

TNPSC THERVUPETTAGAM CURRENT AFFAIRS – AUGUST, 2017

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TNPSC BITS

- Eminent Space Scientist and Padma Vibhushan awardee Dr. K. Kasturirangan inaugurated the new office of the Technical Secretariat of the Committee to draft National Education Policy 2017 at the National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) Campus, Bengaluru.
- The central government launched a portal e-Rashtriya Kisan Agri Mandi (e-RaKAM) which will provide a platform to sell agricultural produce
- World's longest pedestrian suspension bridge opened in Switzerland
- Summer Olympics: Los Angeles to host 2028 Games and Paris gets 2024
- The Punjab government has recently announced the launch of its flagship 'Apni Gaddi Apna Rozgar' scheme by flagging off over 100 uber MOTO bikes. Under the scheme, the state government will be providing commercial two wheelers and four wheelers to unemployed youth at subsidized rates.
- Canara Bank launched 'CANDI' - its first digital branch in Bengaluru
- V.K. Jeyakodi IAS was Appointed as New TN State Vigilance Commissioner (as on 02/august/ 2017) by Tamilnadu Government.
- SEBI has approved the appointment of Dharendra Swarup as the chairman of the board of directors of the BSE.
- Sanjaya Baru has appointed as the Secretary General of the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI).
- Usain Bolt was beaten by Justin Gatlin and in 100m race final at IAAF World Championships in London. First three places,
 - ❖ Gold-Justin Gatlin (U.S.) (9.92seconds)
 - ❖ Silver-Christian Coleman (U.S.) (9.94seconds)
 - ❖ Bronze-Usain Bolt (Jamaica) (9.95seconds)
- Facebook launches YouTube competitor called "Watch" ,a redesigned video platform for creators and publishers.
- India will be hosting the first BIMSTEC Disaster Management Exercise in October, 2017.
- Retired IAS officer I V Subba Rao, (1979 batch IAS officer of Andhra Pradesh cadre) was appointed the secretary to Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu.
- Odisha Government will soon launch "Durgama Anchalare Malaria Nirakaran" (DAMON), a special program to prevent the spread of malaria in remote areas of Ganjam district.
- The Sadbhavana Diwas or Harmony Day is celebrated to commemorate the birth anniversary (August 20) of Rajiv Gandhi.

24×7 helpline '181' for women welfare

- The Telangana government has recently launched an exclusive 24×7 helpline '181' for women welfare.
- The helpline will respond to calls on dowry harassment cases, stalking, domestic violence, sale of girl child and immoral trafficking.
- Women with suicidal tendencies or those who are mentally disturbed can also contact the helpline. Apart from contacting police, the helpline can also be used to seek medical help, ambulance and other emergency services.

- The helpline will work 24X7 on all 365 days. It is funded by Centre & supported by GVK EMRI.

Railways disaster management village

- India's first-ever railways disaster management centre is expected to come up near Bengaluru (32 square kilometre village of Hejjala, 25 kilometre from Bengaluru), Karnataka by 2018 and will be used to replicate train accidents to improve rescue operation efforts.
- It will also have a virtual reality centre for analysing railway accidents. The focus is on imparting state-of-the-art training on rescue, medical relief and rolling stock restoration techniques in a classroom and also using various simulated teaching aids.
- Though, it is the practical reproduction of accidents on site and the ensuing rescue operations that are being touted as the big ticket venture.

India's First-ever Aviation university

- The Rajiv Gandhi National Aviation University (RGNAU), which is India's first-ever aviation university, will soon be inaugurated at Fursatganj in Rae Bareilly, Uttar Pradesh.
- The central university is planned as an autonomous body under the administrative control of the Ministry of Civil Aviation with an aim to facilitate and promote aviation studies, teaching, training and research.
- Air Vice Marshal (retired) Nalin Tandon has been appointed as the Vice Chancellor.

