-president Rahul Gandhi has launched the “Indira Canteen’ Scheme aimed at providing food at low cost to the urban poor. The canteens are loosely modeled on late Tamil Nadu Chief minister J. Jayalalithaa’s Amma Canteens’.

24. A pilot project of National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) **for digitization of Self Help Groups (SHGs) -- e-Shakti.**

Note: It was initiated to address certain concerns like improving the quality of book keeping of SHGs and to enable banks to take informed credit decisions about the group through a Management Information System (MIS).

25. RBI committee has recommended that banks should link home loan rates to repo rate -- **Tarun Ramadorai.**

Note: The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has appointed committee on Household Finance has recommended that banks should link their home loan rates to the RBI’s repo rate, the rate at which it lends to banks.

26. The NITI Aayog has launched Mentor India Campaign from the city -- **New Delhi.**

Note: The campaign is a strategic nation building initiative to engage leaders who can nurture and guide students at more than 900 Atal Tinkering Labs.

27. The 17th meeting of the Financial Stability and Development Council (FSDC) was held in the city-- **New Delhi.**

Note: The Union Finance Minister Arun Jaitley has chaired the 17th meeting of the

Financial Stability and Development Council (FSDC) in New Delhi. The Council discussed the issues and challenges facing the Indian economy and stressed the need to keep constant vigil to manage any external and internal vulnerability.

28. The Reserve Bank (RBI) has issued new denomination banknotes in the Mahatma Gandhi (New) Series, bearing signature of **RBI Governor Urjit Patel-- Rs. 200 and Rs. 50.**

Note: Initially, the new Rs 200 notes will be circulated by select RBI offices, and some banks. The new denomination Rs. 200 has the motif of **Sanchi Stupa** on the reverse and its base colour is bright yellow. The base colour of the note is bright yellow.

IMPORTANT DAY

1. The World Breastfeeding Week (WBW) is observed every year from -- **1st to 7th August.**
Note: The week to focus attention on the important aspect of promotion and support of breastfeeding. The 2017 theme is “Sustaining Breastfeeding Together”.
2. The National Handloom Day is celebrated in India -- **7th August.**
Note: The National Handloom Day is celebrated in India on 7th to mark a 1905 movement that boycotted British products in favour of the revival of domestic ones.
3. The International Day of the World’s Indigenous Peoples is observed on -- **9th August.**
Note: The day promote and protect the rights of the world’s indigenous population.
4. The International Biodiesel Day (IBD) is celebrated every year on --**10th August.**
Note: The Biodiesel is an alternative fuel which can be used in place of fossil fuels. It is manufactured from vegetable oils, recycled grease, algae, and animal fat.
5. The International Youth Day (IYD) is observed every year on--**12th August.**
6. The Parsi New Year is being celebrated across the world - - **Navroz.**
Note: The day is dedicated to clean and purify the mind and start a new year with love and peace. Parsis wear traditional clothes and visit fire temple also known as ‘Agiary’ and offer milk, flowers, fruits, sandalwood to the sacred fire.
7. The World Humanitarian Day (WHD) is observed every year across the world on -- **19th August.**
Note: The day provides an opportunity to celebrate the spirit that inspires humanitarian work around the globe. The theme of this year 2017 is #NotATarget.
8. The World Photography Day is observed every year across the world on --**19th August.**
Note: On this day, camera persons take stock of the different kind of photography that has come to the fore .On August 19 in 2010, World Photo Day hosted its first global online gallery.
9. The 2017 World Mosquito Day (WMD) is observed on -- **20th August.**
Note: The World Mosquito Day (WMD) raise awareness about the threat of malaria and other diseases transmitted by one of the world’s deadliest killers the mosquito.
10. The 413th birthday of 11th guru of Sikhs is being celebrated with religious fervor-- **Sri Guru Granth Sahib.** **Note:** The Guru Granth Sahib (also called the Adi Granth or Adi Guru Darbar) is more than just a scripture of the Sikhs for the Sikhs treat this Granth as their living perpetual Guru. Sri Guru Arjan Dev ji completed the Aad Granth in 1604 and first Parkash was done at Sri Harmandir Sahib.
11. The 2017 International Day for the Remembrance of the Slave Trade and its Abolition is observed on --**23rd August.**

Note: The day pay tribute to all those who fought for freedom, and, in their name, to continue teaching about their story and the values therein.

12. The 2017 International Day against Nuclear Tests (IDANT) is observed on -- **29th August**.

Note: The International Day against Nuclear Tests (IDANT) is observed every year on 29th August to raise public awareness about the effects of global nuclear weapon tests. The purpose of the day is to end nuclear testing and to promote peace and security.

13. The National Sports day in India is celebrated every year to mark the birthday of hockey player Dhyan Chand -- **29th August**.

Note: Dhyan Chand was an Indian field hockey player, who is considered as one of the greatest field hockey players of all time.

HONORS & AWARD

1. The sportsperson **Dhanraj Pillay** has been honored with the East Bengal football club's highest honour '**Bharat Gaurav**'

Note: He represented the country in four Olympics, World Cups, Champions Trophy, and Asian Games. He played total 339 matches for India, scoring 170 goals..

2. **Mukesh Ambani** has become the Asia's second richest man according to the 2017 Bloomberg Billionaires Index.

Note: Currently, Alibaba Group founder Jack Ma is the richest person in Asia with a net worth of USD 43.2 billion.

3. Legendary Indian athlete has been appointed WHO Goodwill Ambassador for Physical

Activity in South-East Asia Region -- **Milkha Singh**.

Note: Milkha will promote WHO South-East Asia Region's NCD Prevention and Control Action Plan which seeks to reduce the level of insufficient physical activity by 10% and NCDs by 25 % by 2025. An estimated 8.5 million people die due to NCDs every year in WHO south-East Asia Region.

4. The Biju Patnaik Award for Scientific Excellence-2016 --**Digambar Behera**.

Note: The Biju Patnaik Award for Scientific Excellence for the year 2016 to Prof Digambar Behera. The award was instituted by Odisha Bigyan Academy (OBA) and is given to any Odia scientist working anywhere in India or abroad each year for his/her lifetime research contributions in the field of science and technology.

5. Kolkata's transwoman has crowned the first Miss TransQueen India in Gurugram, Haryana—**Nitasha Biswas**.

Note: Currently, Biswas is pursuing Masters in Business Management in Kolkata, West Bengal. Miss Transsexual Australia 2017 Laeticia Phylliscia Raveena had crowned the first Miss TransQueen India.

6. NABARD has conferred the 'best performance award' for 2016-17 to the regional rural bank -- **Karnataka Vikas Grameen Bank**.

Note: NABARD has conferred the 'best performance award' for 2015-16 and 2016-17 to Karnataka Vikas Grameen Bank (KVGB) for its work in the field of credit- linking joint liability groups (JLGs).

WORLD NEWS

1. The world's longest pedestrian suspension bridge has opened in the country -- **Switzerland**.

Note: The longest pedestrian suspension bridge 'Charles Kuonen Suspension Bridge' has opened in Swiss Alpine resort of Zermatt Matterhorn in south Switzerland. According to the Zermatt Matterhorn's press release, the steel bridge is 494 metres long and overtakes the "Titan-RT" bridge in Germany as the world's longest pedestrian suspension bridge.

2. Country to host the 15th meeting of the Foreign Ministers of BIMSTEC countries -- **Nepal**.

Note: The 15th meeting of the Foreign Ministers of BIMSTEC countries will be held in Kathmandu, Nepal.

3. **Israel** launched the country's first environmental research satellite from a launch site in French Guiana -- **VENUS**.

Note: It is a joint venture between the Israel Space Agency (ISA) and its French counterpart CNES (Centre National d'Etudes Spatiales). The goal of the VENUS satellite is to obtain high-resolution photographs of specific sites to track environmental issues such as desertification, erosion, pollution, natural disasters, and other phenomena linked to climate change.

4. The city hosted the 2017 meeting of BRICS Trade Ministers -- **Shanghai**.

5. The country who has ratified the second commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol that commits countries to contain the emission of greenhouse gases, reaffirming its stand on climate action-- **India**.

Note: India deposited its Instrument of Acceptance of the Doha Amendment to the Kyoto Protocol under the UN Convention on Climate Change. Now, India has become the 80th country to accept the amendment relating to the second commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol, the international emissions reduction treaty.

6. The External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj has participated in the two days 15th BIMSTEC Ministerial Meeting in -- **Nepal**.

Note: During the meeting of foreign ministers of the Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC), countries will review the progress in identified fourteen areas of cooperation and discuss ways to accelerate cooperation. The BIMSTEC (Bangladesh, India, Myanmar, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Bhutan, and Nepal) states are among the countries dependent on the Bay of Bengal.

7. Who has commissioned an India-built state-of-the-art Advanced Offshore Patrol Vessel (AOPV) to boost its search and rescue capabilities -- **Sri Lankan Navy**.

Note: The new patrol vessel is named as "SLNS Sayurala". It is the largest vessel built by an Indian ship builder for a foreign navy to date.

8. India and US will co-host the Global Entrepreneurship Summit from 28th to 30th November this year at -- **Hyderabad**.

Note: The Summit is an unique opportunity for bringing together entrepreneurs and start-ups with global leaders. Mr. Modi during his meeting with Trump in Washington in June had invited Ivanka (US President Donald Trump's daughter) for the Summit.

9. The Oxford University Press has launched online dictionaries in the Indian languages -- **Tamil and Gujarati**.

Note: The launch is a part of Oxford Global Languages initiative with an aim to build dictionaries and lexicographical resources for around 100 of the world's languages and to make them available online. Earlier, the Hindi online dictionary was launched in 2016.

10. The ISRO and NASA are jointly working on the mission to co-develop and launch a dual frequency (L & S Band) synthetic aperture radar satellite by 2021—NASA-ISRO Synthetic Aperture Radar(NISAR).

Note: In this joint mission NASA will be responsible for design and development of L-band SAR, 12m unfurlable antenna, GPS system and data recorder. It is the first big collaboration between NASA and ISRO.

11. Google has launched the latest version of its mobile operating system -- **Android Oreo**.

Note: The Oreo boasts of a two times faster boot speed, autofill option, and a longer battery life. The new update comes with a Picture-in-Picture feature that allows the user to see two apps simultaneously. There is also a

Notification Dots option, which when pressed pops out the notification at a glance without having to open the app.

12. British scientists have developed the world's smallest surgical robot which could transform daily operations for tens of thousands of patients -- **Versius**.

Note: The robot 'Versius' mimics the human arm and can be used to carry out a wide range of laparoscopic procedures like hernia repairs, colorectal operations, and prostate and ear, nose, and throat surgery. The robot is controlled by a surgeon at a console guided by a 3D screen in the operating theatre.

13. Indian scientists have discovered a new species of **frog that has a snout-shaped nose**, just like a pig in West Ghats-- **Nasikabatrachus bhupathi**.

Note: Soiled-dwelling species 'Nasikabatrachus bhupathi' discovered by scientists from the Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology (CCMB) in Hyderabad. It has been named after the Indian herpetologist S. Bhupathy.

14. **Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI)** has signed the MoU with the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Nepal (ICAN) to establish mutual co-operation for the advancement of accounting knowledge. **Note:** ICAI has a membership base of over 5,000 members in Nepal

15. A two-day meeting of Heads of Governments of Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) Member States has begun in -- **Kyrgyz Republic**.

Note: Rajnath Singh (Home Minister) is leading the Indian delegation which includes senior officers from Home and External Affairs Ministries and National Disaster Management Authority.

16. A internet based software has been launched by the Election Commission of India in Assam -- **Eronet**.

Note: Eronet is useful for various activities relating to electoral roll such as the inclusion of name, deletion, name correction, transfer of name including providing the new photo identity cards.

17. Who has imposed the world's toughest law against plastic bags in the country to reduce plastic pollution -- **Kenya**.

Note: The law punishes Kenyans producing, selling or using plastic bags with a maximum fine of over Rs. 25 lakhs or a four-year jail term. It took Kenya three attempts over ten years to pass the ban which critics say could cut 80,000 jobs.

18. A group of 20 students of the country have been sponsored by Government of India (GoI) to study Hindi at the Central Institute of Hindi in Agra -- **Sri Lankan**.

Note: Government of India has sponsored their visit, academic fees, and local hospitality for one year in Agra. Hindi is the most popular foreign language in Sri Lanka and is being taught in almost 80 institutions all over the island.

19. Two-day Indian Ocean Conference 2017 being organized by India Foundation in Temple Trees in -- **Colombo**.

Note: The theme of this year's conference is Peace, Progress and Prosperity and will involve participants from more than 35 countries. This will be second IOC conference (first edition- Sep16 in Singapore).

20. The world's first **IAEA Low Enriched Uranium (LEU) Bank** has opened in the country -- **Kazakhstan**.

Note: The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) has launched the world's first IAEA Low Enriched Uranium (LEU) bank at

the Ulba Metallurgical Plant (UMP) in Oskemen, Kazakhstan.

21. The first regional centre of **the New Development Bank (NDB) set up by India and other BRICS nations** has been officially opened in -- **South Africa**.

Note: The idea for setting up NDB was proposed by India at the 4th BRICS summit in 2012 held in New Delhi. The New Development Bank (NDB), formerly referred to as the BRICS Development Bank, is a multilateral development bank established by the BRICS states (Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa) with an initial authorised capital of the bank is USD 100 billion.

22. **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** confirmed in its annual report that almost 99% of banned Rs 500 and Rs 1000 notes that were demonetised last November have returned to the system.

Note: Out of 632.6 crore pieces of Rs 1,000 currency notes in circulation, 8.9 crore have not been returned post the note ban last November. The cost of printing of currency notes more than doubled to Rs 7,965 crore in 2016-17 from Rs 3,421 crore in the previous year on account of new currency printing.

SPORTS NEWS

1. Indian shuttler has won the men's singles Lagos International 2017 -- **Rahul Yadav Chittaboina**.

2. Who formally announced its bid for the **2028 Summer Olympics** after agreeing on a deal with the Olympic organizers -- **Los Angeles (United States)**.

Note: Now, this deal with Olympic organizers paves the way for **Paris to host the Summer Olympics in 2024**. The **2020 Summer Olympics will be hosted by Tokyo**,

CHENNAI IAS ACADEMY – 9043 211 311 / 411

Japan. Earlier, Los Angeles hosted Olympics in 1984.

3. The ten days grand event World Athletics Championships will begin in -- **London**.

Note: 25 Indian athletes are taking part in this event. India has taken part in every championship since the first one in 1983. Legendary long jumper Anju Bobby George's bronze in Paris 2003 has been the lone medal at this global stage..

4. The country is hosting the FIBA Asia Championship-2017 -- **Lebanon**.

Note: Asia's biggest basketball tournament, the FIBA Asia Cup has started in Beirut, Lebanon.

5. Indian shooter has won a bronze in men's trap event at the 7th Asian Championship Shotgun at Astana, Kazakhstan -- **Kynan Chenai**.

Note: Kynan first shot 116 out of 125 to qualify for the six men final round in third sport and then held on to the position till the end of the finals.

6. Olympic Champion has won the **men's 400 meters event** and retained his title in World Athletics Championships, London -- **Wayde Van Niekerk (South African)**.

Note: Niekerk, clocked 43.98 seconds to finish at the top of podium. Steve Gardiner (Bahamas) finished second in the event while Abdalelah Haroun (Qatar) claimed the Bronze..

7. Dhyana Chand Award will be given to Bhupender Singh (Athletics), Syed Shahid Hakim (Football) and Sumarai Tete (Hockey) for their life time contribution to - - **Sports development**.

Note: The awardees will receive their awards from President 'Ram Nath Kovind' in a special function at the Rashtrapati Bhawan on 29th of August.

8. **Para Athlete and Hockey player have been selected for this year's Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna Award** -- **Sardar Singh & Devendra**.

Note: Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna Award is given for the spectacular performance in the field of sports by a sportsperson over a period of four years.

9. British racing driver has won the 2017 Belgian Grand Prix of Formula One (F1) at Circuit de Spa-Francorchamps Stavelot, Belgium -- **Lewis Hamilton**.

Note: Hamilton is the only driver to have won at least one Grand Prix in every season he has competed in. The Belgian Grand Prix is an automobile race, part of the Formula One World Championship.

10. **India** lifted the South Asian Football Federation (SAFF) Under-15 football Championship title at Kathmandu, Nepal.

Note: Six nations participated in the tournament where each of the sides was divided into two pools comprising three teams each.

11. **Nozomi Okuhara** defeated ace **shuttler PV Sindhu** to claim the 2017 BWF World Championships at the Emirates Arena in **Glasgow, Scotland**

Note: Sindhu lost to her Japanese rival Okuhara 19-21 22-20 20-22. Sindhu became only the second Indian to win a silver medal after Saina Nehwal had achieved the feat in the last edition at Jakarta in 2015.

12. Marathon runner has clinched silver medal in the women's **10,000-metre** at the **29th World University Games** in Taipei, Taiwan -- **Sanjivani Jadhav**.

Note: Earlier, she won a bronze in the 5000 metres at the Asian Athletics Championships in Bhubaneswar in July 2017.

SEPTEMBER MONTH CURRENT AFFAIRS

1. The country is hosting the Eastern Economic Forum -2017 Russia.
Note: The EEF is considered as the biggest international communication platform for cooperation between businesses leaders and senior government representatives from Russia, the Pacific Region and ASEAN.
2. The Insurance company has received in-principle approval from the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) for its IPO -- **Reliance General insurance**.
Note: Currently, ICICI Prudential Life is listed on the stock exchange, while Max Life insurance is indirectly listed through holding company Max Financial Venture.
3. The black Money has been disclosed by 21 thousand people under the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Yojna(PMGKY) till 31st March this year -- **4,900 crore rupees**
Note: The Income Tax Department has collected a tax of 2,451 crore rupees till now from these declarations. The scheme was launched in December 2016 by the government to enable people with black money to come clean by paying tax and penalty of 50 per cent.
4. Punjab National Bank (PNB) and Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) join hands to roll out open mobile wallet across 10 states in the country – **Speedpay**.
Note: Now, BSNL will expand Speed pay services in Punjab, Chandigarh (UT), Haryana, Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, West Bengal, Jharkhand, and Uttarakhand. PNB's Speedway wallet will operate like any other mobile wallet for paying bills, recharging phone besides its users will be able to deposit and withdraw money from authorized retail outlets
5. The Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA) has raised the upper age limit for joining the National Pension Scheme (NPS) existing 60-years to -- **65 years**.
Note: The scheme has the option of continuing and making contributions up to the age of 70. National Pension System (NPS) is a low cost, tax-efficient and flexible retirement savings scheme launched by the government of India (GoI).
6. India's first Payment Bank launches integrated Unified Payments Interface (UPI) on its digital platform – **Airtel Payments Bank**.
Note: In January 2017, Bharti Airtel launched Payments Bank in India to enable transactions on digital platforms. The initiative will allow bank customers to link their bank accounts to Bhim app and make UPI payments.
7. The Vice-President of Google has launched a new digital payment app -- **Google tez**.
Note: The app is based on UPI platform, allows payments direct from the bank accounts. The tez app is one of the most-simple forms of monetary transactions and available to Android as well as iOS users.
8. India signed loan deal with Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) to upgrade Alang-SosiyaShipyards -- **USD 76 million**.
Note: The total cost of the project will be 111 million Dollars and executed by the Gujarat Maritime Board. The project will help the Alang-Sosia ship-recycling yards to comply with international safety and environmental regulations.
9. Who has sanctioned a USD 300 million loan facility for carrying forward fiscal reforms in West Bengal—**Asian Development Bank (ADB)**.

- Note:** The full effect of reforms would take at least 5 years to materialize and a follow-on program would be needed to carry these forward
10. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) relaxed norms for issuance of rupee-denominated overseas bonds -- **Masala bonds**.
Note: They will be treated as external commercial borrowings from October 3, thereby freeing up more investments by FPIs.
11. The union govt. has launched a Campaign on pan-Indiabasis in different parts of the country from Varanasi -- **Mudra Promotion Campaign**.
Note: According to the Ministry of Finance, 50 such campaigns will be organised in different parts of the country where Union Ministers will take part. The Micro Unit Development and Refinance Agency (MUDRA Scheme) was launched to fund and promote microfinance institutions, which would in turn provide loans to small and vulnerable sections of the businesses.
12. The country ranked the 40th most competitive economy on the World Economic Forum's global competitiveness index -- **India**.
Note: India's performance also improved in ICT (information and communications technologies) indicators, particularly Internet bandwidth per user, mobile phone and broadband subscriptions, and Internet access in schools.
- ## New Appointments
1. After latest Union cabinet reshuffle, who has become the new Defence Minister of India -- **Nirmala Sitharaman**.
Note: She has become the India's first woman Defence Minister after Indira Gandhi. Now, Suresh Prabhu has become the new Union Minister of Commerce and Industry.
2. The new **Comptroller and Auditor General** (CAG) of India -- **Rajiv Mehrishi**.
Note: Three senior bureaucrats (Ashwini Attri, Anita Pattanayak and Ranjan Kumar Ghose) have been appointed as the Deputy Controller
- and Auditor General.
3. Senior IAS officer took charge as the Union Home Secretary -- **Rajiv Gauba**.
Note: Rajiv Gauba has a graduate degree and is a Gold Medallist in Physics (BSc) from Patna University.
4. Senior bureaucrat has been appointed Secretary in the Department of Financial Services (DFS) -- **Rajiv Kumar**.
Note: The DFS looks after the functioning of banks, financial institutions, insurance companies and the national pension system.
5. The Chairman of the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) -- **Anita Karwal**.
Note: She has replaced 'Rajesh Kumar Chaturvedi' who has been moved to the National Skill Development Agency as Director General (DG).
6. Former Information and Broadcasting Secretary will be the new the **Election Commissioner of India** — **Sunil Arora**.
Note: **Achal Kumar Joti is the CEC (Chief Election Commissioner of India), Om Prakash Rawat** is the other Election Commissioner. Election Commission of India is a permanent Constitutional Body established under **Article 324 of the Constitution**.
7. America's foremost expert on US-India trade relations has been nominated as the U.S ambassador to India -- **Kenneth I. Juster**.
Note: The United States Ambassador to India is the chief diplomatic representative of United States in India.
8. Who has been appointed as the new Union Minister of Railways -- **Piyush Goyal**.
Note: He succeeded Suresh Prabhu, who has become the new Union Minister of Commerce and Industry.
9. Who has taken charge as Managing Director (MD) and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Vijaya Bank -- **R A Sankara Narayanan**.
Note: He took charge from Dr Kishore Sansi, who had attained Superannuation on 31st August.