Hurricane Harvey

- Harvey is a tropical cyclone that recently made landfall in Texas.
- It is the first Category-4 hurricane to make a landfall in US since 2004 with powerful winds of up to 130 miles per hour.

100 percent computer literate village

- Manipur's Nungthang Tampak has become India's second 100 percent computer literate village. It is the North east's First 100 percent computer literate village.
- Kerala's Chamravattom village is the country's first 100 percent computer literate village.

Enterprise Survey

- Enterprise Survey of manufacturing firms jointly undertaken by NITI Aayog and IDFC Institute, a Mumbai-based think-tank.

TAMILNADU

Deep-sea fishing Project

- Prime Minister on 27.07.2017, formally launched the project to promote deep-sea fishing among Ramanathapuram fishermen in Tamil Nadu.

Committee on Corporate Governance

- Recently, SEBI has appointed a committee headed by Uday Kotak, Chief of Kotak Mahindra Bank to help improve the standards of corporate governance of listed companies in India.
- It will look into corporate governance challenges faced by listed Public Sector Enterprises (PSE).
- Issues such as succession policy, role and appointment of independent directors, accountability and autonomy of boards will be taken up by the committee.
- The Committee would also consider about creating a level playing field between public sector and private sector for applicability of RTI.

Jiyo Parsi

- Recently, Jiyo Parsi publicity phase 2 was launched by Union Ministry of Minority affairs in Mumbai.
- The main objective of the “Jiyo Parsi” scheme is to reverse the declining trend of Parsi population, stabilize their population and increase the population of Parsis in India.
- The scheme has two components such as Medical Assistance and Advocacy/Counselling.

Mahila Coir Yojana

- The Coir Board is implementing Mahila Coir Yojana (MCY) exclusively for empowering women in the country by giving training and distribution of coir processing equipment.
- This is a 100% women oriented programme intended to provide self-employment to the rural women artisans in coir producing regions.
- The scheme envisages distribution of motorized ratts/motorized traditional ratts and other coir processing equipment, which can be operated by women, at 75% subsidy after imparting training with a duration of 2 months subject to a maximum amount of Rs.7,500/-

Supreme court has banned 5 chemicals in firecrackers

- The apex court has banned fireworks manufacturers from using five substances that stoke air and noise pollution,
- The substances barred are lithium, antimony, mercury, arsenic and lead.

THE CHEMISTRY OF FIREWORK POLLUTION

Fireworks displays can be spectacular, but they can also have some negative effects on the environment. Here we take a look at some of the issues.

PARTICULATE MATTER

PM₁₀

Particulate matter 10 micrometres or less in diameter

PM_{2.5}

Particulate matter 2.5 micrometres or less in diameter

Fireworks produce a lot of very small particles, which can remain suspended in the air for some time after the display. This significantly increases the concentration of particulate matter in the air. Inhalation of these particles can have adverse effects on the respiratory and cardiovascular systems.

METALS

COLOURS

Sr, Ba, Cu, Ca, Na, Mg

OTHER METALS

Pb, Cr, Sb

Note: Lead (Pb) and chromium (Cr) are both banned in fireworks in the US and UK, but can still be found in some imported fireworks.

Metal compounds give fireworks their vivid colours and can also be present in oxidiser or mixtures. These metals persist in the environment. Small particles of toxic metals such as lead, chromium and antimony show increases in atmospheric concentrations in the days after fireworks displays.

PERCHLORATE POLLUTION

PERCHLORATE ION

Perchlorate concentration increases after a fireworks display in Albany, New York

0.11 µg/L

519 µg/L

Source: Fate of perchlorate in a non-mechanically reacting fireworks display in Albany, New York, USA, Qian Wu and others, 2012, Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry 31, 2449-2455.

Perchlorate compounds are used as oxidisers in some fireworks to aid the combustion reaction. These perchlorates can contaminate bodies of water near fireworks displays. Elevated concentrations of perchlorate in water can affect wildlife and it may also affect human health if it contaminates drinking water.