CHENNAI IAS ACADEMY – 9043 211 311 / 411

10. Bollywood actress has been appointed woman ambassador in 'Friends of Australia' (FOA) advocacy panel -- **Parineeti Chopra**.
Note: She will be the first Indian woman ambassador to be a part of the FOA advocacy panel. The 'Friends of Australia' (FOA) program has been devised as a way of fostering mutually beneficial and long-term friendship with those that Tourism Australia regards as unique storytellers.
11. Chairman-cum-Managing Director of NMDC (National Mineral Development Corporation) - **N Baijendra kumar**
Note:The NMDC (National Mineral Development Corporation) Limited is a state-controlled mineral producer of the Government of India under administrative control of the Ministry of Steel.
12. Who has been unanimously elected as the Chairman of Press Trust of India (PTI) -- **Viveck Goenka**.
Note: Press Trust of India (PTI) is the news agency in India, headquartered in New Delhi and is a non-profit cooperative among more than 500 Indian newspapers.
13. The union govt. has appointed interim GSTN Chairman **A.B Panday**.
Note:The union govt. has given Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) CEO 'A.B. Pandey' additional charge of Goods and Services Tax Network (GSTN).
14. Former speaker of Singapore's parliament has been declared as the President of Singapore — **Mdm Halimah yacob**.
Note: Under section 15 of the Presidential Election Act, declared Mdm Halimah to be elected to the office of President as only one candidate stands nominated at end of nomination period.
15. UN Secretary-General 'Antonio Guterres' has appointed the first special envoy for the oceans -- **Peter Thomson**.
Note: Peter Thomson played a leading role at the first- ever UN conference on oceans in June. The 193 UN member states issued an urgent call for action to reverse the decline in the health and productivity of the world's oceans.
16. The chairman-cum-managing director (CMD) of Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) Ltd for five years -- **Mahendra Pratap Mall**.
Note: Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation(IRCTC) is a subsidiary of the Indian Railways that handles the catering, tourism, and online ticketing operations of the Indian railways.
17. Former Secretary-General of UN has been elected as Chair of Ethics Commission of the International Olympic Committee (IOC) -- **Ban Ki-moon**.
Note: Mr. Moon was the 8th Secretary-General of the United Nations (Jan 2007 - Dec 2016).
18. The Director General (DG) of the National Investigation Agency (NIA) -- **Y.C Modi**
Note: Mr. Modi will take over from Sharad Kumar after he completes his tenure on 30th October this year. National Investigation Agency (NIA) is a central agency established by the Indian Government to combat terror in India.
19. The director general (DG) of the Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB) -- **Rajni Kant Misra**.
Note: He will hold the post till the date of his superannuation (31st August,2019). Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB) is one of India's Central Armed Police Forces, currently under the administrative control of the Ministry currently under the administrative control of the Ministry.
20. Bollywood Actor has been appointed as the Brand Ambassador of Swachh Bharat Abhiyan in Uttarakhand -- **Akshay Kumar**.

CHENNAI IAS ACADEMY – 9043 211 311 / 411

- Note:** In August 2017, he was also appointed as the brand ambassador for the cleanliness campaign in Uttar Pradesh.
21. The Union government has constituted a GST Committee on Exports headed by -- **Dr Hasmukh Adhia**.
Note: The panel is mandated to recommend to the GST Council a suitable strategy for helping the export sector in the post-GST set-up.
 22. Who has been appointed the chairman-cum-managing director (CMD) of National Hydroelectric Power Corporation (NHPC) Ltd.-- **Balraj Joshi**.
Note: NHPC Limited is an Indian Hydropower generation company that was incorporated in the year 1975 with an objective to plan, promote and organize an integrated and efficient development of hydroelectric power in all aspects
 23. Noted economist has been appointed as the first Chairman of the five-member Economic Advisory Council (EAC- PM)--**Bibek Debroy**.
Note: The council serves to highlight key economic issues facing the country to the government of India from a neutral viewpoint. The Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister (PMEAC) is a non-constitutional, non-permanent and independent body constituted to give economic advice to the Government of India, specifically the Prime Minister.
 24. The new Governor of Bihar -- **Satya Pal Malik**.
 25. Assam Governor **Banwarilal Purohit** will now be the new Governor -- **Tamil Nadu**.
 26. The new Governor of Assam -- **Prof Jagdish Mukhi**.
 27. The Lieutenant Governor of Andaman and Nicobar-- **Admiral (Retd) Devendra Kumar Joshi**.
 28. The Governor of Arunachal Pradesh -- **Brigadier (Retd) B D Mishra**.
 29. The Governor of Meghalaya -- **Ganga Prasad**.
 30. The first woman Chief Proctor of Banaras Hindu University (BHU) -- **Professor Royana Singh**.
Note: Professor Singh is a professor in the Anatomy department of the Institute of Medical Sciences and the chairman of the Women's Grievance Cell of the BHU.

IMPORTANT NEWS –INDIA

1. India-Nepal joint military exercise ‘Surya Kiran XII’ was held at -- **Saljhandi, Nepal**.
Note: It is largest exercise in terms of troop’s participation in series of military training exercises undertaken by India with various countries. Surya Kiran series of exercises are held alternately in India and Nepal.
2. Who has constituted an ‘Expert Task Force’ to provide a major thrust to job creation by enhancing India’s exports -- **NITI Aayog**.
Note: The panel will give recommendations on sector-specific policy interventions in key employment sectors and measures to enhance trade in services with high employment potential. An urgent and sustained expansion of the organized sector is essential to address India’s unemployment and under-employment issue.
3. The union govt. has been constituted under the Chairmanship of former apex court judge to identify key **data protection issues** in India -- **Justice BN Srikrishna**.
Note: The committee will study various issues and make specific suggestions for consideration of the government on the principles to be considered for data protection.
4. Indian Ambassador to Nepal laid the foundation stone for the proposed Pension Paying Office (PPO) at Butwal Nepal-- **Manjeev Singh Puri**.
Note: It will benefit approximate 45000 Indian Army Gorkha pensioners and family pensioners in the region. This bond with the Ex-Servicemen contributes immensely to warmth and strength of India-Nepal relationship.

5. India and Sri Lanka joint maritime naval 7th Edition exercise has begun at Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh --**SLINEX 2017**.
Note: The exercise will be concluded on 14th September this year. The exercises were held in both Harbour Phase (professional, cultural, and social interactions) and Sea Phase (anti-piracy exercises, cross-deck helicopter operations, gun firings and anti-surface exercises).
6. The union minister has inaugurated the new head quarter building of Bureau of Police Research and Development (BPR&D) in New Delhi -- **Rajnath Singh**.
Note: BPR&D was set up in 1970 to identify the needs and problems of the police in the country. The Bureau undertake research projects and studies, and suggest modalities to overcome problems and challenges and meet the needs and requirements of the police.
7. According to the govt. report, the Pradhan Mantri MUDRA Yojana (PMMY) has helped in creating jobs -- **5.5 crore**.
Note: Around Rs 3.42 lakh crore loan has been disbursed to over 8 crore people under the scheme (mostly small entrepreneurs). MUDRA loan is available for non- agricultural activities (like dairy, poultry, bee-keeping) for up to Rs 10 lakh.
8. Who has successfully test fired 3rd generation Anti-Tank Guided Missile (ATGM) 'Nag' -- **Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)**.
Note: The first successful flight test of NAG missile was carried out in June 2017. Nag is one of five missile systems developed by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) under the Integrated Guided Missile Development Program (IGMDP).
9. An eight feet bronze statue of Indian freedom struggle leader was unveiled at the naval base INS Netaji Subhas at **Kolkata -- Subhas Chandra Bose**.
Note: The Statute has been unveiled by Mr. Krishna Bose (Niece-in-law of Netaji) and Vice Admiral H.C.S. Bisht (Eastern Naval Command Chief) by cutting the ribbon together.
10. The food regulator has launched a nationwide online platform to bring in transparency in food safety inspection and sampling -- **Food Safety and Standards Authority of India(FSSAI)**.
Note: The food regulator asked the state govt. to adopt this system as it would help eliminate discrepancy and make food safety officers accountable. The system will ease out the process of sample collection, make it transparent and traceable and controls the quality of compliances.
11. Telecom company has launched **Voice over LTE (VoLTE) services in Mumbai -- Bharti Airtel**.
Note: VoLTE (works over 4G) will offer High Definition (HD) voice calls along with faster call set up time. Voice over Long-Term Evolution (VoLTE) is a standard for high-speed wireless communication for mobile phones and data terminals.
12. India's first **Hyperloop project** will come up in the state --**Andhra Pradesh**.
Note: The Hyperloop Technology is a brainchild idea of Tesla founder Elon Musk, who dubs it as the 5th mode of transportation.
13. The Union Minister of State for Home Kiren Rijiju has launched BSF Half Marathon online registration portal at a function in New Delhi -- **www.marathon.bsf.gov.in**.
Note: The marathon will be held at Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium in Delhi on 22nd October. It will be dedicated to martyrs and BSF will facilitate their family members on the occasion.
14. Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his Japanese counterpart Shinzo Abe jointly laid the foundation stone for the high-speed bullet train project between --**Ahmedabad and Mumbai**.
Note: The high-speed bullet train project expected to be completed by 2022. The train will cover distance of 508- km in around two hours, cost an estimated Rs.1,10,000 crore
15. PM Modi dedicated to the nation the Dam on Narmada river at Kevadia in Gujarat -- **Sardar Sarovar Dam**.

CHENNAI IAS ACADEMY – 9043 211 311 / 411

Note: The project will irrigate 2,46,000 hectares of land in the strategically important desert districts of Barmer and Jalore in Rajasthan and 37,500 hectares in the tribal hilly tract of Maharashtra. The storage capacity also rose to 4.73 million cubic metres, MCM (earlier, 1.27 MCM). The foundation stone of the project was laid out by Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru on 5th April, 1961.

16. The Minister of State for Culture, EF & CC Dr. Mahesh Sharma has inaugurated the Aizawl Circle of Archeological Survey of India (ASI) in -- **Mizoram**.

Note: The Aizawl Circle of ASI will cover Mizoram, Manipur & Tripura. The Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) is the premier organization for the archaeological researches and protection of the cultural heritage of the nation.

17. The Union Home Minister 'Rajnath Singh' made operational the New Intelligence Set-up of -- **Sashastra Seema Bal**.

Note: This new unit will gather information along the borders with Bhutan and Nepal.

18. The 38th meeting of Transport Development Council is scheduled to be held in this city -- **Vadodara**.

Note: The Council meeting has given an opportunity to the state Transport Ministers to get an exposure on the new and upcoming reforms in the transport sector. A discussion on the subject of Public Transport Reforms and way forward to Bus Ports.

19. India's first State of art virology laboratory at Dr Anjali Chatterjee Regional Research Institute for Homoeopathy in -- **Kolkata**.

Note: The laboratory will also be used to create new drugs and technologies in treating these viral diseases.

20. The city hosted the first-ever National Conference on "Mission Mode to address Under-Nutrition" -- **New Delhi**.

Note: The conference has been organized by the Ministry of Women & Child Development in collaboration with Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation and Ministry of Health & Family Welfare.

21. Who has released a Commemorative Coin on Dr. **MS Subbulakshmi** on the occasion of her birth Centenary Commemoration -- **M Venkaiah Naidu**.

22. **Note:** Dr. Subbulakshmi was the first musician ever to be awarded the **Bharat Ratna (1998)** and **Ramon Magsaysay award (1974)**.

23. The union Govt. will introduce a curated food experience zone 'Food Street' at the global food fair in -- **New Delhi**.

Note: It will provide a platform to investors to taste the foods and then take a call on investing in India under the 'make in India' programme. This will bring together culinary practices, flavours, fragrances from cuisines across the world.

24. The Ship has been Commissioned into the Indian Navy at Naval Dockyard, Mumbai --- **TARASA**.

Note: **INS Tarasa (T94)** is a patrol vessel of the Car Nicobar-class of Indian Navy and the last ship in the series of four Water Jet Fast Attack Craft. The ship is designed for a maximum speed of 35 knots, with an endurance of nearly 2,000 nautical miles at 12-14 knots.

25. A web portal has been launched for effective implementation of National Child Labour Project (NCLP) - - **PENCIL (Platform for Effective Enforcement for No Child Labour)**.

Note: PENCIL portal has five components (Child Tracking System, Complaint Corner, State Government, National Child Labour Project, and Convergence) and developed by the Labour Ministry.

26. The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change will hold a quiz on environment throughout the country - - **Prakriti Khoj**.

Note: The quiz is planned in five rounds, the qualifying round (first round) will begin on 25th Sep and continue till 29th of this month. The second round (30th October to 3rd of November), the third round (20th to 24 of November) while the fourth round (4th to 6th of December) and fifth round (18th to 20th December).

27. The Minister of Communication ‘Shri Manoj Sinha’ has launched the Internet and Technology event in India at Pragati Maidan, New Delhi -- **India Mobile Congress 2017**.
Note: The India Mobile Congress is being organised by Cellular Operators Association of India (COAI).
28. The 6th edition of the four-day international textile and apparel fair in **Jaipur, Rajasthan -- VASTRA 2017**.
Note: VASTRA 2017 is an all-encompassing trade fair and conference on Textiles and Apparel presenting a fusion of the finest and the latest in textiles products. More than 50 countries and 13 Indian States are participating in VASTRA 2017.
29. The Prime Minister Narendra Modi has launched the 'Power for all' scheme in New Delhi -- **Saubhagya**.
Note: The scheme ‘Saubhagya’ will provide subsidy on equipment like transformers, meters, and wires and expected to cover all rural families after expected electrification of all villages by the end of 2017.
30. The Union Minister of State has released the book titled ‘**Bhartiya Kala Mein Salil Kridayen Evam Sadyahsnata Nayika**’ at a function in National Museum -- **Dr. Mahesh Sharma**.
Note: This book authored by Dr. Kshetrapal Gangwar & Shri Sanjib Kumar Singh, based on original research, written to highlight the Indian Art.
31. The union Minister has launched the Web Portal of Warehousing Development and Regulatory Authority (WDRA) and Electronic Negotiable Warehouse Receipt (e- NWR) System in New Delhi -- **Ram Vilas Paswan**.
32. **Note:** The e-NWRs would be immune from any tempering, mutilation, fudging, loss or damage and with no possibility of any multiple financing. These NWRs will not only facilitate an easy pledge financing by banks and other financial institutions but also smooth trading on various trading centres like commodity exchanges, electronic National Agriculture Markets (e-NAM) and other electronic platforms.
33. The 13th Formation Day of the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) in New Delhi – **Rajnath Singh**.
Note: National Disaster Management Authority(NDMA) is an agency of the Ministry of Home Affairs whose primary purpose is to coordinate response to natural or man- made disasters and for capacity-building in disaster resiliency and crisis response.
34. The ‘**Kandla Port**’ has been renamed as – **Deendayal Port**.
Note: The Ministry of Shipping issued the required notification on the occasion of the closing of the yearlong centenary celebrations of Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay. Kandla Port is the largest sea port of India (by volume of cargo handled) located in Kutch District of Gujarat.

States News

1. Who has launched a scheme that provides for physical aids and assisted-living devices for senior citizens belonging to the BPL category in Gujarat --**Thaawarchand Gehlot**.
Note: This ambitious scheme, is expected to benefit 5,20,000 senior citizens over a period of three years. Under the scheme, devices were distributed to senior citizens free of cost.
2. Coast Guard launched an aviation infrastructure including a multi-mission maritime aircraft hanger, MMMA in --**Bhubaneswar**.
Note: This is part of the ongoing effort by the Coast Guard to strengthen the maritime and coastal security. The newly launched aviation infrastructure would provide a fillip towards futuristic expansion plan of Coast Guard's air arm.
3. Who laid the foundation stone for link - 4 of **Saurashtra Narmada Avataran Irrigation Scheme (SAUNI) Yojana in Rajkot, Gujarat - - Ramnath Kovind**.
Note: Earlier, SAUNI project had been launched by Mr. Modi to fill up 115 major dams by diverting overflow of water from the Sardar Sarovar Dam on Narmada River.

CHENNAI IAS ACADEMY – 9043 211 311 / 411

Three phases of SAUNI yojana already dedicated to the people following completion of the work.

4. The state govt. will provide free education to girls up to graduation -- **Karnataka.**

Note: The state govt. will provide free education for girls across the state from Class 1 up to graduation in all public and aided private schools and colleges, excluding professional institutions.

5. The Chief Minister of **Odisha Naveen Patnaik** has inaugurated the fourth Government Medical College in --**Koraput.**

Note: The Medical College has been named after 'Saheed Laxman Naik' (freedom fighter of **Koraput**).

6. A well-equipped skill city with a capacity of 10 thousand training seats will be set up at block levels in -- **Assam.**

Note: A Singapore based premier institute will support the state govt. in this regard and it will take 4 to 5 years to complete. A temporary complex with 400 capacities is being set up in **Guwahati.**

7. The state govt. has inaugurated the second International Yoga Festival and International Yoga Sports Championship 2017 in -- **Kashmir.**

Note: Around 300 participants from various parts of India, Vietnam, Taiwan, Canada, Bulgaria, USA, and Nepal are participating in the festival. The festival is being organized by the Yoga Society of Kashmir at the Sher-i-Kashmir International Conference Centre.

8. The state's high court has ordered the state government to grant books and uniform instead of cash to the Below Poverty Line students -- **Chhattisgarh.**

9. The state government has launched Shaheed Gram Vikas Yojana to provide houses to freedom fighters --**Jharkhand.**

Note: Under the scheme, villages of many tribal freedom fighters will be developed and their habitants will be provided with basic amenities.

10. The first Indian state to set up family welfare district committees to examine the complaints of

women against their husbands and in-laws and find an amicable solution-- **Tripura.**

Note: Now, Tripura High Court is the first high court among 24 high courts of the country that has constituted the family welfare district committees.

11. The first Indian state to launch electric bus service --**Himachal Pradesh.**

Note: The state govt. has launched the first electric bus service on 51km ecologically fragile between Manali and Rohtang Pass. The move was made amidst concern over increasing environmental degradation in the Rohtang Pass area due to plying of diesel taxis.

12. The Union Minister has launched 'Pt Deen Dayal Upadhyay Vigyan Gram Sankul Pariyojana' in Uttarakhand-- **Dr. Harshvardhan.**

Note: It will experiment and endeavour to formulate and implement appropriate S&T Interventions for Sustainable Development through cluster approach in Uttarakhand. This project has been inspired by teachings and ideals of 'Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyay' whose birth centenary is being celebrated this year.

13. Odisha state Govt. has launched a scheme for pregnant women, in Odisha-- **Sampurna Yojna.**

Note: The main objective of this scheme is to reduce the death ration of the new born child and mother mortality rate.

14. The state govt has launched 'Vision-2025' project across the state-- **Karnataka.**

Note: The project aimed at evolving a draft policy for development of the state for the year 2025 by seeking the opinion of the general public.

15. The union govt. has approved 221 rural roads projects and bridges involving an expenditure of 782.24 crore rupees under the 'Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana' (PMGSY)-- **Himachal Pradesh.**

Note: The projects would be funded in the ratio of 90:10 by the central and state governments. The approval includes 11 bridges at different locations in the state.

Important Day

1. The state is celebrating the biggest cultural festival Thiruvonam (the 10th day) and the most auspicious day of **Onam -- Kerala**.
Note: The harvest festival of Kerala 'Onam' falls in the first month of Malayalam calendar, chingam. Keralites across the globe irrespective of religious differences is celebrating the festival in full vigour.
2. Teachers' Day is being celebrated throughout the country on -- **5th September**.
Note: On Teacher's Day, students across the nation honour the teachers and gurus in their lives.
3. The International Literacy Day (ILD) is being observed on -- **8th September**.
Note: The day raises public awareness to eradicate illiteracy and create an environment in favour of adult education programmes. The International Literacy Day (51st) is being celebrated at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi (India).
4. The traditional Bonderam festival has started in Divar Island of Goa on -- **9th September**.
Note: The word "Bonderam" originated from the involvement of flags.
5. The International Day for South-South Cooperation has been observed on -- **12th September**.
Note: The day celebrates the economic, social and political developments made in recent years by regions and countries in the south. The Global South-South Development Expo 2017 will be hosted by Turkey.
6. The Cauvery Maha Pushkaram has been celebrated from today on the banks of river Cauvery in -- **Tamil Nadu**.
Note: The celestial transit of planet Jupiter from zodiac sign Virgo to Libra is said to be the Maha Pushkaram period. Cauvery Maha Pushkaram is celebrated from 12 September and is considered auspicious as the configuration of stars happens only once in 144 years.
7. The National Hindi Divas is being observed every year across the country on -- **14th September**.
Note: In 1949, on this day the Constituent Assembly adopted Hindi written in Devanagari script as the official language of the country.
8. The National Engineers Day (NED) 2017 is celebrated in India -- **15th September**.
Note: This year's theme of democracy and conflict prevention focuses on the critical need to strengthen democratic institutions to promote peace and stability.
9. The International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer is observed every year on -- **16th September**.
Note: The Ozone layer is a fragile shield of gas which protects the Earth from the harmful ultraviolet radiation of the sun and thus helping preserve life on the planet. This year, the theme for the Day is 'Caring for all life under the sun'.
10. The International Day of Peace is observed across the world annually on -- **21st September**.
Note: The theme for 2017 is "Together for Peace: Respect, Safety and Dignity for All."
11. The World Tourism Day (WTD) is being observed annually on -- **27th September**.
Note: The theme of this year is 'International Year of Sustainable Tourism for Development'.
12. The World Rabies Day is observed across the world to raise awareness about the rabies disease and its preventable measures - **28th September**.
Note: The theme for World Rabies Day-2017 is "Rabies: Zero by 30".
13. The World Maritime Day is being observed across the world on -- **28th September (last Thursday of September)**.
Note: 2017 Theme: Connecting Ships, Ports, and People This year's theme was chosen to provide an opportunity to focus on the many diverse actors involved in the shipping and logistic areas.
14. International Translation Day is celebrated every year on -- **30th September**.