POLLUTING GASES

Fireworks lead to elevated levels of well-known polluting gases in the atmosphere. These gases include nitrogen dioxide and sulfur dioxide, which can cause respiratory problems, or exacerbate existing health problems such as asthma. They can also react in the atmosphere to form particulate matter.

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The Toxic Elements of Fireworks - Pick Your Poison

Toxic Element	Fireworks Usage	Toxic Effect of Fallout Dust & Fumes
Aluminum	brilliant whites	Contact dermatitis, bioaccumulation
Antimony sulfide	glitter effects	Toxic smoke, possible carcinogen
Arsenic compounds	Used as colorants. Sadly still out there.	Toxic ash can cause lung cancer, skin irritation and wart formation.
Barium Nitrate	glittering greens	Poisonous. Fumes can irritate respiratory tract. Possible radioactive fallout.
Copper compounds	blues	Polychlorinated dioxins and dibenzofurans. Can bioaccumulate. Cancer risk.
Hexachlorobenzene (HCB)	Use was supposed to be banned globally.	Persistent environmental toxin. Is a carcinogen, mutagen and a reproductive hazard.
Lead Dioxide / Nitrate / Chloride	oxidizer	Bioaccumulation, developmental danger for kids & unborn babes, may remain airborne for days, poisonous to plants & animals
Lithium compounds	blazing reds	Toxic and irritating fumes when burned
Mercury (Mercurous chloride)	chlorine donor	Toxic heavy metal. Can bioaccumulate.
Nitric oxide	fireworks byproduct	Toxic by inhalation. Is a free radical
Nitrogen dioxide	fireworks byproduct	Highly toxic by inhalation. SIDS risk
Ozone	fireworks byproduct	Greenhouse gas that attacks & irritates lungs
Perchlorate - Ammonium & Potassium	propellant / oxidizer	Can contaminate ground & surface waters, can cause thyroid problems in humans & animals
Potassium Nitrate	in black powder	Toxic dusts, carcinogenic sulfur-coal compounds
Strontium compounds	blazing reds	Can replace calcium in body. Strontium chloride is slightly toxic.
Sulfur Dioxide	gaseous byproduct of sulfur combustion	Acid rain from sulphuric acid affects water sources, vegetation & causes property damage. SIDS risk

- The court also directed CPCB and PESO to lay down standards with regard to the chemical composition
- Lithium is a metal used to impart red colour to fireworks, while antimony is used to create glitter effects.
- Lead oxide provides a special crackling effect which, if inhaled, in high concentration could cause damage to the nervous system.

Tamilnadu succeeds in cage-farming of sought-after fish species

- The Central Institute of Brackish water Aquaculture (CIBA) has achieved a breakthrough in three tier model cage-farming of sea bass, commercially one of the most sought-after fish species, in the backwaters of Vennangapattu near Kancheepuram.
- Central Institute of Brackish water Aquaculture (CIBA) function under the aegis of Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), experimented this method and utilized the potential of brackish water areas.
- India's First ever cage farming of fish in lagoons and estuaries was carried on at Vennangupattu near Mamallapuram by Dr. A.P.J. Abdul kalam Fish Producers Self Help Group.
- Prior to this, cage farming was done only in deep ocean waters.
- Now it is possible to install three tier model cages and grow fish in estuaries and lagoons without affecting the environment

Oil balls in drainage channels to control mosquito menace

- Vellore Corporation intends to destroy mosquito breeding mills for the first time in the state to prevent the spread of diseases caused by stagnant water mosquitoes.
- In the state for the first time to prevent the spread of diseases caused by stagnant water mosquitoes. Vellore Municipal Corporation has introduced the idea of destroying mosquito breeds by using oil balls.
- Mosquitoes produced in sewage water can cause *elephantiasis* and Diseases like dengue and malaria spread through the Aedes mosquito produced in clean, stagnant rain water
- The Municipal Corporation, Municipal and Panchayat Administrations have done various activities including spraying mosquito medicine, but they could not completely eradicate the mosquito breeding in sewage and stagnant water.
- In this case, the saw dust can be mixed with the waste oil and coconut oil and drained into the fabric pockets and drained in the water. By doing this mosquito can be easily eradicated by the oil spread through the water and can completely prevent the production of mosquitoes.
- The Vellore Municipal Corporation has introduced this project as a model for other corporations.