Note: This year, the United Nations celebrates for the first time International Translation Day. The celebrations have been promoted by FIT (the International Federation of Translators) ever since it was set up in 1953.

Honors & Award

1. Prime Minister Narendra Modi visited the 2,500-years old Temple located at the west of the Royal Lake in Yangon -- **Shwedagon pagoda.**

Note: Shwedagon Pagoda is covered with hundreds of gold plates and the top of the stupa is encrusted with 4,531 diamonds, the largest of which is a 72-carat diamond. Shwedagon Pagoda is considered to be the most sacred and impressive Buddhist site for the Myanmar people.

2. A joint military training exercise between India and US will be conducted at Joint Base Lewis McChord, Washington (USA) from 14 to 27th Sep this year -- **Yudh Abhyas -2017.**

Note: The exercise 'Yudh Abhyas' will provide an opportunity to the armed forces of both countries to train in an integrated manner at Battalion level with joint planning at Brigade level.

3. The Sahara Forest Project signs deal to realize facility in **Jordan.**

Note: With funding from the Norwegian Ministry of Climate and Environment and Grieg Foundation the Sahara Forest Project starts building in Aqaba (Aqaba is a Jordanian port city on the Red Sea's Gulf of Aqaba). The facility, part of the Sahara Forest Project (SFP), produces "energy, freshwater and food and all this in an arid desert.

4. The South Asian Women Development Forum (SAWDF) has organized the two days 'Across Barriers- International Business Women's Summit' at -- **Kathmandu, Nepal.**

Note: The event aims to encourage partnerships between women entrepreneurs from the SAARC and ASEAN member countries and China.

5. India has started operation to provide assistance to Bangladesh in response to the humanitarian crisis being faced due to the large influx of Rohingya refugees into that country from Myanmar -- **Operation Insaniyat.**

Note: Under it, relief material consisting of items including rice, pulses, sugar, salt, cooking oil, biscuits and mosquito nets will be provided to the affected people.

6. The National Institute of Ayurveda has entered the Guinness Book for 'Most people receiving Nasya Panch Kararma simultaneously' -- **Jaipur.**

Note: 733 Ayurvedic practitioners performed Nasya Karma, which has been registered in the Guinness Book of records.

7. The Bollywood star has received the 'Global Diversity Award' at Britain's House of Commons -- **Salman Khan.**

Note: The Global Diversity Award is given to people of immense stature in terms of what they have done for diversity in the world.

8. A Nigerian lawyer teacher & peacemaker has won the 2017 UN High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) -- **Zannah Mustapha.** Maiduguri (the capital of Borno State) which is the epicentre of the Boko Haram insurgency.

9. The Sports ministry has recommended Olympic silver medallist shuttler for the prestigious Padma Bhushan -- **P v Sindhu.**
Note: Sindhu has become the first Indian to win a silver at Rio Games last year.

World News

1. The 9th BRICS summit has begun in the Chinese city with theme "**BRICS: Stronger Partnership for a Brighter Future**-- **Xiamen.**

Note: In a joint declaration, Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa (BRICS) condemned all terror attacks worldwide, including those attacks in the member states stressing that there can be no justification whatsoever for any such act.

2. The world's highest sandcastle has built in the country -- **Germany.**

Note: According to the Guinness World Records, the world's highest sandcastle is now standing 16.68 meters tall in the German city of Duisburg.

- The book titled '**Unstoppable: My Life So Far**' authored by a tennis star -- **Maria Sharapova**. **Note:** The book talks about Sharapova's rise from nowhere to tennis stardom and the unending fight to stay on top.
- The species who has moved from '**Endangered**' to '**Vulnerable**' category in the IUCN Red List - **Snow Leopard**.
- The joint exercise between special forces of Pakistan and Russia Armies started in Minralney Vody, Russia --**DRUZBA 2017**. **Note:** Pakistan and Russia are holding a two-week long military exercise focussing on counter- terrorism operations to enhance defence ties between the two countries.

Sports News

- India's boxer has won the bronze medal at the 2017 World Boxing Championships in Hamburg, Germany -- **Gaurav Bidhuri**. **Note:** He lost his semi-final bantamweight (56kg) category clash to Duke Ragan (America).
- Indian sportsperson has won gold in the girls' Under-12 category at the World Cadets Chess Championship -- **Divya Deshmukh**. **Note:** It is Divya's second world title after her victory in the under-10 World Youth Chess Championship-2014 in Durban.
- Indian sportsperson has won silver in senior men's double trap at 2017 ISSF World Shotgun Championship in Moscow -- **Ankur Mittal**.
- The 2017 Italian Formula One Grand Prix tournament -- **Lewis Hamilton**. **Note:** British racing driver Lewis Hamilton has won the 2017 Italian Formula One Grand Prix

tournament at the Autodromo Nazionale Monza in Monza, Italy.

- A Spanish professional tennis player has defeated Kevin Anderson (South Africa) to claim US Open tennis tournament-2017 in New York -- **Rafael Nadal**
- According to the evaluation commission of International Olympic Committee (IOC), who will host the 2028 Olympics -- **Los Angeles (USA)**. **Note:** The full IOC will award the 2024 Games to Paris and the 2028 Games to Los Angeles.
- India lose Davis Cup Tennis World Group Play-offs tie against -- **Canada**. **Note:** India has lost the World Group Play-off tie of Davis Cup Tennis Tournament to the host Canada 2-3.
- British racing driver has won the Singapore Grand Prix -- **Lewis Hamilton**. **Note:** Hamilton has built a 28-point cushion, courtesy a no show from main championship rival Vettel (235 points) and Hamilton (263 points). The Singapore Grand Prix is a motor race on the calendar of the FIA Formula One World Championship.
- The World Cup 2019 will be played from 30th May to 15th July in 2019 in -- **United Kingdom (UK)**.
- The player has won the 2017 BWF Korean Open Super Series Women's Singles title -- **PV Sindhu**.
- Indian Shuttler has clinched the women's singles Under- 19 title at the Belgian Junior Open badminton tournament at Herstal, Belgium -- **Vaishnavi Reddy**. **Note:** She defeated Vivien Sandorhazi (top seed, Hungary) in a three-game final (21-19, 17-21, 21-12) in summit clash at the Hall Omnisport La Prealle

12. Olympic bronze-medallist has become the first Indian to be picked as the International Boxing Association's representative for the IOC Athletes' Forum -- **MC Mary Kom**.

Note: She has been invited to attend the 8th International Olympic Committee's (IOC) Athletes' Forum in Lausanne from 11th to 13th November this year.

OCTOBER MONTH CURRENT AFFAIRS

APPOINTMENT:

1. The insurance company **HDFC Life** has launched 'Neo' a servicing bot for Twitter.

Note: The Neo bot will be available 24/7 and has the capability to authenticate customers and give frequently sought details, like fund value, sum assured and premium amount.

2. The new chairman of the State Bank of India (SBI)-**Rajnish Kumar**.

Note: He succeeds **Arundhati Bhattacharya**.

According to the Morgan Stanley report, India is likely to be the world's fastest-growing large economy in the next -- **10 years**.

Note: Morgan Stanley expects digitization will provide an enhancement of 50-75 bps to GDP growth and forecasted, India will grow to a 6-trillion-dollar economy and achieve upper-middle income status by 2026-27.

3. **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** will launch a financial literacy drive in 80 blocks in nine states on pilot basis to educate people on e-transactions, formal sector borrowings and insurance purchases.

Note: The pilot project will be commissioned in the 9 states of Maharashtra, Chhattisgarh, Bihar, Odisha, Karnataka, Telangana, Andhra

Pradesh, Haryana, and Uttar Pradesh by the 6 NGOs in collaboration with the sponsor banks.

4. According to the Brand Finance's Nation Brands 2017, India has ranked **8th** most valuable nation brand.

Note: The **United States** retained its top position and China took the second spot. The fastest growing nation brand in 2017 is China, saw valuation grow 44%.

5. The **Income Tax (I-T) Department** has launched an **online chat service** for taxpayers so that they can seek answers to their **basic queries** and doubts relating to direct tax issues.

Note: A window has been hosted on the **main page** of the department's website "**www.incometaxindia.gov.in**" with a prominent icon stating Live Chat Online- ask your query.

6. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI), banks will provide funds to women self-help groups (SHGs) in rural areas at --**7%**. **Note:** The central bank issued the revised guidelines on interest subvention scheme under DAY-NRLM, as received from the Ministry of Rural Development for implementation by 21 public sector banks and 19 private banks.

7. Goods and Services Tax Network (GSTN) has launched an excel-based offline tool for businesses to file initial -- **GSTR- 3B returns**.

Note: Taxpayers can download the offline utility from the GSTN portal and after filling in the data the file can be uploaded on GST portal.

- a. This facility will provide an opportunity to the taxpayer to verify details of GSTR 3B before filing and minimize chances of error.

8. Private sector bank has committed Rs 156 crore to fund first **Sewage Treatment Plant (STP)** to be constructed at **Varanasi under Hybrid Annuity-PPP Model -- Yes Bank.**

Note: The bank has signed a deal with **Essel Infraprojects** for the financial closure of **Rs 156 crore** that will fund the STP under **Namami Gange Project.**

9. India **ranks in the Global Passport Power Rank 2017-- 75th.**

Note: Advisory firm Arton Capital has published the 2017 Global Passport Power Rank. The index ranks passport of different countries based on their 'total visa-free score'. Singapore has fetched the top spot at this year's Global Passport Power rank, with a visa-free score of 159.

10. Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) has revamped its portal to provide easy access to credit and hand-holding services for micro small medium enterprises (MSME) -- **www.udyamimitra.in.**

Note: The portal is mobile-enabled and provides a self- assessment module. It sends various information on registered MSMEs from time to time and also allows loan applications to be perused and picked up by multiple lenders.

NEW APPOINTMENT:

1. The Supreme Court of India (SCI) has appointed senior advocate and former

additional solicitor general **Amrender Sharan** as amicus curiae on a petition seeking reprobe into the assassination of Mahatma Gandhi.

Note: Mahatma Gandhi was shot dead at point blank range in New Delhi on 30th January 1948 by Nathuram Vinayak Godse.

2. President Ram Nath Kovind has appointed a **five- member Commission** to examine the sub-categorization of the Other Backward Classes (OBCs) -- **Justice (Retd.) G. Rohini.**

Note: The Commission will examine the extent of inequitable distribution of benefits of reservation among the castes or communities included in the broad category of OBCs with reference to such classes included in the Central List.

3. The Union govt. has set up a study group under Special secretary in the home ministry to examine the problems of people **along IB, LOC in J&K -- Rina Mitra.**

Note: The study group will look into broadly three issues "demand for land for relocation in case of shelling", "construction of more bunkers" and "compensation issues" related to shelling. India shares a 3,323-km long border with Pakistan of which 221 km IB and 740 km LoC fall in Jammu and Kashmir.

4. The deputy Director-General (DG) of World **Health Organization (WHO) -- Soumya Swaminathan.**

Note: This position is the second-highest at the UN's health agency. Dr. Swaminathan is a pediatrician and an internationally-recognized researcher on TB (Tuberculosis) and HIV.

5. The Indian govt. has appointed as its next ambassador to China -- **Gautam Bambawale.**

Note: Currently, Bambawale is India's high commissioner to Pakistan.

6. Parliamentary committee on **External Affairs has been formed to examine India-China relations -- Shashi Tharoor committee.**

Note: The committee will examine in detail the issue of cooperation between both the countries in international organizations including Doklam standoff.

7. UNESCO's executive board has chosen former **French Culture Minister as the UN cultural agency's new leader -- Audrey Azoulay.**

Note: Azoulay succeeds outgoing Director-**General Irina Bokova (Bulgaria)**, since the last eight-years. UNESCO pursues its objectives through five major programs education, natural sciences, social/human sciences, culture, and communication/information

8. **Jacinda Ardern** is the new prime minister of **New Zealand.**

Note: She will become one of her country's youngest prime ministers and the third woman to lead a government after winning the support of the nationalist New Zealand First party.

9. **Sunny Verghese** is the new chairman of World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD).

Note: Sunny Verghese has been appointed as the new chairman of World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD).

10. Senior IPS officer **Rakesh Asthana** has been appointed as the special director of the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI).

Note: Earlier, Asthana had been serving in the Central Bureau of Investigation as additional director.

11. Former director of Intelligence Bureau, has been appointed by the government as its interlocutor for Kashmir -- **Dineshwar Sharma.**

Note: Sharma will help negotiate peace in insurgency- racked Kashmir. Dineshwar Sharma is the 1979-batch IPS officer from the Kerala cadre.

IMPORTANT NEWS INDIA:

1. The first US crude oil cargo of 1.6 million barrels bought by Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) from the US reached at -- **Paradip Port (Odisha).**

Note: Now, Indian Oil will process the crude at its East- Coast base refineries, located at Paradip, Haldia, Barauni and Bongaigaon. Indian Oil has become the first Indian public sector refiner to source US crude has placed a cumulative order 3.9 million barrel from the US.

2. **M.Venkaiah Naidu** unveils **1.80 metres tall bronze statue of Mahatma Gandhi at Rajghat Samadhi Complex, New Delhi.**

Note: It is mounted on a two feet high pedestal clad with granite. The famous message of Mahatma Gandhi "Be the Change You Wish to See" is inscribed on the front side.

3. The Union Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports has launched a health scheme to promote women's health and hygiene, especially in rural areas -- **Sanitease.**

Note: The objective of 'Sanitease' is to create awareness and provide logistics for women specially in the rural parts of the state. Under the project 'Sanitease', Swachhagraha would reach out to both urban and rural schools at the secondary level and compile the data on female students and sanitary napkins required per month.

4. The committee headed by **NITI Aayog Vice Chairman Rajiv Kumar** has set up for proper management of water resources in the -- **North-Eastern region.**

- Note:** It will facilitate optimizing benefits of appropriate water management in the form of hydro-electric power, agriculture, biodiversity conservation, reduced flood damage erosion, inland water transport, forestry, fishery and eco-tourism.
5. The **JC Kala committee** has drafted the 3rd **National Wildlife Action Plan (NWAP)** for 2017-2031.
Note: The plan is unique as this is the first time India has recognised the concerns relating to climate change impact on wildlife and stressed on integrating actions that need to be taken for its mitigation and adaptation into wildlife management planning processes.
 6. The union minister **Harsh Vardhan** has launched **SECURE Himalaya project in association with UNDP at the Global Wildlife Programme (GWP) conference in New Delhi.**
Note: The purpose of the 6-year project is to secure livelihoods, conservation, sustainable use and restoration of high range Himalayan ecosystems, which is meant for specific landscapes.
 7. President Ram Nath Kovind has launched 100 crore rupees **Mata Amritanandamayi Math Project** to provide filtration system for cleaning drinking water to 5000 villages across India, in Kollam district in Kerala -- **Jeevamritham.**
 8. Vice President **M. Venkaiah Naidu** has inaugurated the third International Conference on Yoga in -- **New Delhi.**
Note: The theme of this year's conference is **'Yoga for Wellness'**. Around 500 delegates from 44 countries is attending the conference to provide a common platform to AYUSH and allopathy practitioners, researchers, academicians, policy makers and students.
 9. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has launched the Intensified Mission **Indradhanush (IMI)** at -- **Vadnagar(Gujarat).**
Note: The special drive will focus on improving immunization coverage in select districts and cities to ensure full immunization to more than 90% by December 2018.
 10. The country's first portal dedicated to para-sports has been launched to create awareness about para-sports -- **thenationspride.com.**
Note: The portal brings readers inspiring stories of Indian para-sportspersons, who have consistently delivered stellar performances on domestic and global arenas alike, but whose stories have largely gone untold or unheard.
 11. The **Uttarakhand Govt.** and Swan Cultural Center & Foundation have launched **'Solar Briefcase'** to provide electricity to far-flung areas in the hill state.
Note: 101 families located in remote areas were provided solar briefcases & power packs by the Hans foundation.
The Hans foundation in collaboration with the State Government has decided to provide off grid power to the deprived families by distributing 15,000 solar briefcases in Uttarakhand
 12. President Ram Nath Kovind has inaugurated five days international event **India Water Week-2017** in new Delhi.
Note: Around 1500 delegates from India and 13 other countries has participated in the event. The theme of the India Water Week-2017 is **"Water and Energy for Inclusive Growth"**.
 13. Two-day Conference (48th) of Governors at -- Rashtrapati Bhavan
Note: The 27 Governors and three Lieutenant Governors (LG) of States and Union Territories (UT) is attending the Conference. The Governors will have detailed deliberations on

the subjects of 'Infrastructure for New India 2022' and 'Public Services for New India 2022' in two groups.

14. **Shri Manoj Sinha** has launched '**Sampoorna Bima Gram (SBG) Yojana**' and expansion of Postal Life Insurance, in New Delhi.

Note: Under the Sampoorna Bima Gram Yojana, at least one village having a minimum of 100 households will be identified in each of the revenue districts of the country.

15. The world's largest combustion research centre has been inaugurated at **Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Madras**.

Note: The National Centre for Combustion Research and Development (NCCRD) has inaugurated by NITI Aayog member VK Saraswat. It will provide an impetus to research in 'Alternative Energy and Environmental Protection' by focusing on effective utilisation of combustion as a means of thermo-chemical energy conversion.

16. The Union Home Minister 'Shri Rajnath Singh' has inaugurated **BIMSTEC DMEx-2017**.

Note: The Exercise has been conducted by the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) as the lead agency on 10-13 October, 2017. The **BIMSTEC DMEx-2017** is being conducted in two phases in Delhi and NCR.

17. The union Defence Minister has commissioned an indigenously-built anti-submarine warfare stealth corvette **INS Kiltan into the Indian Navy at the Naval Dockyard in Visakhapatnam**.

Note: INS Kiltan has been designed by the Indian Navy's in-house organisation Directorate of Naval Design and built by Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers in Kolkata.

18. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has inaugurated the first ever All India Institute of **Ayurveda (AIIA) at Sarita Vihar (New Delhi)**.

Note: AIIA has been set up along the lines of AIIMS as an apex institute under the Ministry of AYUSH. The institute will bring synergy between the traditional wisdom of Ayurveda and modern diagnostic tools and technology.

19. The **AYUSH Festival of Stamps 2017** has been inaugurated the two days exhibition event at **Maquinez Palace, Panaji**.

Note: The objective of the first-of-its-kind festival is to promote healthy hobbies such as stamp collection among students and healthy lifestyle habits.

20. Bollywood actress Deepika Padukone has launched Hema Malini's biography -- **Hema Malini: Beyond the Dream Girl**.

Note: The biography has been penned by journalist turned writer **Ram Kamal Mukherjee**.

21. India's first **Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Kendra (PMKK)** for Skilling in Smart Cities has come up in **New Delhi**.

Note: The **purpose of the centre** is to provide skill training for unemployed youth through its **Short-Term Training (STT)** module and contribute to the capacity building of municipal employees through Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) program.

22. The new Initiative **SAATHI** has helped Ministries of Textile and Power to join hands to assist the Small-Scale Industries.

Note: Office of the Textile Commissioner and Energy Efficiency Services Limited (EESL) will jointly implement the SAATHI Initiative across the country.

23. Mr. **Kiran Rijju** has inaugurated a special **Disaster Research Centre at JNU (Jawaharlal Nehru University)**.

Note: Amita Singh would be the first chairperson of this Special Centre for Disaster research.

24. **India** will host the UN wildlife summit CMS COP13 in 2020.

Note: CMS COP is a triennial summit that brings together States through which migratory animals pass through held once in three years.

25. According to the Global TB Report 2017 released by WHO, **India** has topped in the list of seven countries.

Note: India has followed by Indonesia, China, Philippines, Pakistan, Nigeria, and South Africa. Tuberculosis (TB) is an infectious disease caused by the bacterium Mycobacterium tuberculosis (MTB).

26. India has flagged off shipment of **wheat from Kandla port (Gujarat)** for the country through **Chabahar port (Iran) and Afghanistan**.

Note: It paves way for operationalization of Chabahar port as an alternate, reliable connectivity for landlocked Afghanistan, bypassing Pakistan.

STATES NEWS:

1. The **Uttar Pradesh govt.** has launched a mass marriage scheme '**Mukhyamantri Samoohik Vivaah Yojana**' for BPL families.

Note: The state govt. will spend Rs 35,000 on each couple, besides gifting them mobile phones and household items, and the social welfare department will conduct the mass marriages.

2. Bihar govt. has launched a campaign against **child marriage** & dowry on the occasion of Mahatma Gandhi's birth anniversary.

Note: People pledged not to get married a girl below 18 years or a boy below 21 or participate in a child marriage or a wedding with dowry.

3. Prime Minister 'Narander Modi' laid the foundation stone of All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) at -- **Bilaspur, Himachal Pradesh**.

Note: The 750-bed hospital AIIMS, will be built at a cost of approximately 1,350 crore rupees.

4. Uttar Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh & Meghalaya have signed an MoU under a program to boost cultural ties -- **Ek Bharat, Shrestha Bharat**.

Note: Under the program, the states will connect with each other to know more about the culture, heritage, and traditions of each other.

5. India's **first-ever Industrial Training Institute for the Divyangans** will come up in the **Assam state**.

Note: The foundation stone for the institute was laid at Dibrugarh ITI Complex at Borboruah in Assam.

6. Under Intensified Indradhanush, a special immunisation drive for children up to 5 years of age has begun in **Uttar Pradesh**.

Note: Under the mission 90% targeted unvaccinated and partially vaccinated children will be given vaccines and boosters against the life-threatening diseases including Polio, Diphtheria, Pneumonia, Whooping Cough, Tetanus and Japanese Encephalitis.

7. India's **first state to incorporate skill development programme in higher education** - **Rajasthan**.

Note: Under the project, 12 certificates and 4 diploma courses will be run and each college will have to choose five courses

8. Lt. Governor **Devendra Kumar Joshi** has launched '**Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana**' at DBRAIT auditorium in Port Blair.

Note: '**Beti Bachao Beti Padhao**' celebration coordination with the A&N State Social.

9. **Rajasthan** State govt. has opened the expansion of **Annapurna Rasoi Yojna** in all the 191 urban areas of the state and also flagged off 50 Annapurna vans.

Note: The scheme to provide quality food to the needy of all categories at affordable rates was being implemented in the selected cities and government has now expanded it in all the urban areas. This scheme will be implemented in all the urban areas of the state by 13th December.

10. The **Arunachal Pradesh** state's Assembly has passed a bill paving way for creation of a new district to be named **Kamle**.

Note: Now, the total number of districts in the state shot up to 23. It consists of six administrative units, three under Lower Subansiri and three under Upper Subansiri.

11. MP Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan has inaugurated the ambitious 'Yojna' for the farmers -- **Bhavantar Bhugtan Yojna**.

Note: The objective scheme is to ensure reasonable prices to the farmers for their agriculture produces and thereby protecting them from losses suffered on account of distress sale.

12. The Centre has given clearance for a **greenfield airport project at -- Hirasar (Gujarat)**.

Note: The Environment Ministry has given the environment clearance to the Gujarat State Aviation Infrastructure Company Ltd (GSAICL) for development of a greenfield airport at Rajkot at a cost of over 1,400 crore rupees. The proposed project will aid development of trade and tourism besides improving regional connectivity in Gujarat.

13. Telangana Chief minister **Chandrasekhar Rao** has laid the foundation stone for the state of art '**Kakatiya Mega Textile Park**' (KMTP) at **Sayampet near Geesukonda**.

Note: The proposed 'cotton-to-garment' park will be set up in an area of 2,000 – 3,000 acres, with a vision to have a “fibre to fabric (end-to-end)” facility. The Mega Textile Park being set up by the State Industrial Infrastructure

Corporation.

14. PM Narendra Modi has inaugurated the first phase of ambitious Ghogha-Dahej Roll-on Roll-off ferry service at **Ghogha, Bhavnagar (Gujarat)**.

Note: Now, the distance between Saurashtra and South Gujarat regions could be covered in less than an hour via- sea route. This service will reduce the distance between the Ghogha and Dahej from 310 kilometres by road to just 30 kilometres, which can be covered in one hour.

15. Two towns in Mathura district has now become the sacred pilgrimage sites -- **Vrindavan and Barsana**.

Note: No meat and liquor shops will be allowed in these towns anymore. The state govt. recently merged Vrindavan, a former Nagar Palika Parishad, with the Mathura municipal board to create Mathura Nagar Nigam.

IMPORTANT DAY:

1. The International Day of Older Persons is observed every year on -- **1st October**.

Note: The theme of this year is “Stepping into the Future: Tapping the Talents, Contributions and Participation of Older Persons in Society.”

2. International Day of Non-violence is observed on -- **2nd October**.

Note: The International Day of Non-violence was established by the UN General Assembly (UNGA) by passing the resolution in 2007 in an effort to spread the message of non-violence

3. The World Habitat Day is observed every year on -- **first Monday of October**.

Note: The theme of 2017 is 2017 ‘Housing Policies: Affordable Homes’.

4. The 2017 World Animal Day (WAD) is observed every year on -- **4th October**.

Note: The day raise the status of animals in order to improve welfare standards around the globe.

5. An international celebration of science and technology The World Space Week (WSW) held every year from -- **4- 10th October**.

Note: The 2017 theme “**Exploring New Worlds In Space**” is an outward facing theme that serves to inspire the world.

6. The World Teachers’ Day (WTD) 2017 is being observed across the world on -- **5th October**.

Note: The theme of 2017 World Teachers’ Day is “**Teaching in Freedom, Empowering Teachers**”.

7. Air Force Day 2017 is being observed annually across India on -- **8th October**.

Note: The Indian Air Force has displayed various Aircraft at Air Force Station Hindan air base near Delhi with parade and air display.

8. World Post Day is celebrated each year on -- **9th October** **Note:** The anniversary of the establishment of the Universal Postal Union in 1874 in the Swiss Capital, Bern. It was declared World Post Day by the UPU Congress held in Tokyo, Japan in 1969.

9. The World Mental Health Day (WMHD) is observed every year on -- **10th October**.

Note: The day raise awareness of mental health issues around the world and to mobilize efforts in support of mental health. The 2017 theme is “**Mental health in the workplace**”.

10. The International Day of the Girl Child (IDGC) is observed every year across the world on -- **11th October**.

Note: The day recognize girls’ rights and challenges girls face around the world. The theme of 2017 is “**EmPOWER Girls: Before, during and after crises**”.

11. The International Day for Disaster Reduction (IDDR) is observed every year on -- **13th October**.

Note: The 2017 theme “**Home Safe Home: Reducing Exposure, Reducing Displacement**”.

12. The International Day of Rural Women is observed across the world on -- **15th October**.

Note: 2017 Theme: “**Challenges and opportunities in climate-resilient agriculture**

for gender equality and the empowerment of rural women and girls”.

13. The ‘World Food Day’ is observed every year globally on -

- **16th October**

Note: The Theme for 2017 World Food Day is “**Change the future of migration. Invest in food security and rural development**”.

14. The International Day for the Eradication of Poverty is an international observance celebrated every year on -- **17th October**.

Note: The theme of 2017 is ‘**Answering the Call of October 17 to end poverty: A path toward peaceful and inclusive societies**’.

15. The National Police Commemoration Day (NPCD) is observed on -- **21st October**.

Note: The National Police Commemoration Day mark the memory of brave policemen who sacrificed their lives while discharging their duties.

16. The World Development Information Day (WDID) 2017 is observed on -- **24th October**.

Note: The day draw the attention of the world to development problems and the necessity of strengthening international cooperation to solve them.

17. The United Nations Day is being observed globally on -- **24th October**.

Note: The day make people aware of the aims and achievements of the United Nations Organization. In 1971, the United Nations General Assembly had declared 24th October as the United Nations Day by adopting Resolution 2782.

18. Rashtriya Ekta Diwas is being celebrated to mark birth anniversary of -- **Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel**.

Note: The Prime Minister Narendra Modi flagged off the ‘Run for Unity’ from Major Dhyan Chand National Stadium, New Delhi. In 2014, Rashtriya Ekta Diwas was introduced by the Government of India and inaugurated by Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi

19. Indian Army observed the 70th Infantry Day on -- **27th October**.

Note: This day is observed to honour the sacrifices made by the infantry in 1947's Jammu and Kashmir fight against Pakistan.

20. The International Animation Day (IAD) observe on -- **28th October.**

Note: The day was proclaimed in 2002 by the ASIFA as the main global event to celebrate the art of animation.

21. CVC (Central Vigilance Commission) is going to observe the Vigilance Awareness Week from -- **30th October to 4th November 2017.**

Note: The inaugural function of the week would be held on 30th October, in presence of Vice-President Mr M. Venkaiah Naidu, who would be the chief guest of the event.

22. The World is observing Cities Day on -- **31st October.** **Note:** This year, the United Nations (UN) has selected the theme 'Innovative Governance, Open Cities' to highlight the important role of urbanization as a source of global development and social inclusion.

HONORS & AWARDS:

1. **International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN)** has been awarded the **Nobel Peace Prize for 2017.**

Note: ICAN for its work to draw attention to the catastrophic humanitarian consequences of any use of nuclear weapons and for its ground-breaking efforts to achieve a treaty-based prohibition of such weapons. The 2017 Peace Prize calls upon nuclear-armed states to initiate negotiations to the gradual elimination of the world's 15,000 nuclear weapons.

2. US biology trio has won the **Nobel Medicine Prize 2017 -- Jeffrey C. Hall, Michael Rosbash and Michael W. Young**

Note: The 2017 Nobel Prize in Physiology (or Medicine) went to trio for their discoveries on how **plants, animals and humans adapt their biological rhythm so that it is synchronised with the Earth's revolutions.** The trio will share the prize sum of nine million Swedish kronor (about 1.1 million US Dollars.)

3. The **2017 Nobel Prize in Physics went to three American scientists -- Rainer Weiss, Barry C. Barish and Kip S. Thorne.**

Note: Their decisive contributions to the LIGO (Laser Interferometer Gravitational wave Observatory) detector and the **observation of gravitational waves.** Dr. Weiss will receive half the prize and remaining half shared equally by two Caltech scientists Dr. Barish, (Professor of Physics) and Dr. Thorne (Professor of Theoretical Physics).

4. The first person from India to win **Anna Politkovskaya Award -- Gauri Lankesh.**

Note: The Anna Politkovskaya Award was established to remember and honour Russian journalist Anna Politkovskaya, who was murdered in Moscow on October 7, 2006 over her reportage of the second war in Chechnya.

5. The **2017 Nobel Prize in Chemistry -- Jacques Dubochet, Joachim Frank and Richard Henderson.**

Note: They developed **cryo-electron microscopy for the high-resolution structure determination of biomolecules in solution.** It's a method of simplifying and improving the imaging of biomolecules.

6. The **2017 Nobel Literature Prize winner -- Kazuo Ishiguro.**

Note: The 2017 Nobel Prize in Literature has been awarded to British writer Kazuo Ishiguro (64-Year), whose best-known novels include 'The Remains of the Day' and "Never Let Me Go'.

7. The **Nobel economics prize 2017 has been awarded for his contributions to behavioural economics -- Richard Thaler.**

Note: Thaler is an American economist & the Ralph and Dorothy Keller Distinguished Service Professor of Behavioral Science and Economics at the University of Chicago Booth School of Business. The 9-million-kronor (1.1 million US Dollars) prize was awarded to the academic for his understanding the psychology of economics.

8. President Ram Nath Kovind has presented 18th Lal Bahadur Shastri National Award to -- **Dr. Bindeshwar Pathak.**

Note: Bindeshwar Pathak has contributed immensely in the direction of getting rid of the practice of manual scavenging.

9. The American author has won the ‘2017 Man Booker

prize’ for his first full-length novel, ‘Lincoln in the Bardo’ - -George Saunders.

Note: The book is based around a real event: the night in 1862 when Abraham Lincoln buried his 11-year-old son Willie in a Washington cemetery. The Man Booker Prize for Fiction is a literary prize awarded each year for the best original novel, written in the English language, and published in the UK.

10. Noted Indian-American attorney has been honoured with the third American Bazaar Philanthropy award -- **Ajay Raju.**

Note: Indian-American philanthropist Frank Islam and Suri Sehgal are previous recipients of the award.

11. Eminent poet **Prabha Varma** has chosen for the Padma **Prabha Puraskaram 2017** for his contribution to Malayalam literature

Note: The award carrying a cash prize of Rs 75,000, a plaque and a citation, was instituted by the Padma Prabha Memorial Trust.

12. The world’s most prestigious award for pioneers in environmental science was given to - **Hans Joachim Schellnhuber.**

Note: The Blue Planet Prize honors outstanding thinkers who help to meet challenges of planetary dimensions.

13. The playback singers Alka Yagnik & Udit Narayan and music composers Usha Khanna, Bappi Lahiri, Anu Malik have been selected for the Madhya Pradesh government's prestigious -- **Lata Mangeshkar Award.**

Note: The artists will be honored for their contribution in the field of music composition and singing. They will get a cash prize of Rs. two lakhs, shawl, shreephal (coconut) and a citation.

14. The Chief Minister **N. Chandrababu Naidu** has awarded with the '**Golden Peacock Award**' for his excellence in public service

Note: He received the award at 17th London Global Convention under the “Global Leadership in Public Service and Economic Transformation” category. The Golden Peacock Award is instituted by the Institute of Directors (IOD), India in 1991.

WORLD NEWS:

1. President Ram Nath Kovind to embark on 4-day visit to -- **Djibouti & Ethiopia.**

Note: This was the first ever visit at the level of Head of State or Government from India to Djibouti since the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries. Almost after 45 years Indian President visited to Ethiopia.

2. The country to host the 6th edition of World Government Summit (WGS) -- **Dubai, UAE.**

Note: The sixth edition of the World Government Summit (WGS) is scheduled to be held from 11th – 13th February, 2018 in Dubai, UAE. The summit is the largest movement to review and share the best experiences, and the first global forum for governments, countries, organizations and private sector leaders interested in the industry of the future.

3. The **8th Conference of the Association of SAARC Speakers and Parliamentarians was held in Colombo, Sri Lanka.**

Note: Sri Lankan President ‘Maithripala Sirisena’ has inaugurated the three-day 8th meeting of the Association of SAARC Speakers and Parliamentarians in Colombo to discuss several issues with particular emphasis on sustainable development goals.

4. According to International Energy Agency (IEA) report, India's renewable energy capacity will more than double by the year -- **2022.**

Note: The country's renewable energy installed capacity is 58.30 GW, as per the recent government data. The govt. has an ambitious goal of increasing it to 175 GW by 2022 including 100 GW of solar and 60 GW of wind energy. The solar PV and wind together represent 90% of India's capacity growth as auctions yielded some of the world's lowest prices for both technologies.

5. The **New Delhi** hosted the 2017 Global Wildlife Programme conference.

Note: India hosted the programme jointly with World Bank (WB) and United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) to address illegal wildlife trade across 19 Asian and African countries.

6. US aerospace manufacturer and space transport services company has launched a rocket that had already flown to space and landed it successfully on an ocean platform -- **SpaceX**.

Note: It is a part of its ongoing effort to recycle costly rocket components. The satellite aims to provide television coverage and communications capabilities to north America, Hawaii, Mexico, and Caribbean.

7. The **fifth India-Sri Lanka Joint Training Exercise (JTE) has started at Aundh Military Station, Pune-MITRA SHAKTI 2017**.

Note: The 14 Day exercise is based on Counter Terrorist Operations and an Infantry company from both the countries is participating in the same.

8. **United States (US)** will withdraw from the United Nations Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) accusing the body of anti-Israel bias.

Note: It will establish an observer mission to replace its representation at the Paris-based agency. The State Department has maintained a UNESCO office at its Paris headquarters and sought to weigh in on policy behind the scenes.

9. The Union Cabinet has approved the signing of Memorandum of Cooperation (MoC) between India and Japan on the **Technical Intern Training Program (TITP)**.

Note: This MoC is expected to be signed during the forthcoming visit of Hon'ble Minister for Skill Development & Entrepreneurship at Tokyo.

10. Pakistan has signed an Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the country to improve border security management -- **Iran**.

Note: The MoU was signed during the meeting of Pakistan-Iran Joint Border Commission in the port city of Gwadar in Balochistan province.

11. The US has provided a financial assistance of USD 100,000 to **Nepal** for the restoration of a 16th century Hindu temple which was badly damaged in the 2015 earthquake.

Note: The US Embassy in Nepal provided the amount to the Kathmandu Valley Preservation Trust (KVPT) for the restoration of the historic Char Narayan temple.

12. A direct bus service commenced between New Delhi and the district in Nepal -- **Rolpa**.

Note: The bus will travel via Liwang in Rolpa, Pyuthan, Bhaluwang and Nepalgunj. In return journey, the bus would start from New Delhi (on Fridays) and leave from Nepal on Wednesday.

13. The first ever Tri Services Joint Exercise between Indian and Russian Armed Forces has been conducted in the Eastern Military District of Russia from -- **19th to 29th Oct 2017**.

Note: Exercise INDRA-2017 will strengthen mutual confidence, inter-operability and enable sharing of best practices between both the armed forces.

14. India has signed a **Memorandum of Cooperation (MoC)** with **Japan** to send youngsters there as technical interns for on-the-job training for a period of three to five years.

Note: Around 2.3 lakh technical intern trainees from multiple countries are on training in the Japan, as per the Japan's official data for 2016-end.

15. **Mahindra & Mahindra** has launched a program, 'Prerna' to empower women working in the agriculture sector by promoting efficient and ergonomic farm tools and equipment.

Note: The project will be initially launched in the state of Odisha, with the intention to positively impact the lives of over 1,500 families across 30-plus villages.

16. **India, Brazil, and South Africa** have signed the IBSA Trust Fund Agreement that seeks to fight poverty in developing countries.

Note: The agreement was signed by Minister of State for External Affairs V K Singh who led the Indian side at the 8th IBSA trilateral Ministerial Commission Meeting in Durban. Each country contributes USD 1 million annually to this fund which is managed by the UN Development Programme's (UNDP) Special Unit for South-South Cooperation.

17. **Brexit** legal challenge has been named as the most influential black person of the United Kingdom -- **Businesswoman Gina Miller**.

Note: She topped the Power list of top 100 people of 2018 belonging to African and African Caribbean heritage.

18. The first country to withdraw from the International Criminal Court -- **Burundi**.

Note: The International Criminal Court is an intergovernmental organization and international tribunal which has the jurisdiction to prosecute individuals for the international crimes of genocide, crimes against humanity, and war crimes.

The Australia's High Court disqualified the deputy Prime Minister for holding dual citizenship -- **Barnaby Joyce**.

Note: In August, Barnaby Joyce renounced his dual New Zealand citizenship and said he would stand in the by-election, which is likely to be held in early December.

19. The country will allow women into sports stadiums from 2018 -- **Saudi Arabia**.

Note: The authority will start the repair works at three main stadiums in Riyadh, Dammam and Jeddah to accommodate families starting

in 2018. Restaurants, cafes and monitor screens will be set up inside the stadiums.

SPORTS NEWS

1. **Viswanathan Anand** has finished **joint-second** in Isle of Man Championship.

Note: Viswanathan Anand' capped his impressive run with another victory over grandmaster Hou Yifan (China) in the ninth and final round to end at joint second at the Isle of Man Chess Championship.

2. India's **Pooja Kadian** has won the first ever gold medal at Wushu World Championships in Kazan, Russia.

Note: Pooja defeated Evgeniya Stepanova in the final.

3. American **Morgan Hurd** has won the all-around title at the gymnastics world championships in Montreal

Note: She won the United States' seventh straight Olympic by edging out Elisabeth Black (Canada) 55.232 to 55.132.

4. Indian shuttler clinched the gold medal at the Under-15 women's singles competition after defeating Indonesia's Widjaja Stephani at the Asian Junior Championship -- **Samiya Imad Farooqui**

Note: She defeated Indonesia's Widjaja Stephani 15-21, 21-17, 21-19. Earlier, P V Sindhu had won the gold in U- 19 Asia Junior championship in 2012 at Gimcheon, South Korea.

5. Commonwealth Games bronze medallist **RMV Gurusaidutt** has won the men's singles title at the Bulgarian International Future Series tournament. **Note:** Gurusaidutt defeated Muhammed Ali Kurt 21- 17, 21-16.

6. **Anupama Ramachandran** has won the World Open **Under-16 Snooker Championship title at St. Petersburg in Russia**.

Note: Federation of Billiards Sports of Russia hosted this first ever World Open championships for Under-16 boys and girls.

CHENNAI IAS ACADEMY – 9043 211 311 / 411

Rafael Nadal has won 2017 China Open title in Beijing.

Note: Rafael Nadal defeated Nick Kyrgios (Australia) 6-2, 6-1 to win his 6th ATP title of the year. In the women's event, Caroline Garcia (France) defeated world no.1 Simona Halep(Romania) in straight sets of 6-4, 7-6

7. India's Mixed pair has won the gold medal at World Archery Youth Championship in Rosario, Argentina
Jemson Ningthoujam & Ankita Bhakat.

Note:

- a. This is India's first world title at the youth championships since Deepika Kumari's victories in 2009 and 2011.

8. **Mohun Bagan** has won the 37th All India Governor's Gold Cup football tournament by defeating Partha Chakra at Paljor Stadium, Gangtok.

Note: The Sikkim Gold Cup (Sikkim Governor's Gold Cup) is an Indian football tournament held in Sikkim organized by Sikkim Football Association (SFA).

9. **Roger Federer** has won the Shanghai Masters.

Note: The Shanghai Masters (also known as Shanghai Rolex Masters) is a men's tennis tournament played on outdoor hard courts at the Qizhong Forest Sports City Arena in the Minhang District of Shanghai (China).

10. India's first-ever woman wrestler to sign for World Wrestling Entertainment (WWE)-- **Kavita Devi.**

11. Legendary Brazilian Sailor retires from Olympics -- **Robert Scheidt.**

12. Five-time Grand Slam winner has won the Tianjin Open -- **Maria Sharapova.**

13. India's young paddler has won the triple gold medal at the Egypt Junior and Cadet Open Table Tennis Championship -- **Selena Selvakumar.**

Note: She won singles and doubles gold medal apart from the team championship gold.