Tamil Nadu State Awards

- Preethi Srinivasan, the former State under-19 cricket captain, was awarded Kalpana Chawla Award from Tamil Nadu. Preethi Srinivasan was the youngest to play in the Tamil Nadu women's cricket team at the age of 18. She was the

former State under-19 cricket team captain. At the age of 18 she met with an accident that left her a quadriplegic and confined to a wheelchair. (A person affected by paralysis of all four limbs is called quadriplegic)

- Preethi set up “Soul Free”, a public charitable trust to help the severely disabled live a life of dignity and purpose. It aims to spread knowledge on spinal cord injuries to every school, college and public so that people understand the gravity of the condition.

APJ Abdul Kalam Award

- Scholars in fields of education, science and medicine are honoured every year with A.P.J.Abdul Kalam Award . S.P.Thyagarajan, former Vice-Chancellor at the University of Madras was with the A P J Abdul Kalam award for the current year (2017). He is an eminent scientist, educationist and internationally acclaimed researcher. He has to his credit 345 research publications, authored 20 books and has eight patents to his credit. Thyagarajan discovered a drug for treating chronic hepatitis B. Now patented and sold under the brand name ViroHep, it is manufactured using Keezhanelli (Phyllanthus amarus) herb, well known in Tamil Nadu.

Good Governance Awards

- Chief Minister of Tamilnadu honoured persons of exemplary services during the 71st Independence Day celebrations.
 - ❖ Awards were given to Tamil Nadu Police Housing Corporation, Department of Agriculture, Department of Commercial Taxes.
 - ❖ Dr K. Narayanasamy, head of the department of hepatology at Madras Medical College, was presented with a certificate of appreciation for setting up the first of its kind liver clinic in Tamil Nadu.
 - ❖ K.Sathyagopal , Principal secretary, Commissioner of Revenue Administration was honoured with award for his innovative process of watering roots of the trees directly while growing them.
 - ❖ Dr V. M. Sankaran, Ophthalmic surgeon was awarded the state award for the Best Doctor for conducting free 900 cataract surgeries and 310 corneal transplants. He has served the differently-abled in the state by collecting 3,300 eyes through the eye bank
 - ❖ MedIndia Charitable Trust was chosen for the Best Institution award
 - ❖ Organisation for Rehabilitation of the Blind in Tiruchy (ORBIT) got the Best Private Employer award.
 - ❖ The Salem District Central Cooperative Bank, Salem was presented the best district central cooperative bank.
 - ❖ V.P.Elayapari, founder of Cure Trust and Research Centre, Madurai was honoured with Best Social Worker award.

- These awards include 10 grams of medal and certification.

Women Empowerment

- Krishnammal Jagannathan was conferred an award for outstanding work done for women. Krishnnammal was born to a landless Adi Dravida family in 1926 at

Ayyankottai, Dindigul district. She has been serving the Adi Dravidas for sustainable development.

Local Body Governance Awards

- CM Edappadi Palanisamy announced the Tirunelveli corporation as the best municipal corporation in the state.
- Satyamangalam municipality in Erode and Ponnampatti town panchayat in Tiruchy bagged the best awards in the local bodies' category.
- Among municipalities Poonamallee and Thirumangalam bagged the second and third prizes.
- Similarly, Irugur and Nambiyur bagged the second and third best town panchayats awards for effective administration.