14. Ace Indian shuttler has lifted the Denmark Open Super series trophy at Odense -- **Kidambi Srikanth.**

Note: Srikanth defeated Lee Hyun-il in straight games, 21-10, 21-5 to bag his third Super Series title of the year. The Denmark Open is an annual badminton tournament held in Denmark and organized by Danmarks Badminton Forbund.

15. Indian golfer has won the 2017 Macao Open golf tournament -- **Gaganjeet Bhullar.**

Note: Bhullar etched his name on the Macao Open trophy for the second time (first in 2012)

16. **Cristiano Ronaldo** named the Best FIFA Men's Player award at the 2017 award ceremony in London.

Note: Real Madrid's Portugal striker helped Real to a Champions League-La Liga double in 2016-17. Lieke Martens of Barcelona and the Netherlands won best female player, Zinedine Zidane (Real Madrid) was named best men's coach and Sarina Wiegman (Netherlands) the best female coach.

17. **Jitu Rai and Heena Sidhu** has won gold medal of the ISSF World Cup Final in New Delhi, in the **10m air pistol mixed team event.**

Note: Rai and Sidhu picked up their third gold together in the mixed team event. The mixed team competitions were organised as test events in the World Cups this year and will be making their Olympic debut in the Tokyo 2020 Games.

18. **Sangram Dahiya and Amanpreet Singh** has won a silver and a bronze Medal in the International Shooting Sports Federation (ISSF) World Cup Final in New Delhi.

Note: Sangram shot 76 out of 80 targets, three behind gold medallist Hu Binyuan of China. Amanpreet finished behind gold medallist Damir Mikec of Serbia and silver winner Oleh Omelchuk of Ukraine.

19. India's shuttler **Kidambi Srikanth** lifted the men's singles title of the French Open Super series badminton in Paris, France.

Note: Srikanth defeated Kenta Nishimoto (Japan) 21-14, 21-13 in the final. This is his fourth title (earlier Denmark Open, Indonesia Open and Australia Open) in the fifth super series final.

20. **Indian junior men's hockey team** claim the bronze medal at the 7th Sultan of Johor Cup (7th) at the Taman Daya Hockey Stadium, in Malaysia.

NOVEMBER MONTH CURRENT AFFAIRS

Note:

1. **Chairman of 15th Finance Commission – NK Singh.**

The Government has constituted the 15th Finance Commission under the chairmanship of **NK Singh**. The commission will make recommendation for five years commencing from **1 April 2020** to **31 March 2025**.

•The other members of the 15th Finance commission are –**Shaktikanta Das**, former Secretary to Union Government & **Anoop Singh**, Adjunct Professor at Georgetown University.

•While, Chairman of **Bandhan Bank Ashok Lahiri** and Member of **NITI Aayog Ramesh Chand** will be the Part time members of the Commission.

• **Arvind Mehta** will be the Secretary to the Commission.

•**N. K. Singh** is a politician, economist, and former Indian Administrative Service officer. He is a senior Member of the Bharatiya Janata Party since March

2014 after having served as a Member of Parliament in the Rajya Sabha from Bihar.

•The Chairman of 14th Finance Commission is –**Y.V. Reddy (former Governor of RBI)**.

•The 15th Finance Commission is constituted under clause (1) of article 280 of the Indian Constitution, the commission came into force with the approval President Ram Nath Kovind.

2. **BOB launched Digital Supply Chain Solution** – Bank of Baroda has launched a supply chain finance solution to offer working capital loans to small and medium enterprise and large corporate clients.

3. **SBI launched 'YONO' app** - The State Bank of India has launched a unified integrated app 'YOYO'. The 'YOYO' stands for – 'You Only Need One'.
- The app is launched by Finance Minister **Arun Jaitley**.
 - 'YOYO' is the first digital banking platform which offer customized products to the customer. SBI has tied with 60 e-commerce players, including Amazon, Ola, Flipkart, Yatra, etc. to provide more facility other than banking services.
 - With the help of this app, any customer can open their bank accounts with SBI in a few minutes, transfer funds, and utilize various other services.
 - The application can be accessed on web browser and mobile phones– Android and iOS platforms.
4. The **Sub-Committee of Financial Stability and Development Council (FSDC)** headed by Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Governor Urjit Patel has reviewed the major global and domestic developments that could block country's financial stability.
5. **IMD Talent Rankings 2017** – India ranked at **51st position among 63 countries**. The rankings of countries are based on their performance in three main categories— investment and development, appeal, and readiness.
- Note:**
- **India previous year ranking** – 54
 - **Top three countries** – Switzerland, Denmark, and Belgium.
6. **RBL Bank has set up an all women branch in -- Chennai, Tamil Nadu.**
- Note:** The branch would be managed by eight women and offer all products and services across liability and assets. RBL Bank has 246 branches and 389 ATM services across the country.
7. **Bank of China's** first branch in South Asia in – **Karachi (Pakistan).**
- Note:** The bank would strengthen the "brotherly relations" between the two countries in the financial sector.
8. The Reserve bank of India (RBI) has asked banks to provide doorstep banking facilities to senior citizens (above 70 years) and differently-abled persons by -- **December 2017.**
- Note:** Banks have also been advised that a fully KYC compliant account should automatically be converted into a 'Senior Citizen Account' based on the date of birth available in the bank's records. The RBI asked banks to provide a minimum of 25 cheques leaves every year for a savings bank account free of charge.
9. HDFC Bank has announced the launch of its SmartUp Zone in -- **Kochi.**
- Note:** The objective is to harness the potential of the startup and fintech ecosystem using a multi-pronged approach. **SmartUp Zones** will be launched in over 65 branches in 30 cities across India.
10. The **Uttar Pradesh** state govt topped in opening new **PMJDY (Pradhan Mantri Jan-Dhan Yojana)** accounts after demonetization.
- Note:** More than five crores new PMJDY accounts in the Indian banking system came from Uttar Pradesh alone.

11. **Urjit Patel** has been appointed to the Financial Stability Institute Advisory Board or the Bank of International Settlement (BIS).

Note: The **Advisory Board** will comprise a small but diverse group of central bank Governors, heads of financial sector supervision and chairs of standard-setting bodies and regional supervisory groups. Bank for International Settlements (BIS) is an international financial organisation owned by 60-member central banks across the world.

12. **India to be third largest economy by 2028, says report** – As per the report of Bank of America Merrill Lynch, India will emerge as the world's third-largest economy, overtaking **Japan in nominal GDP** by 2028. The American brokerage has conservatively projected the country's real GDP growth at 7 per cent potential.

13. According to the World Bank's released report, 'Doing Business 2018: Reforming to Create Jobs', India's **ranked- 100th spot**.
Note: The **Doing Business Report** assesses covers 10 indicators which span the lifecycle of a business. India is the only country in South Asia and BRICS economies to feature among most improved economies of the DB Report this year.

14. The **India Post Payments Bank (IPPB)** will become operational in all 650 districts of the country by April 2018.
Note: These banks will be linked to 1.55 lakh rural post offices and carry out banking services. Two such banks are already operational in Ranchi and Raipur.

NEW APPOINTMENT:

1. President of the Institute for Defence Studies and Analysis (IDSA) - **Nirmala Sitharaman** (Union Defence Minister).
2. Indian **Navy's First Female Pilot** - **Shubhangi Swaroop**.
3. **RBI Governor Urjit Patel** appointed to the Financial Stability Institute Advisory Board of the Bank of International Settlement (BIS).
4. New Finance Secretary -- **Hasmukh Adhia**.
Note: The Finance Secretary is the Permanent Secretary- level civil servant, who plays a leadership role in the bureaucracy of the Finance Ministry, Government of India. The vacancy was caused following the superannuation of Ashok Lavasa.
5. The new Secretary (Security) in Cabinet Secretariat -- **SK Sinha**.
6. New head of the parliamentary standing committee on defense -**Major General (Retd.) B C Khanduri**.
7. Ambassador of the AIBA Women's Youth World Championships – **MC Mary Kom**.
8. Karnataka's first woman Director General and Inspector General of **Police** - **Neelmani N. Raju**.
9. Private Secretary to President Ram Nath Kovind- Railway officer **Vikram Singh**.
10. Former economic affairs secretary has been appointed India's **G20 Sherpa** for the Development Track of the grouping--**Shaktikanta Das**.
Note: The Department of Economic Affairs will provide necessary support to the Sherpa. A Sherpa is a personal representative of the leader of a member country at an international Summit meeting such as the G8/G20 or the Nuclear Security Summit.

11. New President of the 36th International Geological Congress (IGC) - **Vijay Prasad Dimri**

IMPORTANT NEWS –INDIA

1. **PM Modi inaugurates Global Entrepreneurship Summit** - The Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** has inaugurated the eighth edition of Global Entrepreneurship Summit (GES) in Hyderabad.

- The **three-day summit** hosted by India and the United States is being held for the first time in South Asia in Hyderabad.
- More than **10 countries** are represented by an all- female delegation, including from Afghanistan, Saudi Arabia, and Israel.
- US President's Advisor, Ivanka Trump will lead the US contingent.
- This will be the first Global Entrepreneurship Summit in which over 52.5% of the participants are women and theme is 'Women First, Prosperity for All'

2. The first edition of **International Symposium to Promote Innovation & Research in Energy Efficiency** (INSPIRE 2017) was held in **Jaipur, Rajasthan**.

Note: INSPIRE 2017 is an international conference that aimed to bring together various stakeholders such as policy makers, innovators, financiers, influencers to show case best practices in sector.

3. President **Ram Nath Kovind** inaugurated the International Gita Mahotsav 2017 in **Kurukshetra, Haryana**.
4. **India & Greece signed Air Services Agreement** (ASA) and MoU on

Cooperation (MoC) in field of New and Renewable Energy.

5. The **12th meeting of Standing Committee of Inter-State Council** was held in New Delhi.

The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the recommendations of the Punchhi Commission on Centre-state relations. The meeting chaired by Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh.

6. **India to host 36th International Geological Congress (IGC) in 2020 in New Delhi**.

Note:

- The IGC is prestigious conclave of geoscientists from around world. It is considered as an Olympic of the International Geosciences fraternity.

- The 35th International Geological Congress was held at Cape Town, South Africa in 2016.

- The first session of IGC was held in 1878 in France.

7. India has sent proposal to the United Nations (UN) for declaring the year **2018 as 'International Year of Millets'**.

8. **Govt. launched UMANG app** - The Government has launched new all-in-one mobile application called UMANG with an aim to make Government services accessible on mobile phone of the citizens.

Note:

- The term UMANG stands for **Unified Mobile Application for New age Governance** .

- It was launched to promote Digital India program and to drive mobile e-governance in India.

- The app was developed by **Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY)** and **National e-Governance Division (NeGD)**.

9. The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) approved 'Pradhan Mantri Mahila Shakti Kendra' scheme for a period **2017-18 to 2019-20**.
Note: PMMSK scheme is envisioned as one-stop convergence support service for empowering rural women with opportunities for skill development, digital literacy, health and nutrition and employment.
10. 5th edition of **Global Conference on Cyber Space (GCCS) held in New Delhi**.
Note:
- The conference was inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.
 - GCCS is one of world's largest conferences on cyber space. It is for first time organized in India.
 - **The theme of the conference is "Cyber4All: A Secure and Inclusive Cyberspace for Sustainable Development"**.
11. India signed agreement with Philippines on mutual assistance in customs matters.
12. **Committee to review Income Tax (IT) Act 1961 headed by Arbind Modi** - The Union Finance Ministry has constituted task force to review Income Tax (IT) Act 1961 and draft new direct tax law in consonance with current economic needs. The task force will be headed by CBDT member **Arbind Modi**.
13. **First ever North-East Development Summit (NEDS) 2017** was held in Imphal, Manipur.
Note:
- It was inaugurated by President of India Ram Nath Kovind.
 - It was organised by Delhi-based think tank India Foundation in collaboration with Union Government and Manipur government.
14. **Asia's largest Solid-State Interlocking (SSI) system installed in West Bengal** - Indian Railways has installed Asia's largest Solid State Interlocking (SSI) system at Kharagpur in West Bengal. The system will enable station masters to set 800 different routes for trains in a matter of minutes.
15. Bio-toilets to be installed in all Indian Railways coaches has been advanced to -- **December 2018**.
Note: Indian railways also called for a need for increasing role of renewables in the railways to achieve net decarbonization at an event organized in Bonn. The first bio-toilet-fitted train, Gwalior-Varanasi Bundelkhand Express, has been running since January 2011.
16. The ministry is celebrating the Child Rights Week (16-20 November) by hosting 'Hausala 2017' festival this year-- **Ministry of Women and Child Development**.
Note: The week was chosen as the nation celebrates the International Child Rights Day, celebrated annually on 20 November
17. The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) has removed restrictions on export of all types of **pulses**.
Note: It is expected that pulses production will be sustained in the country and its import dependence on pulses will come down substantially.
18. The International Film Festival of India (IFFI) have a Bioscope Village this year at -- **Panaji, Goa**.
Note: The Bioscope Village will screen new and classic films including Children movies. The theme for the short film festival is 'IFFI as never seen before'. It is being set up as part of the IFFI Next Gen side bar program aimed at involving greater participation from the local Goan audience.

19. President Ram Nath Kovind has presented Standards to the 223 Squadron and the 117 Helicopter Unit of the Indian Air Force (IAF) at the Air Force Station -- **Adampur, Punjab.**
20. The Union Govt. has given approval to set up India's first mega coastal economic zone (CEZ) at -- **Jawaharlal Nehru Port (JNPT) Maharashtra.**
Note: Around 45 companies across, telecom, auto, and IT sectors will soon bid for 200 hectares of land to set up manufacturing units in the zone. The first of its kind mega CEZ will spread across Mumbai, Thane, Pune, Nashik and Raigarh, entails a total investment of Rs 15,000 crore and create employment opportunities for more than 1.5 lakh people.
21. The union minister '**R.K. Singh**' has launched the Pradhan Mantri Sahaj Bijli Har Ghar Yagna '**Saubhagya**' Web Portal -- **<http://saubhagya.gov.in>.**
22. India first black buck conservation reserve at Allahabad.
Note: The Uttar Pradesh state cabinet has decided to make India's first conservation reserve for blackbuck at the Meja forest division near Allahabad. Indian Blackbuck is an antelope and is the only living species of the genus Antelope.
23. 150 - years old train running **Shramik train (coolie train)** on Bhagalpur-Kiul section has been withdrawn from service.
Note: On 8th February, 1862, the two 'Shramik' trains were rolled out for the convenience of railway employees working at Asia-fame diesel locomotive factory in Jamalpur.
24. **Goa** state is hosting the inaugural India-US **Ocean Dialogue** aimed at promoting sustainable development of the **Blue Economy.**
Note: The dialogue is being hosted by the Indian Ministry of External Affairs at the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research National Institute of Oceanography (CSIR-NIO).
25. President Shri Ram Nath Kovind has inaugurated the **21st World Congress of Mental Health in New Delhi.**
Note: The World Congress is being organized by the **World Federation for Mental Health** in partnership with Caring Foundation and other institutions. PM **Narendra Modi** has inaugurated the **mega food event** 'World Food India 2017' in **New Delhi.**
Note: Around **two thousand participants** from 30 countries, nearly 50 global CEOs and representatives of all state are participating in the event.
26. All cars sold or manufactured on or after 1st December will have to be rolled out with -- **"FASTags" (electronic toll collection product).**
Note: FASTags work mainly through radio-frequency identification (RFID) strips pasted on windscreens for contact-less passage in toll plazas on national highways. **Now, the** RFID strips will have to be pasted on vehicles by manufacturers or dealers if the vehicles have already left the factories.
27. **Indo-Kazakhstan** joint exercise **Prabal Dostyk 2017** begins in **Himachal Pradesh.**
Note: A joint training exercise between Indian Army and the Kazakhstan Army "PRABAL DOSTYK – 2017" commenced with the opening ceremony at Bakloh, Himachal Pradesh.

28. Indigenously developed **Glide Bomb** has been successfully tested from Indian Air Force aircraft at Integrated Test Range in **Chandipur, Odisha**.
Note: The Bomb- SAAW (Smart Anti Airfield Weapon) released from the aircraft and guided through precision navigation system, reached the targets with high accuracies.
29. The Union Minister **Mahesh Sharma** has inaugurated the three days **North-East Festival**, in **New Delhi**.
Note: The festival, will see performances by artistes like rapper Borkung Hrangkhawl, heavy metal bands Pulse Pandits, Girish & Chronicles (GATC) and Traffic Jam.
30. The Indian & bangladesh army are taking part in the 7th edition of joint training exercise in **Meghalaya and Mizoram—SAMPRITI**
Note:The exercise will be conducted at indias jungle Warfare school at Vairengte in Mizoram and at the joint Training Node at Umroi in Meghalaya.
31. India successfully conducted a test of its indigenously designed and developed long-range **sub-sonic cruise missile at Chandipur, Odisha -- Nirbhay**.
Note: Nirbhay missile carry warheads of up to 300 kg and capable of carrying 24 kinds of war weapons. Nirbhay is very manoeuvrable and can fly at tree-top level, making it difficult to detect on radar, and strikes targets of 1,000 km away carrying nuclear warheads.
32. Union Minister Smt Maneka Gandhi has launched online complaint Management System '**SHe-Box**' for working women to lodge complaints of sexual harassment at workplace.
Note: The SHe-Box has been launched to provide platform to aggrieved women to make their complaints directly so that suitable action is taken to redress their grievances.
33. PM Modi and Sheikh Hasina has jointly inaugurated the direct train-service '**Bandhan Express**' between **Kolkata and Khulna through video-conferencing**.
Note: The Bandhan Express is the second cross-border train between the two neighboring countries start from 16 November onwards. The train will run in either direction twice a week, cover the 177-km distance between Kolkata and khulna within 4 1/2 hours.
34. 2nd edition of India **International Cherry Blossom festival** held in -- **Shillong**.
Note: The State Govt is focusing on promoting tourism potential of the State by organizing such festivals which will not only boost tourism but also protect and preserve the forest and wildlife biodiversity. The festival is being organized by Government of Meghalaya, Institute of Bio- resource and Sustainable Development with support from the Indian Council of Cultural Relations.
- STATES NEWS:**
1. President Ram Nath Kovind has inaugurated the Manipur Sangai Festival at Palace Compound in -- **Imphal, Manipur**.

- Note:** Galaxy of foreign dignitaries including ambassadors of South-East Asian countries and some western countries will attend the inaugural function.
- Longest river bridge of Asia will be constructed over-- **Brahmaputra river.**
Note: The 20 kms long river bridge will be constructed over the Brahmaputra between Dhubri and Phulbari. The Assam government will construct 320 bridges at rural areas under PMGSY as well as 8000 kilometres of rural roads.
 - The recipient of the Mother Teresa Memorial Award - 2017 for Social Justice--**United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).**
Note: The UNHCR provides humanitarian aid to innumerable people internally displaced by conflicts and helping stateless people all over the world. Harmony Foundation has instituted the official award in memory of Mother Teresa and the theme for 2017 is Compassion Beyond Borders.
 - Ministry Dr. Jitendra Singh has contributed 25 crore rupees as part of the initial funding for country's first- ever air dispensary based in a helicopter in -- **Northeast.**
Note: Ministry had been exploring the idea of introducing a helicopter based Dispensary and OPD service in such far flung and remote areas, where no doctor or medical facility was available. The proposal has been accepted and is in the final stages of process in the Ministry of Civil Aviation.
 - The State Govts of Odisha and West Bengal has conducted joint security exercise to tighten the existing coastal security mechanism of 630 km long coastline-- **Sagar Kavach.**
 - Note:** It was security exercise to check efficacy of security parameters & preparedness of various security forces and district administration. Odisha for the first time will have a joint security drill along with West Bengal.
 - The state govt. has decided to ban the use of plastic water bottles in its offices including the state secretariat --**Maharashtra.**
Note: The state govt. has also instructed the officials to ban plastic water bottles from every govt. office in a time- bound manner and promote paper & cloth bags. Women self-help groups will be empowered to ensure they can meet the needs of the state.
 - Three-day festival **Namami Barak festival** has been inaugurated by the Assam Chief 'Sarbanand Sonowal' at **Police Parade ground in Silchar.**
 - Note:** The event is being organised at 3 locations in Silchar, Hailakandi and Karimganj district. Namami Barak is an attempt to pay tribute to the River Barak and to showcase of Barak's potential & possibilities to emerge as a hub of trade & commerce.
 - The **Haryana sate govt.** has announced the lifetime monthly pension of Rs 10,000 for '**Hindi Satyagrahis**' of the state.
Note: It would be providing enhanced financial assistance to World War-II veterans and their widows (from Rs 4,500 to Rs 10,000). Earlier, the state govt. has identified 194 'Satyagrahis' who were imprisoned during the 'Hindi Satyagraha' launched by the Punjab Arya Pratinidhi Sabha in 1957 to promote the language.
 - According to the Child development NGO Plan India released index, **Goa** sate ranked top in Gender Vulnerability Index (GVI).

CHENNAI IAS ACADEMY – 9043 211 311 / 411

Note: The index, which provides a state-wise ranking, has been calculated by analyzing four issues pertinent to the situation of girls — child safety/protection, poverty, health, and education. Bihar ranked the lowest at 30, with Delhi faring only slightly better at 29 and Uttar Pradesh at 28.

11. The **Geographical Indication Registry** (GIR) has given Geographical Indication (GI) tag traditional Etikoppaka toys from **Andhra Pradesh state**.

Note: These traditional toys are made by artisans in Etikoppaka village in Visakhapatnam district. The Geographical Indication (GI) is name or sign used on certain products which correspond to specific geographical location or origin.