State Youth Awards

- A.K.Padmanaban . organizer of “No Food Waste” and web based assistance scheme “Ethu Dharma” received the award. “No Food Waste” received State Youth Award. No Food Waste is an edible food Recovery Project which serves the surplus foods from Weddings, Parties and other events to the hungry and deprived.
- K.Umaiyingam from Virudhunagar district received the award for women empowerment. He has been making efforts to recover women working in dangerous cracker manufacturing industries, and helping them become entrepreneurs.
- U.Sripathy thangam of Thirunelveli district for his efforts in sanitary works and elimination of environmentally damaging Prosopis juliflora (Seemai Karuvelai) trees.

500 Generic Medicines Sales centers

- The Centre Government has announced that it would open 500 generic medicines sales centers in Tamil Nadu.
- Medicines for all diseases will be available at lower prices in this stores. In the past three years, 2240 generic medicine stores were opened in India.

Drug Research Institute in Madurai

- The Central Drug Research Institute (CDRI) will be established at Madurai soon. This institute is similar to central institutions such as IIT and IIM.

NATIONAL

Transfer of prisoners: India, Somalia ink agreement

- India and Somalia signed an agreement for transfer of sentenced prisoners after a meeting between their foreign ministers, who discussed the bilateral relations, including issues of piracy and maritime security.
- External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj and Foreign Minister of Somalia Yusuf Garaad Omar held talks on regional issues pertaining to developments in the Gulf region and India's neighbourhood.

- The Indian Navy has been involved in anti-piracy patrolling in the Gulf of Aden since 2008.
- India is also a member of the UN Contact Group on Piracy off the coast of Somalia.

BSF Signed MoU with the National Skill Development Corporation

- Border Security Force (BSF) has recently signed a MoU with the National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC).
- The MoU will enable NSDC to provide skill training to retired and retiring BSF personnel, as well as to the population residing in the border areas.
- This collaboration aims to train and provide gainful employment to retired BSF personnel and their families, school students, youth, differently abled for five years starting from April 2017 to April 2022.

Rajaswa Gyan Sangam

- It is a two-day conclave of tax officer and it will be inaugurated by Prime Minister on September 1.
- The focus of the discussion will be on GST as well as on unearthing black money.
- For the first time, the tax officers of the state governments will also participate for discussion on the Goods and Services Tax (GST) related issues.

Jutice Krishna to head expert group on Data Protection Framework for India

- Recognising the importance of data protection and keeping personal data of citizens secure and protected, Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), Government of India has, on 31st July 2017, constituted a Committee of Experts under the Chairmanship of Justice B N Sri krishna, Former Judge, Supreme Court of India and comprising of members from Government, Academia and Industry to study and identify key data protection issues and recommend methods for addressing them.
- The committee will also suggest a draft Data Protection Bill. Protection of Data is expected to provide big boost to Digital economy of the country.

Panel on Fair Market Conduct

- SEBI has constituted a committee headed by former Lok Sabha secretary and law secretary T K Viswanathan on 'fair market conduct'.
- The committee has been tasked with suggesting improvements to the existing SEBI norms, fraudulent and unfair trade practices (FUTP).
- It has been specifically asked to look at handling of price-sensitive information during takeovers and aligning of insider-trading rules with provisions of the Companies Act.

Bharatmala Project

- It is an umbrella project under the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways that will subsume unfinished parts of National Highway Development Program (NHDP).
- It focuses on the new initiatives like development of Border and International connectivity roads, Coastal & port connectivity roads, National Corridors Efficiency improvements, Economic corridors development and others.

Proxy Voting

- Cabinet has recently cleared a proposal to extend proxy voting to Overseas Indians and NRIs by amending electoral laws.
- Presently, NRIs and overseas Indians are free to cast their votes in constituencies where they are registered.
- It requires the amendment of Representation of the People Act. After the amendment, proxy voting would also be allowed as other means to cast their votes in assembly and Lok Sabha elections from overseas.
- Proxy voting is a form of voting whereby a member may delegate his or her voting power to a representative, to enable a vote in absence.
- Currently, only service personnel are permitted to vote through proxy.
- However, the facility for NRIs will not be the same as that enjoyed by service personnel.
- Voters in the armed forces can nominate their relatives as permanent proxy to vote on their behalf. But NRIs cannot nominate one proxy for all polls.