12. The Jammu and Kashmir government began functioning in Jammu after shifting from Srinagar, the summer capital of the state, as part of the pre-Independence practice of **darbar move**.

Note: The Civil Secretariat and other 'darbar move' offices function in Srinagar for six months of summer and in Jammu for the remaining six months of the year. In 1872, the practice of 'darbar move' was started by Maharaja Gulab Singh to escape the summer heat of Jammu and the biting winters of Srinagar.

13. Recently, the state govt. has declared Urdu as the state's second official language -- **Telangana**.

Note: According to CM Rao every office in the state will have an Urdu speaking officer. Muslims form 12.7% of the state's total population.

IMPORTANT DAYS:

1. The **World Fisheries day** is celebrated every year on November 21.
2. The birth anniversary (548th) of 1st Sikh Guru is being celebrated across the country -- **Nanak Dev jee**.

Note: It was on this day, Guru Jee was born at Rai Bhoi di

3. Talwandi (Nankana Sahib) in Pakistan. Guru Nanak was the founder of Sikh religion and the first of the ten Sikh Gurus. His words are registered in the form of 974 poetic hymns in the holy text of Sikhism.

4. The World Tsunami Awareness Day (WTAD) has been observed across the world on **5th November**.

Note: The theme 'Reduce the Number of Affected People'. On 5th November 2016, the first World Tsunami Awareness Day was observed across the world.

5. Uttarakhand state is celebrating its 17th formation day on -- **9th November**.

Note: On 9th November 2000, Uttarakhand became the 27th state of the Republic of India, being created from the Himalayan and adjoining north western districts of Uttar Pradesh.

6. The World Science Day for Peace and Development (WSDPD) is annually held across the world -- **10th November**.

Note: The day highlights the important role of science in society and the need to engage the wider public in debates on emerging scientific issues. The theme of 2017 is '**Science for Global Understanding**'.

7. Public Service Broadcasting Day is being observed every year on -- **12th November**.

Note: The commemorate the first and last visit of Mahatma Gandhi to the studio of All India Radio(AIR), Delhi in 1947. On this occasion, Akashvani Award on Gandhian philosophy was also announced.

8. Jharkhand is a state in eastern India carved out of the southern part of Bihar on -- **15 November 2000**.

Note: President Ram Nath Kovind' visited Jharkhand and paid tributes to freedom fighter Birsa Munda at his statue at Birsa Chowk, Ranchi.

9. The International Day for Tolerance is being observed annually on -- **16th November**.

CHENNAI IAS ACADEMY – 9043 211 311 / 411

- Note:** The day educate people about the need for tolerance in society and to help them understand the negative effects of intolerance. The UN has launched a new campaign called 'Together' to promote tolerance, respect, and dignity across the world.
10. The World Philosophy Day observed across the world on-- **16th November 2017 (third Thursday of Nov)**.
Note: The Day encourages academic exchange and highlights the contribution of philosophical knowledge in addressing global issues. Philosophy is the study of the nature of reality and existence, of what is possible to know, and of right and wrong behaviour.
 11. The National Press Day (NPD) is celebrated across the country on -- **16th November**.
Note: The day is symbolic of a free and responsible press in India. The Press Council of India is a unique entity in as-much-as this is the only body to exercise an authority even over the instruments of the state in its duty to safeguard the independence of the press.
 12. The World Toilet Day is observed across the world on -- **19th November**.
Note: The theme for 2017 is 'Wastewater'. In 2013, the United Nations General Assembly officially designated 19th November as World Toilet Day.
 13. The Universal Children's Day has been observed across the world on--**20th November**.
Note: The day promote international togetherness, awareness among children worldwide, and improving children's welfare. The theme of 2017 is 'It's a #KidsTakeOver'.
 14. Quami Ekta Week to be observed across country from -- **19-25th November**.
Note: The Quami Ekta Week (National Integration Week) is being observed across the country from the 19th to 25TH.
 15. 25th November, 2017. The week is observed to highlight the strength and resilience of the nation to withstand any potential threats to the secular fabric.
 16. The World Fisheries day is being celebrated throughout the world on -- **21st November**.
Note: The Day helps in highlighting the critical importance to human lives, of water and the lives it sustains, both in and out of water. The theme of 2017 is "2022 Ka Hai Sapna Kisan Ki Aay Ho Dugna - Sankalp Se Siddhi".
 17. World Television Day is being observed across the world -- **21 November**.
Note: The day recognises that television plays major role in presenting different issue that affect people. In December 1996, the United Nations General Assembly proclaimed 21st November as the World Television Day.
 18. The National Milk Day (NMD) has been observed across India -- **26th November**.
Note: The day mark the birth anniversary of the Father of the White Revolution Dr. Verghese Kurien.
 19. The Constitution Day in India is being celebrated every year on -- **26th of November**.
Note: India had adopted by the Constituent Assembly on 26th of November in the year 1949 and came into force on 26th of January in 1950

HONORS & AWARD:

1. **3rd Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) Distinguished Indologist Award** for the year 2017 - Professor Hiroshi Marui of Japan.
Note: Professor Marui has spent over 40 years working on Indian philosophy and Buddhist Studies.
2. 'Life Time Achievement Award' by the Indian Mountaineering Foundation (IMF) - Manik Banerjee (Veteran journalist)

CHENNAI IAS ACADEMY – 9043 211 311 / 411

3. **Big Little Book Award for year 2017** – Nabaneeta Dev Sen (Sahitya Akademi awardee Bengali writer)
4. **Indira Gandhi Prize for Peace, Disarmament and Development** - Former prime minister **Manmohan Singh** will receive the Indira Gandhi Prize for Peace, Disarmament and Development this year for his leadership of the country between 2004 and 2014 and for enhancing India's stature globally.
5. Actor-playwright has been conferred with Tata Literature Live Lifetime Achievement Award 2017 for his outstanding contribution in the field of theatre -- **Girish Karnad**.
Note: Tata Trusts' Big Little Book Award' for Author in Bengali Children's Literature went to Nabaneeta Dev Sen. Book of the year in non-fiction category went to 'Age of Anger: A History of the Present' by Pankaj Mishra.
6. **Most Visited Place of the World** – **Golden Temple**.
Note: The Golden Temple has been awarded the 'most visited place of the world' by 'World Book of Records' (WBR), a London-based organization
7. Noted Malayalam Poet and literary critic has been selected for this year's Ezhuthachan Puraskaram -- **K Satchidanandan**.
Note: He has been selected for his contributions to Malayalam literature and poetry. Ezhuthachan Puraskaram is the Kerala government's highest literary honour, carries a cash prize of Rs 5 lakh and a citation.
8. **Surat Municipal Corporation(SMC)** awarded the Municipal Corporation(SMC) with the 'Best City Bus Service Award'.
Note: Mysuru's Public Bicycle Sharing has won the 'Best Non-Motorised Transport' Award. Kochi has been chosen for the 'Best Urban Transport Initiative' award for completing its Metro Rail Project in a quick time. Chittor has been chosen for the 'Commendable Initiative Award'.
9. Hindi Litterateur **Krishna Sobati** will get the **Jnanpith Award for 2017** for her path breaking contribution to Indian literature.
Note: The Jnanpith Award is an Indian literary award presented annually by the Bharatiya Jnanpith to an author for their 'outstanding contribution towards literature'.
10. **Sri Ranganathaswamy temple** of Tamil Nadu has won the **UNESCO Asia Pacific Award of Merit 2017 for cultural heritage conservation**.
Note: Sri Ranganathaswamy temple considered the foremost of the 108 divyadesams, is situated on an islet between the Cauvery and the Coleroon rivers.
11. Indian short film has won the Best Short Film Award at the South Asian Film Festival of Montreal (SAFFM)-- **The School Bag**.
Note: The movie's plot is based in Peshawar (Pakistan). A story about the relationship between a mother and her seven-year-old son who wants a new school bag on his birthday, but fate has something else in store for him. The film is directed by Dheeraj Jindal.
12. **Miss Universe 2017** - Miss South Africa **Demi-Leigh Nel-Peters** (22-year) crowned Miss Universe 2017 award at a grand event in Las vega.
13. European Golden Shoe Award - **Lionel Messi**.
14. Miss World 2017 - **Manushi Chhillar** crowned Miss World 2017 Title at a grand event in China.
Note:
 - She was presented the crown by the last year's Miss World winner Stephanie Del Valle (Puerto Rico) at the event in Sanya City Arena in China.
 - Chhillar is the sixth Indian woman to win Miss World, and the first since Priyanka Chopra won Miss World 2000.
 - Manushi Chhillar hails from Sonapat, Haryana.

15. Bollywood legend will be honored with personality of the year award at IFFI in Goa -- **Amitabh Bachchan**.
Note: Amitabh Bachchan has starred in over 190 Indian films in a career spanning almost five decades. He has won four national awards for best actor and 15 Filmfare Awards. The IFFI festival is conducted jointly by the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Directorate of Film Festivals and the Government of Goa.
 16. Actor becomes **UNICEF celebrity advocate for child rights** -- **Trisha**.
Note: She is the first actor from the South Indian film industry to receive this honour.
 17. Myanmar's de facto leader has been stripped of the Freedom of Oxford award over her "inaction" in handling the raging Rohingya refugee crisis -- **Aung San Suu Kyi**.
Note: Oxford City Council in London voted unanimously to permanently remove the honour given to her in 1997. The Rohingya Muslims have fled to neighbouring country following a military crackdown in Myanmar's Rakhine state, creating one of the world's most dire refugee crises.
- WORLD NEWS:**
1. New President of Zimbabwe - **Emmerson Mnangagwa**.
 2. New Ambassador of UNAIDS Special Ambassador for Adolescents and HIV - **Professor Quarraisha Abdool Karim**
 3. New Judge of International Court of Justice (ICJ) - **Dalveer Bhandari** was re-elected as Judge of ICJ.
 4. Next US Ambassador to India - **Kenneth Juster**
Note: He would replace Richard Verma, who resigned from the post with the swearing in of Donald Trump as the 45th President of the United States.
 5. A new round of UN climate change talks in **Bonn, Germany**.
Note: More than 190 countries and territories will take part in the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP23). They will also discuss how to report their reduction goals and updated efforts to fulfil them.
 6. **India, Nepal & Bangladesh** will conduct the 2018 tiger census in close coordination in their respective territories at the same time.
Note: The census will be held under the supervision of NTCA and the Wildlife Institute of India. The first phase of tiger census will be completed by December end, second phase by January 2018 and the final phase will go on from February to October next year.
 7. **China** has launched the two **BeiDou-3 satellites into space through a single carrier rocket**.
Note: The two newly-launched satellites represent the third phase of the **BeiDou Navigation Satellite System**. China will become the third country in the world after the **US and Russia** to operate its own navigation system.
 8. Scientists have discovered the most ancient spiral galaxy in the universe that existed years ago -- **11 billion**.
Note: The galaxy, known as **A1689B11**, existed just **2.6 billion** years after the Big Bang, when the universe was only one fifth of its present age.
 9. Twitter is ending its iconic **140-character** limit and giving nearly everyone -- **280 characters**.
Note: The expanded limit will get more people tweeting more, helping its lackluster user growth. 9% of tweets written in English hit the 140-character limit. Twitter was created in March 2006 by Jack Dorsey, Noah Glass, Biz Stone, and Evan Williams and launched in July of that year.
 10. **India** has been re-elected as the member of the UNESCO's executive board.

CHENNAI IAS ACADEMY – 9043 211 311 / 411

Note: The election was held at the 39th session of the General Conference of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization in Paris.

11. Morocco has successfully launched an earth observation satellite from French Guyana Space Centre-- **Mohammed VI-A**.

Note: The 'Mohammed VI-A satellite' built for Morocco by Thales Alenia Space as prime contractor and Airbus as co-prime. It will be used for mapping and land surveying activities along with regional development and agricultural monitoring.

12. Prime Minister Narendra Modi attended the meeting of **East Asia and the India-ASEAN Summits**.

Note: He also visited the global rice research centre 'IRRI' (International Rice Research Institute) in the Philippines. India is setting up a regional centre of the IRRI in Varanasi to develop high-yielding rice varieties.

13. The 15th Asia Pacific Computer Emergency Response Team (APCERT) Conference will be held first time in --**New Delhi, India**.

Note: The conference has been organized by Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-In) under the aegis of Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology. The theme of conference was "Building Trust in the Digital Economy".

14. **Japan** will simplify its visa rules for Indians & issue multiple-entry-visa for a short-term stay from January 2018.

Note: The move is expected to benefit tourists and business persons as well as repeat visitors. The relaxed visa regime will not only have a simplification of visa application documents but also the expansion of the scope of eligible applicants.

15. China has launched the world's **first all-electric ship in Guangzhou in South China's Guangdong Province**.

Note: This electric ship is 70.5-metre-long, weighs about 600 tonnes, can travel up to 80 km with 2000-tonnes cargo after a two-hour charge.

16. **Syria** has signed up to the Paris Agreement, leaving the United States as the only country to reject the global climate-rescue pact.

Note: War-torn Syria became the 169th of 196 countries that are members of the UN climate convention to take the legal step of ratification.

17. Christ (500-year-old painting) believed to have been painted by Leonardo da Vinci has been sold in New York for record -- **USD 450 million**.

Note: The painting is known as Salvator Mundi (Saviour of the World) and shows Christ with one hand raised, the other holding a glass sphere. In 1519, Leonardo da Vinci died and there are fewer than 20 of his paintings in existence.

18. **NASA** has successfully tested a supersonic landing parachute that will be deployed in its **Mars rover mission** set to launch in 2020.

Note: The mission will rely on a special parachute to slow the spacecraft down as it enters the Martian atmosphere at over 5.4 kilometres per second. The Mars 2020 mission will seek signs of ancient Martian life by investigating evidence in place and by caching drilled samples of Martian rocks for potential future return to Earth.

SPORTS NEWS:

1. **Indian Sports Awards –**

• **Ace shuttler Kidambi Srikanth** bagged the **Sportsman of the Year award** at the inaugural edition of Indian Sports Honours held in Mumbai

• Olympic silver medallist **PV Sindhu** was the **Sportswoman of the Year award** in the individual sport category.

CHENNAI IAS ACADEMY – 9043 211 311 / 411

- **Ravichandran Ashwin** was awarded **Sportsman of the Year** award while women's cricket team skipper **Mithali Raj** was awarded **Sportswoman of the Year** award in the Team Sport category.
 - The Indian Women's Cricket Team (runners-up in the ICC Women's World Cup) were named as the **Team of the Year**.
 - Tennis player **Sania Mirza** was awarded the **Inspirational Honour** by the jury.
 - Country's first Olympic gold medallist **Abhinav Bindra** was honoured with the **Transformational Contribution** to Sport award.
2. Asian champion **Bajrang Punia and Vinod Kumar** settled for silver medals at the Under-23 World Wrestling Championship in Poland.
Note:
 - Bajrang lost the 65kg final 6-17 to Russian grappler Kuular while Vinod lost 1-3 to American Richard Lewis.
 - Earlier, Ritu Phogat had won a silver medal in the women's 48kg final.
 - India finished with three medals at the event.
 3. **India win five golds at World Women's Youth Boxing C'ships** – India bagged five top positions to finish overall champions for the first time at the AIBA World Women's Youth Boxing Championships in Guwahati.
Note:
 - Nitu in the 48kg category, Jyoti Gulia in 51kg, Sakshi Choudhury in 54kg, Shashi Chopra in the 57kg and Ankushita Boro in 64kg category won the coveted yellow metals.
 - Two bronze medals secured by Neha Yadav in the Plus 81kg and Anupama in 81kg.
 - The championship has been hosted by India for the first time.
 4. **Heena Sidhu** has won the **10-meter air pistol gold medal at the Commonwealth** Shooting Championships in Brisbane.
Note: This was Sidhu's second successive international gold after she along with Jitu Rai, claimed the top position in the 10-meter air pistol mixed team event in the ISSF World Cup Finals in Delhi.
 5. The Olympic flame arrived in **South Korea** begin its journey towards the 2018 Pyeongchang Games.
Note: The torch relay will cover 2,018 kilometres through nine provinces, eight major cities, and more than 150 counties & districts before it winds up at its destination in Pyeongchang. The Games kick off on 9th February 2018 and will feature approximately 3,000 athletes from 95 NOCs.
 6. India ended the Commonwealth Shooting Championships with a rich haul of **--20 medals**.
Note: The Indian squad won a total of gold (6), silver (7) and bronze (7) medals during the competition.
 7. Olympic bronze-medallist **Gagan Narang** has won a silver medal in the men's 50m rifle prone event of the Commonwealth Shooting Championships.
Note: Dane Sampson of Australia won the gold and Swapnil Suresh Kusale (India) bagged the bronze in the same event. India's Suraj Singh won the bronze in women's **25m pistol final**, while the gold and silver went to host country's L Yaumleuskay and E Galiabovitch respectively.
 8. Indian shooter **Prakash Nanjappa** has **won the gold medal in the 50m pistol** event at the Commonwealth Shooting Championships at Gold Coast in Australia.
Note: **Amanpreet the Silver and Jitu settled for bronze medals.**
 9. India's ace shuttler **Kidambi Srikanth** has achieved career-best World Number 2 ranking in the latest BWF ranking.

CHENNAI IAS ACADEMY – 9043 211 311 / 411

Note: Now, Srikanth has 73,403 points, 4527 points away from World Champion Viktor Axelsen of Denmark, who heads the ranking list. Srikanth has reached in five finals and clinched four titles (Indonesia and Australia and Denmark and France) this year so far.

10. Indian golfer **Shiv Kapur** has clinched his first Asian Tour title in India at the Delhi Golf Club in New Delhi.
Note: He bagged the Panasonic Open by three strokes after bringing home a card of four-under 68 in the fourth and final round.
11. Gold medal in the Asian Boxing Championships in the Light Flyweight category (48-Kg) at Ho Chi Minh City in Vietnam--**Mary Kom**.
Note: She defeated DPR Korea's Kim Hyang Mi in the final bout 5-0 by unanimous judge decision. This is Mary Kom's first international gold medal since the 2014 Asian Games and her first medal in over a year.
12. The men's champion in the 82nd Senior National Badminton Championship -- **H S Prannoy**.
Note: Prannoy beat Srikanth 21-15, 16-21, 21-7 to lift the men's singles title. Saina (World No- 11th) beat Sindhu (World No. 2) in the final to claim the women's singles title at the 82nd Senior Badminton National Championship, in Nagpur. Satwik Sai Raj R and Ashwini Ponnappa clinched the mixed doubles crown.
13. Ace Indian cueist lifted the IBSF World Billiards Championship in the IBSF World Billiards Championship at Doha -- **Pankaj Advani**.
Note: In the best-of-11 summit clash, Advani beat Russell 6-2 to defend the 150-up format title he had won in Bengaluru last year.
14. **Aditi Ashok** has become the first to qualified for the season-ending CME Group Tour Championship on the LPGA.
Note: She has now rushed to Florida for the season- ending Finale. This year Aditi has played 20 events on the LPGA and made cut in 13 of them with tied 8th at the Marathon Classic as her best result.
15. Shooter bagged a national champion crown at the 61st National Shooting Championship in New Delhi -- **Shagun Chowdhary**.
Note: She overcame the challenge Rajeshwari Kumari to prevail 41-38. Now, Shagun Chowdhary will be the first Indian woman trap shooter to win an Olympic berth.
16. **Sushil Kumar, Sakshi Malik and Geeta Phogat** has won gold medal in their respective categories in the **National Wrestling championship in Indore**.
Note: In men's 74kg freestyle, Sushil Kumar bag a gold medal as three of his rivals gave him a walkover in men's 74kg freestyle competition. In women's 62kg, Sakshi Malik finished on the top of the podium after posting a dominating 10-0 victory over Pooja Tomar (Haryana). In women's 59kg category, Geeta Phogat clinched the gold medal with a win against Ravita
17. Women's Youth World Boxing Championship begins in -- **Guwahati**.
Note: Around 200 players from over 30 countries are taking part in the event. The finals will be held on 26th November 2017.
18. **Grigor Dimitrov** has won the ATP Finals, defeating David Goffin in London.
Note: Grigor Dimitrov overcame David Goffin 7-5, 4-6, 6- 3 to win the title.

DECEMBER MONTH CURRENT AFFAIRS

1. The RBI has announced its 5th Bi-Monthly Monetary Policy statement for 2017-18 and kept interest rates (Repo Rate) unchanged at-- **6%**.

Note:

- Reverse Repo rate – 5.75%.
- Marginal Standing Facility Rate (MSF) - 6.25%.
- Bank Rate - 6.25 %.
- Cash Reserve Ratio (CRR) – 4%.
- Statutory Liquidity Ratio (SLR) – 19.5%.

2. The country **Venezuela** is set to launch a digital currency called the “petro” to combat US-led financial blockade.

Note: The ‘Petro’ a cryptocurrency will be backed by Venezuela’s oil, mineral and gold reserves. It would help Venezuela to make financial transactions and overcome the financial blockade.

3. Paytm Payments Bank has launched the Paytm FASTag across the-- **India**.

Note: As per the government directions, it is mandatory to use of FASTag on every new vehicle sold from 1st December. FASTags are simple and reusable tags based on radio-frequency identification technology (RFID) that can be placed on a vehicle’s windscreen and enables electronic toll fee collection on highways across the country.

4. The **Corporation Bank** has launched its **RuPay Select** and **RuPay Platinum credit cards**.

Note: Corporation Bank’s RuPay credit cards are accepted at all RuPay-enabled 1.5 million plus PoS terminals and 80,000 plus e-commerce merchants in India and all ICS Partner acceptance points globally.

5. The union govt. has engaged ICICI Bank to enable online payments at 470 mandis integrated with the national portal of --electronic National Agriculture Market (e-NAM).

Note: e-NAM participants are doing payments through traditional ways like bank branches, debit cards, and net banking. Online payments should be smooth and

without any delay which is why ICICI Bank has been roped in as a banker for e-NAM. ICICI Bank will enable BHIM (Bharat Interface for Money) and Unified Payments Interface (UPI) on the e-NAM portal for making cashless payments.

6. India’s rank in the 2017 Legatum Prosperity Index (GPI) - **- 100th**.

Note: The index offers an insight into how prosperity is forming and changing across the world.

7. According to UN’s World Economic Situation and Prospects 2018’ report, India’s GDP growth forecast for 2018 -- **7.2%**.

8. The union govt. has fixed the issue price of Sovereign Gold Bond (SGB) for the next subscription period under Sovereign Gold Bond Scheme 2017-18 -- **Rs. 2,890 per gram**.

Note: The govt. had floated Series-3 of Sovereign Gold Bonds 2017-18 (from 9th of October to 27th of December 2017). The government in consultation with the RBI has decided to allow a discount of Rs. 50 per gram from the issue price to those investors who apply online and the payment is made in digital mode.

9. The country has become the 42nd participating State of Wassenaar Arrangement -- **India**.

Note: The membership will facilitate high-technology tie-ups for country’s defense and space programmes. India’s entry into the export control regime would enhance its credentials in the field of non-proliferation despite not being a signatory to the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT).

10. India's foreign exchange reserves increase by -- **USD 1.2 billion**.

Note: India's foreign exchange reserves increased by 1.2 billion US Dollar to touch a record high of 401.942 billion US Dollar in the week (on 1st December 2017).

11. The 14th Inclusive finance India summit held in -- **New Delhi.**

Note: The summit offers a platform for a plethora of information to all the thought leaders and industry veterans to debate the issues and challenges involving the Financial Inclusion in the country.

12. A special financial scheme has been by J& K bank has been launched for journalists of the state -- **J&K Bank Sahafat Finance Scheme.**

Note: It will enable journalists to buy cameras, laptops, tablets, and books. The minimum loan amount for the purpose has been fixed at Rs. 50,000 while as the maximum cap is Rs. 3 lacks.

13. The **India** has signed a financing agreement of USD 125 million with the World Bank (WB) for the Skills Strengthening for Industrial Value Enhancement Operation (STRIVE) Project in New Delhi.

Note: The purpose of the project is to improve access to quality and market-driven vocational training provided in it is and apprenticeships.

14. India's first home-grown high purity gold reference standard the Bharatiya Nirdeshak Dravya (BND-4201) has been launched at the India Government Mint (IGM) -- **Mumbai.**

Note: The BND-4201 is the reference material for gold of '9999' fineness (gold that is 99.99% pure) and will be beneficial to the consumers and public at large to ensure purity of gold.

15. **Pluto Exchange** will launch the India's first bitcoin trading app for transacting in virtual currencies.

Note: The Pluto Exchange mobile app offers a solution to the coordination problem between payment processors, financial Gateways and banks.

NEW APPOINTMENT:

1. **Surya Prakash** has been re-appointed as the Chairman of Prasar Bharati Board.

Note: His tenure will be till February 8, 2020. Prasar Bharati established by a 1990 Act of Parliament, as an autonomous body. It is India's largest public

broadcasting agency. It comprises of Doordarshan television and All India Radio.

2. The new Director General of Ordnance Factories (DGOF) and Chairman of the Ordnance Factory Board (OFB) -- **Sunil Kumar Chourasia**

Note: Earlier, he was the member of Ordnance Factory Board and was in charge of Material & Components division.

3. UN Environment's Goodwill Ambassador for India -- **Dia Mirza.**

Note: Dia Mirza will work with the UN to further spread the message on key areas which includes climate change, wildlife protection, and clean air & seas.

4. The new Ambassador of India to Turkmenistan -- **Azar A.H.Khan.**

Note: Currently, he is Consul General in the Consulate General of India.

5. Who has been elected as the new secretary general of the International Buddhist Confederation (IBC) in New Delhi **Buddhist monk Dhammapiya, Tripura.**

Note: The IBC is a global Buddhist forum for preservation and development of heritage sites of the religion in India and other parts of the world.

6. The Indian National Congress (INC) has been elected unopposed as new Congress President -- **Rahul Gandhi.**

Note: Rahul Gandhi succeeds his mother Sonia Gandhi (remained president for 19 years). The CEA (Central Election Authority) received a total of 89 nomination papers proposing Rahul Gandhi's name for the top post.

7. The new Executive Director of Reserve Bank of India (RBI) -- **Uma Shankar.**

Note: Presently, RBI has 11 EDs and each of them supervises the 34 departments headed by CGMs at the central bank.

8. The new Director of the National Institute of Nutrition (NIN), Hyderabad -- **R Hemalatha.**

Note: Hemalatha has served as secretary of the Nutrition Society of India, is a fellow of the National Academy of Medical Sciences and a fellow of the International Union of Nutritional Sciences.

CHENNAI IAS ACADEMY – 9043 211 311 / 411

The National Institute of Nutrition (NIN) is an Indian Public health, Biotechnology and Translational research center located in Hyderabad, India.

9. **Justice Umesh Dattatraya Salvi** takes charge as the acting Chairperson of the National Green Tribunal (NGT).

Note: The Tribunal has Original Jurisdiction on matters of "substantial question relating to environment" & "damage to environment due to specific activity" (such as pollution).

10. The new Director General (DG) of National Cadet Corps (NCC) -- **Lt Gen B S Sahrawat**.

Note: Sahrawat is an alumnus of the National Defence Academy, Khadakwasla and Indian Military Academy, Dehradun. He was commissioned in December 1980 in 13th Battalion (Rezang La), the Kumaon Regiment. He has been awarded the Sena Medal during the floods of Kosi River in Bihar in 2008.

11. The new Ambassador of India to the Republic of Peru -- **M. Subbarayudu**.

Note: Current, he is joint secretary in the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA). He is expected to take up his assignment shortly.

12. The new Chief Minister of Himachal Pradesh -- **Jairam Thakur**.

Note: Jairam Thakur has been sworn-in as the new Chief Minister of Himachal Pradesh after he was elected as the leader of the BJP legislature party. In the recent 2017 election, the BJP ousted the Congress from power by winning 44 out of the 68 seats.

13. The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) has appointed former India wicketkeeper as the General Manager (GM), Cricket Operations -- **Saba Karim**.

Note: The General Manager's post had been left vacant after the resignation of MV Sridhar.

14. The Chief Minister of Gujarat -- **Vijay Rupani**.

Note: In the Gujarat (14th State Assembly) elections, BJP had won 99 seats in the 182-member house. The strength of the Opposition Congress and its allies in the new House is 80.

15. Senior IPS officer **Abhay** has been appointed as the Director General (DG) of Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB). **Note:** Currently he is working in Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF). Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) is the nodal drug law enforcement and intelligence agency of India responsible for fighting drug trafficking and the abuse of illegal substances.

16. The new President of the Indian Council of Cultural Relations (ICCR) -- **Vinay Sahasrabudhe**.

Note: Vinay Sahasrabudhe is the BJP's national Vice President and a Rajya Sabha member from Maharashtra. Indian Council of Cultural Relations was founded in 1950 by India's first Education Minister Maulana Abul Kalam Azad, who also served as its first President.

17. The new director of Serious Fraud Investigation Office (SFIO) -- **Amardeep Singh Bhatia**.

Note: The SFIO is involved in major fraud probes and is the co-ordinating agency with the Income Tax Department and the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI).

IMPORTANT NEWS- INDIA

1. The 7th edition of the Kathakar - International Storytellers Festival' begins at the **Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts (IGNCA), New Delhi**.

Note: The festival was started under the aegis of UNESCO in 2010. It is the only oral storytelling festival in India and is a part of Ghummakkad Narain- the Travelling Literature Festival.

2. A combined military exercise '**Ajeya Warrior-2017**' between India and the UK begins in -- **Rajasthan**.

Note: The exercise is being held in the Mahajan Field Firing Range near Bikaner of Rajasthan. The objective of this exercise is to increase mutual cooperation and coordination between the two countries.

3. The **22nd meeting of the Small Farmers' Agri-Business Consortium** held in -- **New Delhi**.

Note: The Small Farmers Agribusiness Consortium (SFAC) is an autonomous society established in 1994 and is registered under Societies Registration Act 1860.

4. The first International Exhibition and Conference on **AYUSH and Wellness sector- AROGYA 2017** held in -- **New Delhi**.
Note: The theme of the conference is 'Enhancing the global potential of Ayush'. AYUSH is the acronym of - Ayurveda, Yoga and Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha and Homoeopathy.
5. India's **largest floating Solar Power plant** is inaugurated in **Kerala**.
Note: The plant is built at **Banasura Sagar dam Kerala**. The capacity of the plant is 260 watts, a 500-kilovolt-ampere (KVA) transformer and 17 inverters. It also consists of 1,938 solar panels.
6. The district of **Uttar Pradesh** has been included in the National Capital Region (NCR) -- **Shamli**.
Note: The decision was taken by the 37th meeting of the National Capital Region Planning Board. Now there are total **23 districts** which come under the National Capital Region.
7. The 6th International Tourism Mart 2017 begins in -- **Guwahati**.
Note: The program has been organized by Ministry of Tourism in association with all North-Eastern states. The main objective of the mart is to highlight the tourism potential of the region in the domestic and international markets.
8. **Godrej Aerospace** has won the deal from BrahMos Aerospace Pvt. Ltd. (BAPL) for supply of additional 100 units airframe fuel management systems for **BrahMos Air-Launched Cruise Missile**.
Note: Godrej Aerospace had completed the supply of its 100th airframe for the missile.
9. The President Ram Nath Kovind awarded the **Presidential Colour** to the **Submarine Arm of the Indian Navy** at the Command headquarters in **Vishakhapatnam**.
Note: The day will remain etched in the history of the Submarine arm in golden letters as the award of Presidents Colour is the highest honour which can be bestowed upon any military unit. 2017 is being **commemorated as the Golden Jubilee of the Indian Navy's Submarine Arm**.
10. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has commissioned India's modern conventional submarine **INS Kalvari into Navy's fleet in Mumbai**.
Note: Kalvari is the first of the six Scorpene-class submarines handed over by shipbuilder Mazagon Dock Limited (MDL) with assistance and technology transfer from France's DCNS. The length of INS Kalvari is 67.5 meters and height of 12.3 meters and weighs 1,565- tonnes and displacement capacity of 1,600 tonnes.
11. The union health ministry **Jagat Prakash Nadda** has launched a door-to-door campaign for early diagnosis, detection and treatment of **Tuberculosis (TB)**.
Note: Through this campaign, health department workers, ASHAs (Accredited Social Health Activists) and TB supervisors will make door-to-door visits to find TB patients and give them free medical treatment till they are cured. Tuberculosis (TB) is an infectious disease usually caused by the bacterium Mycobacterium tuberculosis (MTB).
12. Vice-President 'M Venkaiah Naidu' has inaugurated the third World Telugu Conference in **Hyderabad**.
Note: The 5-day conference will promote Telugu and its literature besides helping the present generation learn more about Telugu language. Around eight thousand Telugu speaking delegates from 40 countries all over the globe will be taking part.
13. The **Skill Development Ministry** have signed an agreement with the company to impart training to youth and enhance their employment potential in New Delhi - **Maruti Suzuki**.
Note: As part of agreement, Maruti Suzuki will ensure that not less than 80% of trainees are placed with Maruti Suzuki or its business partner. Maruti Suzuki will develop specific training module as per need of the automobile industry in consultation with DGT.
14. **India's first-ever National Rail and Transport University (NRTU)** will set up in **Vadodara (Gujarat)**.

CHENNAI IAS ACADEMY – 9043 211 311 / 411

Note: This innovative idea will be a catalyst for transformation of rail and transport sector towards New India. The University will be set up as a Deemed to Be University under de novo category as per the UGC (Institutions Deemed to be Universities) Regulations, 2016.

15. The Union Government has launched the project at **Ganga Gram Swachata Sammelan (GGSS-2017) -- Ganga Gram.**

Note: The Ganga Gram project is an integrated approach for the holistic development of villages situated on the banks of the holy river with the active participation of villagers. The project envisages solid and liquid waste management, renovation of ponds and water resources, water conservation projects, organic farming, horticulture, and promotion of medicinal plants.

16. The **Minister of communications Manoj Sinha** has launched to improve level of postal services for rural customers -- **'DARPAN' (The Digital Advancement of Rural Post Office for A New India).**

Note: DARPAN offers core banking services to the account holders. The project has an outlay of 1400 crore rupees and intends to provide a low power technology solution to each branch postmaster. This will enable each of approximately 1.29 lakhs branch post offices to improve service delivery.

17. India has signed an agreement with the country to allow automatic sharing of tax-related information from this month -- **Switzerland.**

Note: The agreements have been signed by Sushil Chandra (CBDT chairman) and Andreas Baum (Swiss ambassador to India) at the North Block in New Delhi.

18. India Coffee Trust in association with the Coffee Board has announced the **7th India International Coffee Festival (ICF)** to be held in -- **Bengaluru.**

Note: It is an excellent platform to showcase 'Coffee of India' to the global coffee buyers. The festival will comprise of International Conference Exhibition

for all things coffee, Skill-building workshops, Product launches, Coffee Quiz, Coffee Awards, Golf Championship, Café Crawl.

19. **India's first design university 'World University of Design'** opened its campus at **Sonapat, Haryana.**

Note: The University is promoted by Om Parkash Bansal Educational and Social Welfare Trust of Mandi Gobindgarh, Punjab. WUD is India's first university dedicated to education in the creative domain.

20. Atal Innovation Mission has selected **1500** schools for setting up of Atal Tinkering Labs across India.

Note: NITI Aayog's Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) has been selected additional 1500 Schools for establishment of Atal Tinkering Labs (ATLs) to give a major boost to the vision of the mission to 'Cultivate One Million children in India as the Innovators of tomorrow. Atal Tinkering Labs are innovation play workspaces for students between Grade VI to Grade XII, to stimulate them for innovations combining science & technology.

21. India to get its first runway on sea bridge at -- **Lakshadweep**

Note: India is all set to get its first runway on a 'sea bridge', as the Airports Authority of India (AAI) has been given a nod to extend Lakshadweep's Agatti Airport. Earlier, the plan was extending the runway by linking two adjacent islands.

22. India and Afghanistan launch second air cargo route, linking Kabul with -- **Mumbai**

Note: Earlier in 2016, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the Afghanistan leader had decided on opening direct air corridor. Afghanistan has so far exported 1,640 tons fresh and dried fruits, carpets and medical herbs in 56 flights to India.

23. The 78th session of the Indian History Congress has begun at the Jadavpur University campus in **Kolkata**.

Note: The objective of three-day long Indian History Congress is for promotion and encouragement of the scientific study of Indian History, holding Congresses & publishing of the proceedings, bulletins, memoirs, journals and other works.

24. India's Defence Minister Nirmala Sitharaman has inaugurated the Centre for Entrepreneurship Opportunities and Learning - for budding entrepreneurs in -- **Mangalore**.

STATES NEWS:

1. Goa's CM Manohar Parrikar has launched a farmer engagement app **Jai Kisaan** to fulfil the needs of the farmer's community in India.

Note: With the help of this app, any farmer of the country can get the information related to agriculture and cultivation, covering crop nutrition, protection, seeds, and diagnostic services, etc. App also provides other services like - commodity market prices and a five-day weather forecast, to assist the farmer in making critical decisions related to his farm income.

2. The Hornbill festival is celebrated from 1-10 December every year in -- **Nagaland**.

Note: The main objective of this festival is to promote the cultural heritage of Nagaland. The festival is named after the Indian hornbill, the large and colourful forest bird which is displayed in the folklore of most of the state's tribes.

3. The 31st edition of the **Konark festival** begins in -- **Odisha**.

Note: The festival held every year from 1st to 5th December. The objective of the festival is to promote the diverse Indian dance heritage as well as the popularity of Konark Temple and Odisha as a tourist destination.

4. India's first mobile food testing lab has launched in **Goa state**.

Note: The vehicle is equipped to conduct on-the-spot tests to check food quality and curb adulteration,

also check hygiene level of water. The mobile laboratory costs (Rs.45 lakh) has been fully funded by the union govt.

5. The Adivasi Mahotsav- 2017 has been started in the **Chhattisgarh** state.

Note: The two-day **Adivasi Mahotsav** has displayed the rich and diverse tribal traditions of the state. The festival has been organized in the memory of 1857 revolutionary from the region. (on martyrdom day of Shaheed Veernarayan Singh).

6. The first Indian state to launch free email addresses in Hindi for its residents -- **Rajasthan**.

Note: The objective of this initiative aims to ensure maximum participation of people towards e-governance and ensure those maximum government facilities in vernacular language.

7. The **Maharashtra Govt.** has started efforts to adopt Clinical establishment (Registration and Regulation) Act to ensure the minimum standards of facilities and services provided by them.

Note: Since 2010, the draft Clinical Establishment Bill has been pending in the state to opposition from medical fraternity. This bill will pave way to control unethical practices adopted by some of the private hospitals.

8. PM Narendra Modi has inaugurated the 60-megawatt **Tuirial hydroelectric** power project from -- **Aizawl, Mizoram**.

Note: Now, the Mizoram had become the third power-surplus state in the north-east after Sikkim and Tripura. The hydropower project would produce '251 million units' of electrical energy every year.

9. The petroleum minister has inaugurated the eastern India's first compressed natural gas (CNG) stations for scooters in -- **Bhubaneswar, Odisha**.

Note: He has also inaugurated CNG-run scooters and CNG stations for three-wheelers at Chandrasekharpur and Patia area in Bhubaneswar. The CNG stations were part of GAIL's Pradhan Mantri Urja Ganga and City Gas Distribution (CGD) projects in Bhubaneswar and Cuttack.

10. The **Assam** govt has become the 6th state in the country to sign the MoU with **Isha Foundation** to conserve and rejuvenate the rivers in the state.

Note: Isha Foundation is a non-profit making and spiritual organization the Isha foundation. Its founder Sadhguru Jaggi Vasudev's nationwide 'Rally for Rivers' campaign is an initiative for revitalizing India's rivers.

11. The Prime minister Mr. Narendra Modi has flagged off a rapid transit system DMRC -- **Magenta line**.

Note: The first section 12.64 Km stretch from Kalkaji Mandir (Delhi located) to Botanical Garden (Noida- located) will reduce the travel time of its commuters from 52 minutes to 19 minutes. The remaining section of the line is scheduled to be functional by March 2018.

12. Mumbai Railway Service as the first ever Air-Conditioned local train has been flagged off from -- **Borivali station**.

Note: The AC local will operate only on the Churchgate- Borivili section and make six trips daily (12 services per day) and from 1st January next year. The train will not operate on Saturdays and Sundays as it requires maintenance. Out of 12 services of AC Local train 8 will run fast and will only halt at major station like Mumbai Central, Dadar, Bandra, Andheri, Borivali, Bhayander and Vasai Road in both direction.

13. Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu has inaugurated the Centenary celebrations of the **Yoga Institute in Mumbai**.

Note: The institute was founded by Shree Yogendraji Mani Haribhai Desai, the disciple of **Paramahans Madhavadasji in 1918**. Yoga makes its practitioners perfect and helps them in contributing towards the society and the country.

14. The **Uttar Pradesh govt.** has launched a free household power connection **scheme 'Prakash hai to vikas hai'** for the poor in to mark former prime minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee's birth anniversary

Note: Under the scheme the government will cover 16 million households by the end of next year. Initially the two village Lohban and Gausana of Mathura district have been covered for 100% electrification.

15. The **Maharashtra government** has set up a 17-member development authority headed by Rajya Sabha member Sambhaji Shahu Chhatrapati for the Raigad fort.

Note: In June 2016, the state govt. had sanctioned 500-crore rupees development plan for the 17th century fort which is situated in Raigad district. The authority will finalize a development plan for the Raigad fort and surrounding areas, including the memorial of Shivaji's mother, Jijabai.

16. The Karnataka government has unveiled a brand logo 'Be U' for the city of **Bengaluru**.

Note: The only city in the country to boast of a logo of its own. The crowd-source-designed logo comes with an option of colours (green, red and yellow) depending on the occasion. The objective of the logo to make every person coming to the city to spend on memorabilia.

17. The **Rajasthan** state govt. is setting up Automatic service ATMs '**E-Mitra Plus**' at nearly 9 thousand 9 hundred Atal Seva Kendras and 2500 urban locations situated across the state.

Note: Rajasthan has a network of over 48 thousand e-mitra centers running successfully across the state for a quarter of India's total common service centers. E-plus is a more advance system with completely human-less interface, which has linked with AADHAR and has provision for payment by cash and card. The e-Mitra network enables over 60 lakh transactions every month with turnover of about 700 crore rupees.

18. The Chief Minister of Gujarat Vijay Rupani has inaugurated the five-day National Children Science Congress (25th) in **Ahmedabad**.

Note: The theme of the Congress is 'Science and Innovation for Sustainable Development' with the special focus on persons with disabilities. This year around 50 children and teachers from Asian nations has participated in the event.

IMPORTANT DAYS:

1. The World AIDS day being observed every year on -- **1st December**.

Note: The theme of 2017 Aids Day is – 'Right to health'.

CHENNAI IAS ACADEMY – 9043 211 311 / 411

The main objective of Aids day is to raise the public awareness about Acquired Immuno Deficiency Syndrome, AIDS. It is a pandemic disease caused due to the infection of Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV).

2. Nagaland state celebrated its formation day -- **1st Dec.**

Note: On 1 December 1963, Nagaland became the 16th state of India. The key economic activity of the state is Agriculture and the main crops include – rice, corn, millets, pulses, oilseeds, etc.

3. The Border Security Force is celebrating its formation day on -- **1st December.**

Note: India's Border Security Force was formed on December 1 in 1965 after the Indo-Pak and India-China wars. With 186 battalions and over 2.4 lakh military personnel, the BSF is the largest border security unit in the world.

4. Defence Ministry Nirmala Sitharaman has launched the Armed Forces Week from -- **1st – 7th December 2017.**

Note: The objective is to encourage citizens to make financial contributions to the families of war heroes and to pay respects to the brave sons and daughters of our nation. The Armed Forces Flag Day is observed annually in India on December 7 since 1949.

5. The International Day of Persons with Disabilities was observed on -- **3rd December.**

Note: The theme of this year is - “Transformation towards sustainable and resilient society for all”.

6. The Indian Navy day is observed every year on -- **4th December.**

Note: The Navy day is celebrated to honour the courageous attack on the Karachi harbour during the Indo-Pakistan war (on 4 December 1971) by the Indian Naval Missile boats as well as to reverence all the martyrs of that war.

7. The International Volunteer Day (IVD) observed every year on -- **5th December.**

Note: The theme of 2017 for the day is: ‘Volunteers act first, Here, Everywhere’.

8. The World Soil day observed on every year on -- **5th December.**

Note: The theme of 2017 Soil Day is ‘Caring for the Planet starts from the Ground’. The day is observed to aware the importance of soil as a critical component of the natural system and as a vital contributor to the human and as a mitigator of biodiversity loss and climate change.

9. The Armed Forces Flag Day is observed every year on -- **7th December.**

Note: The day observed since 1949, has become a tradition to remember the sacrifices and commemorate the honor to the soldiers, air men and sailors.

10. International Anti-Corruption Day (IACD) has been observed annually on -- **9th December.**

Note: The day raise public awareness of corruption and what people can do to fight it. 2017 Theme: United against corruption for development, peace, and security.

11. The World Human Rights Day (WHRD) is observed every year on -- **10 December.**

Note: The 2017 theme is ‘Let’s stand up for equality, justice and human dignity’.

12. The 2017 National Energy Conservation Day (NECD) is celebrated in India on -- **14th November.**

Note: An National Energy Conservation Awards to industries that have demonstrated measurable reductions in their energy use as part of the National Energy Conservation Awards Programme.

13. The **Vijay Diwas** marks its military victory over Pakistan in 1971 during the Indo-Pakistani War of 1971.

Note: On December 16, 1971, Lieutenant General AAK Niazi (chief of Pakistani forces), along with 93 thousand troops, surrendered to the allied forces, comprising the Indian Army and the Mukti Bahini. Bangladesh is also celebrating its Victory Day.

14. The UN’s (United Nation) International Migration Day (IMD) is being observed every year on -- **18th December.**

Note: The theme of this year is Safe Migration in a World on the Move. In Dec 2000, the UN General Assembly proclaimed 18 Dec as International Migrants Day after taking into account the large and increasing number of migrants in the world.

- 15.** The state is celebrating its 56th Liberation Day -- **Goa**.
Note: The state was liberated on this day in 1961 from Portuguese control after almost 450 years of colonial rule. Goa is a state in India within the coastal region known as the Konkan in Western India, bounded by Maharashtra to the north and Karnataka to the east and south, with the Arabian Sea forming its Western coast.
- 16.** The National Mathematics Day 2017 is celebrated in India
-- 22nd December.
Note: The Day commemerate the birth anniversary of great mathematical genius **Srinivasa Ramanujan** and to recognize his contribution to mathematics.
- 17.** Kisan Diwas is observed every year to celebrate the birth anniversary of the fifth prime minister Chaudhary Charan Singh on -- **23rd December**.
Note: Mr. Singh was the PM of India from 28th of July 1979 until 14th January 1980. He also served as the Deputy Prime Minister during the reign of Morarji Desai.
- 18.** The Good Governance Day is celebrated every year across the country on -- **25th December**.
Note:
➤ The day mark the birthday anniversary of former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee.
➤ The day was established in 2014 to honour Mr. Vajpayee by fostering awareness among the people of accountability in government.
- 2.** British singer-song writer **Ellie Goulding** has been chosen as a **Global Goodwill Ambassador for UN Environment**.
Note: The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) is founded by Maurice Strong in June 1972. The main objective of the UNEP is to promote environmental activities and assisting developing countries in implementing environmentally sound policies and practices.
- 3.** **Mohamad Al Jounde** has been awarded the **International Children's Peace Prize** for his efforts to ensure the rights of Syrian refugee children.
Note: He set up a school with the help of his family in a Lebanese refugee camp which provides education to the 200 children.
- 4.** **The Silence Breakers** named Time's Person of the Year for 2017.
Note: Time magazine has named 'the silence breakers' its Person of the Year for 2017 mentioning to those women and men who have raise a voice to sexual assault and harassment by powerful public figures in America. The runner-up for this year's Person of the Year was President Donald Trump, who was Time's Person of the Year in 2016.
- 5.** According to a survey, **India second-best UNESCO world heritage site in the world -- Taj Mahal of Agra**.
Note: The survey was conducted by the world's largest travel portal TripAdvisor which lists the UNESCO Cultural and Natural heritage sites which are rated by traveler around the globe. **Angkor Wat of Cambodia named as the Best UNESCO World Heritage Site**. Angkor is one of the most important archaeological sites in South-East Asia.

HONORS & AWARD

- 1.** **Amit Shah** has been named as the Yahoo's Personality of the Year.
Note: Prime Minister Narendra Modi was the most searched personality and bags Yahoo's People's Choice Award for Personality of the Year 2017.
- 'Most Searched Newsy Terms' category – Aadhaar.
 - Top Business Story** – GST.
 - Most Searched Female Celebrity** - Sunny Leone.
- 6.** Renowned Hindi scholar and writer **Mamta Kalita** has won the 27th edition of **Vyas Samman-2017**.
Note: She has won the Vyas Samman-2017 for her novel "**Dukkham Sikkham**", published in 2010. The novel 'Dukkham Sikkham' depicts the story of **grandmother Vidhyawati and granddaughter Manisha's relation**. Vyas Samman was instituted in 1991 by the KK Birla Foundation and carries a cash award of Rs 3.50 lakh, a citation, and a logo.

CHENNAI IAS ACADEMY – 9043 211 311 / 411

7. India's **Vice President Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu** has conferred '**Yeraringan**' award to -- **Prof. M.S. Swaminathan**.

Note: M.S. Swaminathan was a transformative leader who has inspired many scientists to focus on the problem of Indian agriculture. He has shown to the entire world how research can reach the farms and transform farmers' lives.

8. The **Moortidevi Award** for the year 2017 for his poetry collection titled '**Du Dondo Phowara Matro**' -- **Joy Goswami**.

Note: 'Du Dondo Phowara Matro' is an autobiographical account of the poet's life featuring his close ones including a pet cat. The Moortidevi award consists of a Saraswati Statue, a Citation Plaque and a cash award of Rupees 4 lacks.

9. Swiss tennis player has been voted BBC overseas sports personality of the year for a record fourth time -- **Roger Federer**.

Note: Earlier, Federer won the award in 2004, 2006 and 2007. Federer became the first man to win Wimbledon eight times and extended his record to 19 Grand Slam titles in 2017.

10. The star forward of FC Barcelona superstar has received La Liga's top scorer and best player awards for the football season 2016-17 -- **Lionel Messi**.

Note: Messi scored 37 goals in league action last season to earn his fourth Pichichi award for most goals in La Liga. Second to the Argentine was Los Blancos superstar Cristiano Ronaldo, while Paris Saint-Germain's Neymar finished in third place.

11. **Shree Saini** has been crowned Miss India USA 2017.

Note: Anti-bullying activist Shree Saini (Washington) Royal Alberts Palace in Edison, New Jersey. Prachi Singh from Connecticut was declared the first runner-up at the pageant. Cancer surgeon Kavita Malhotra Pattani (Florida) was declared Mrs India USA 2017.

12. **Joda East Iron Mine (JEIM)** has been honored with the prestigious Golden Peacock Innovation Management Award for the year 2017 for driving innovation in mines. **Note:** The award was given at Institute of Directors India's 2nd Global Convention held at Singapore.

The JEIM is one of the fully mechanised captive iron mines of Tata Steel.

13. The '**Sahitya Akademi**' has announced its annual Sahitya Akademi Awards-2017 in -- **24 languages**.

Note:

- **Poets:** Shrikant Deshmukh (Marathi), Bhujanga Tudu (Santali), Inqulab (Tamil) and Devipriya (Telugu), Udaya Narayana Singh (Maithili).
- **Short Stories:** Autar Krishen Rahbar (Kashmiri), Gajanan Jog (Konkani), Gayatri Saraf (Odia) and Baig Ehsas (Urdu) Shiv Mehta (Dogri),
- **Literary Criticism:** **Ramesh Kuntal Megh** (Hindi), **TP Ashoka** (Kannada), **Urmi Ghanshyam Desai** (Gujarati), **Bina Hangkhim** (Nepali) and **Neeraj Daiya** (Rajasthani).
- **Play:** **Rajen Toijamba** (Manipuri).
- **Essay:** **Jagdish Lachhani** (Sindhi).
- The award in the form of a casket containing an engraved copper-plaque, a shawl and cheque of Rs 1 lakh will be presented to the authors at a special function on 12th February, 2018.

14. Bollywood actress **Anushka Sharma** has been named **PETA's Person of the Year** by animal rights organisation People for Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA).

Note: Anushka's recent efforts to protect animals include launching her cruelty-free NUSH clothing line, visiting an animal shelter and promoting its work on her social media platforms, launching a campaign called **PAWitive to raise awareness** of the suffering fireworks cause to animals. In 2015, she was named PETA's Hottest Vegetarian Celebrity.

15. Veteran playback singer **K S Chitra** has been selected for prestigious '**Harivarasanam**' award 2017.

Note: She has been selected for the award in recognition of her contribution to propagate the spirit of secularism, equanimity and universal brotherhood. The award carrying a cash prize of Rs. one lakh, citation and plaque would be presented at a function on 14th January 2018.

16. **The Telangana govt.** has presented one crore rupees and a house site of **600 square-feet** to Indian women cricket team skipper **Mithali Raj in Hyderabad.**

Note: Mithali Raj had led the Indian team to the Women's World Cup final earlier this year. Earlier, India lost to England in a nail-biting summit clash by nineruns.

17. Real Madrid player **Cristiano Ronaldo** has bagged the Globe Soccer's Best Player for the second year in a row.

Note: He received this honour for the fourth time in his career. Earlier, he had also won the award in 2011, 2014 and 2016. The award is organised by the EFAA (European Association of Football Agents) and ECA (European Clubs Association).

WORLD NEWS

1. The United States & South Korea has started their largest Air exercise in Seoul, South Korea -- **Vigilant Ace.**

Note: The five-day joint exercise came after when North Korea has tested its most advanced intercontinental ballistic missile '**Hwasong 15**'. The joint exercise is designed to enhance readiness and operational capability and to ensure peace and security on the Korean peninsula.

2. The 16th Meeting of the Heads of Government Council of the **Shanghai Cooperation Organization** held in -- **Sochi, Russia.**

Note: In 2018, the next SCO Council of Heads of Government Meeting will be held in Tajikistan.

3. Iran President Hassan Rouhani has inaugurated the first phase of the **Chabahar port project** which is known as the -- **Shahid Beheshti port.**

Note: The Shahid Beheshti Port of Chabahar is now the only and largest port in Iran on the Indian Ocean and will significantly help in regional development with the rest of world countries.

4. **An international conference on climate change started in -- Nepal.**

Note: The main objective of the conference is to explore holistic solutions for adaptation to change in the Hindu Kush Himalaya region.

More than the 200 scientist's policymakers, government officials and parliamentarians from countries including India participate in the conference.

5. The 3rd edition of the Dialogue between the NITI Aayog and the Development Research Council of China was held in -- **Beijing, China.**

Note: The meeting was co-chaired by Vice Chairman NITI Aayog, Dr. Rajiv Kumar, and Mr Li Wei, President (Minister), DRC. The next 4th NITI Aayog - DRC Dialogue will be held in India in 2018.

9. The country hosted the **7th International Ground Water Conference-2017 on ground water Vision 2030 -- India.**

Note: The conference has been organized by the National Institute of Hydrology (NIH), Roorkee and Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) under the aegis of Ministry of Water Resources, River Development, and Ganga Rejuvenation. The Theme "**Ground water Vision 2030- Water Security, Challenges and Climate Change Adaptation**".

10. The country is hosting the "**Bodhi Parva: BIMSTEC Festival of Buddhist Heritage**" -- **India.**

Note: India is hosting the 'Bodhi Parva: BIMSTEC Festival of Buddhist Heritage' part of celebrations of 20th anniversary of BIMSTEC in New Delhi. The purpose of the fest is to emphasize and raise awareness of BIMSTEC's rich and common heritage.

11. The ASEAN India Connectivity Summit (AICS) was held in -- **New Delhi.**

Note: The theme of the summit is "**Powering Digital and Physical Linkages for Asia in the 21st Century**". The Summit aims at accelerating existing connectivity prospects, identifying issues of concern, evolving suitable policy recommendations and developing strategies to enhance economic, industrial, trade relations between ASEAN & India.

12. The two-week long **Indo-Maldives joint military exercise Ekuverin** has begun at **Belagavi, Bengaluru.**

Note: The bilateral annual exercise is a joint military training between the Indian Army and the Maldives National Defence Force (MNDF). The annual exercise held alternatively in India and Maldives since 2009.

13. The World Health Organization (WHO) has declared central African country 'polio-free country' -- **Gabon**.

Note: The UN health agency nonetheless recommended taking the necessary steps to continue monitoring for possible signs of the disease. Since 1988, Cases of polio have decreased by 99%, when polio was endemic in 125 countries and 350,000 cases were recorded worldwide.

14. The country has announced to extending a pilot student visa scheme to 23 more universities -- **UK govt**.

Note: Now, Indian, and other non-EU students will get six-month time to find a job after finishing their course. Last year, the scheme was introduced on a pilot basis in four British varsities Oxford, Bath, Cambridge and Imperial College London.

15. The country will host a meeting of WTO member countries in February to muster support for food security and other issues -- **India**.

Note: The union govt is trying to call a meeting of almost 30 to 40 countries in Delhi to help multi-lateral process. The World Trade Organization (WTO) is an intergovernmental organization that regulates international trade.

16. **India** has topped the list of people living abroad at 17 million with about 5 million Indians residing in the Gulf region alone.

Note: The number of migrants from India now reside in multiple destination countries, including the UAE at 3 million, the US and Saudi Arabia at 2 million each. Mexico (2nd), Russia (3rd), China (4th), Bangladesh (5th), Pakistan Syria (6th), and Ukraine also have large migrant populations living abroad (around 6 to 11 million each).

17. The Indian Navy deployed a submarine and the P8I long-range maritime aircraft for a bilateral naval exercise with the -- **Omani navy**.

Note: Indian Naval Ships Trikanth and Teg are deployed to Oman for bilateral exercise 'Naseem Al Bahr' or 'Sea Breeze'. The first exercise Indian Navy with Royal Navy of Oman was conducted in 1993 and this year marks 24 years of Indian Navy - Royal Navy of Oman bilateral exercises.

18. The 17th 2-day **Indian Science Communication Congress (ISCC-2017)** held in -- **New Delhi**.

Note: The purpose of the 2-day ISCC-2017 to engage in narratives around India's scientific wisdom. The Focal Theme of the ISCC-2017 is "Communicating India's Scientific Wisdom: Changing Paradigms".

19. India and **Myanmar** have signed pact for socio-economic development of Rakhine State.

Note: The MoU is intended to help the Government of Myanmar to achieve its objective of restoration of normalcy in Rakhine State and enable the return of displaced Muslim Rohingyas.

9. **China** has launched the world's largest amphibious aircraft "**AG600**".

Note: The 121-foot long AG600 aircraft plane, codenamed "**Kunlong**", has a 38.8-meter wingspan and 4 turboprop engines. It's the latest step in China's military modernization program.

10. The city to host the annual meeting of **World Economic Forum (WEF) 2018** -- **Davos**.

Note: The 5-day annual meeting of World Economic Forum (WEF) 2018 will be held in **Davos, Switzerland**.

SPORTS NEW

1. The Best Boxer' title in **World Youth Women's Boxing Championship** -- **Ankushita**.

Note: **Ankushita** clinched the fifth gold for India after defeating Russia's Ekaterina Dymnik in the 64kg final. She belongs from Meghailai Gairani village in Assam.

2. **Deepika Kumari** has won the bronze medal at the Indoor Archery World Cup in Bangkok.

Note: Korean Kim Surin defeated Deepika Kumari by 6-5.

3. Mumbai batsman **Prithvi Shaw** will be the captain of the 16-member Indian team in next year's **ICCU-19 Cricket World Cup**.

Note: The ICCU19 Cricket World Cup will be held in New Zealand from 13th January to 3rd February 2018. India has won the U-19 World Cup title thrice in 2000, 2008 and 2012.

4. The International Olympic Committee (IOC) banned the country from the **2018 Winter Olympics Games -- Russia**.
Note: The 2018 Winter Olympics Games will be held in Pyeongchang, South Korea.
5. The **first Indian to win gold at the World Para Swimming Championship 2017 -- Kanchanmala Pande**.
6. **Australia has won the gold at Kalinga Stadium, Bhubaneswar (Odisha)**.
Note: In the third-fourth place classification match, India defeated Germany 2-1 and reclaimed the bronze medal. The 2016–17 Men's FIH Hockey World League Final took place between 1st-10th December 2017 in Bhubaneswar, India.
7. The **Sachin Siwach** boxer has been named the Asian Boxing Confederation's best youth boxer of the year 2017.
Note: Sachin won after an online poll conducted by the continental body in his category and polled 36.2% votes.
8. The **emblems of the Beijing 2022 Olympic have been named -- Winter Dream**.
Note: Paralympic Winter Games "Flight" have been named. The chief designer of the two emblems is Lin Cunzhen, deputy dean of China Central Academy of Fine Arts' Design School.
9. India's freestyle wrestler clinched the gold medal at the Commonwealth Wrestling Championships, in South Africa -- **Sushil Kumar**.
Note: He defeated Akash Khullar with a pinfall in the final of the 74kg freestyle category. Rio Olympic medallist, Sakshi Malik won the gold medal in the 62kg women's freestyle category.
10. Indian shuttler lost in to Yamaguchi in the final in Dubai World Badminton Super series -- **P V Sindhu**.
Note: She went down fighting against Akane Yamaguchi (World No. 2) of Japan in three games, 21-15 12-21 19-21.
11. Four-time Olympic champion has been voted BBC Sports Personality of the Year 2017 -- **Sir Mo Farah**.
Note: He won his third successive world 10,000m gold medal in London in August. Farah becomes the first long-distance runner to win the Sports Personality award since Paula Radcliffe in 2002.
12. India's umpires have been named in the panel of umpires for the 2018 Hockey World Cup -- **Jav Raghuprasad and Javed Shaikh**.
Note: India's Raghuprasad and Javed Shaikh have named in the panel of umpires for the 2018 Hockey World Cup to be held in Bhubaneswar.
13. India captain **Mithali Raj** has been named in the ICC Women's ODI Cricket Team of the Year.
Note: Left-arm spinner Ekta Bisht was the lone cricketer to find a place in the both the ODI and T20 Teams of the year. Harmanpreet Kaur has found out a place in the ICC Women's T20I Team of the Year. Heather Knight (England) named as captain of the 50-over side and Stafanie Taylor (West Indies) appointed skipper of the 20-over side.
14. **Birmingham** will host the Commonwealth Games in 2022.
Note: Earlier, the 2022 Commonwealth Games were originally given to Durban (South African city) in 2015, but the city was stripped of the event because of financial difficulties. The Commonwealth Games is an international multi-sport event involving athletes from the Commonwealth of Nations.
15. **India** has finished as runners-up in the SAFF Under-15 Women's Championships.
Note: This is the first South Asian title for Bangladesh in women's football. India, Bangladesh, Nepal and Bhutan participated in this South Asian Football Federation tournament.
16. Olympic bronze medallist Boxer **Vijender Singh** has retained WBO Oriental & Asia Pacific Super Middleweight titles.
Note: He defended his WBO Oriental and Asia Pacific Super Middleweight titles with a unanimous verdict over Ghana's Ernest Amuzu at Sawai Mansingh Stadium in Jaipur. With this victory, Vijender has now won 10 pro bouts on the trot and retains twin titles.

17. Haryana shooter **Anisha Sayyad'** has won the women's **25m pistol gold** with a new record at the 61st national shooting championship competitions in Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala.

Note: She shot a new finals national record score of 33 in the eight-woman final. Shital Shivaji Thorat (silver medal) shot 30, claim a new finals national record while Rahi Sarnobat (bronze medals) finished with 28.

18. Indian grandmaster has won the World Rapid Chess Championship in Riyadh--**Viswanathan Anand.**

Note: He remained unbeaten through the tournament and bag the top position on a tie-break after a three-way tie with Russians Vladimir Fedoseev and Ian Nepomniachtchi at 10.5 points from a possible 15. He claimed his first rapid world title since 2003. The **World Rapid Chess Championship** is a tournament held to determine the World Champion in chess played under rapid time controls.

19. Indian shooting star **Jitu Rai** has clinched the Men's **50- metre pistol national title 2017.**

Note: He set a record of 233 at the 61st National Shooting Championships in Thiruvananthapuram. Arjun Singh Cheema of Punjab won the junior men's 50m pistol event, shooting 226.5 in the final.