Establishment of Highway Village's and Highway Nest's

- The National Highways Authority of India has started the process of developing wayside amenities at land acquired at 183 locations along national highways.
- The amenities will provide rest and refreshment for highway commuters during their journey.



- The facilities having an area more than 5 acres will be developed under the brand name "HIGHWAY VILLAGE" and facilities on smaller area less than 5 Acres will be developed with brand name "HIGHWAY NEST"

- The ministry plans to develop a network of amenities at every 50 km distance on the national highways.

International Rice Research Institute (IRRI) South Asia Regional Centre at Varanasi

- The Union Cabinet has approved the establishment of the International Rice Research Institute (IRRI) South Asia Regional Centre (ISARC) at campus of National Seed Research and Training Center (NSRTC) in Varanasi.



- Under the proposal, a Centre of Excellence in Rice Value Addition (CERVA) will be set up in Varanasi.
- This will include a modern and sophisticated laboratory with capacity to determine quality and status of heavy metals in grain and straw. The Centre will also undertake capacity building exercises for stakeholders across the rice value chain.
- This Center will be the first international Center in the eastern India and it will play a major role in harnessing and sustaining rice production in the region.

India's first private missile production facility inaugurated

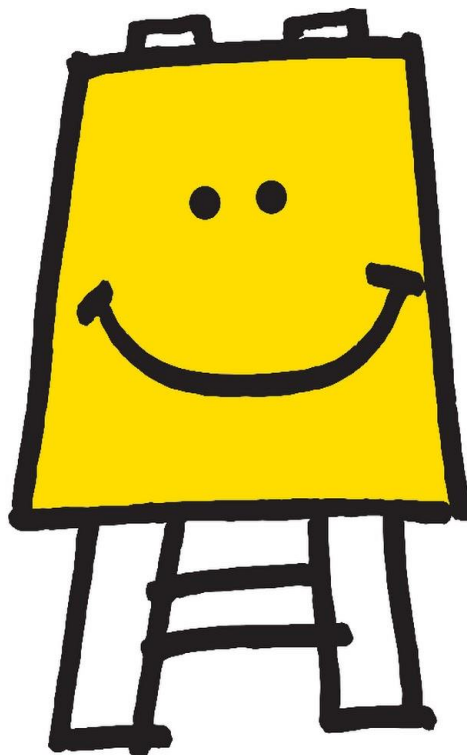
- India's first private sector missile sub-systems manufacturing facility, a joint venture between the \$2.5 billion Kalyani Group and Israel's Rafael Advanced Defence Systems Ltd., was inaugurated near Hyderabad.
- Formed in line with the 'Make in India' initiative of the Centre and the policy to encourage private sector participation in defence production, the 51:49 joint venture will develop a wide range of advanced capabilities.
- To begin with, the Kalyani Rafael Advanced Systems (KRAS) plant will make anti-tank guided missile (ATGM) Spike.

AGRI UDAAN- Food and Agribusiness Accelerator 2.0

- AGRI UDAAN is a unique initiative for upliftment of Agri start-ups.
- It is implemented by Indian Council of Agriculture Research in collaboration with IIM-Ahmadabad.
- It aims at scaling up innovative start-ups through education, mentorship, and financing.
- The initiative has 6-month program in which shortlisted Agri startups with promising innovative business models will be mentored & guided to scale up their operations with market traction.

Annual Status of Education Report

- The report is released by PRATHAM, a non-governmental organization.
- It is a household survey, limited to rural areas of the country.
- Ministry of Human Resource Development was not associated with this Annual Status of Education Report Survey.



- The report points out the learning outcomes for each class in Languages (Hindi, English and Urdu), Mathematics, Environmental Studies, Science and Social Science up to the elementary stage.
- The report would serve as a guideline for States and UTs to ensure that all children acquire appropriate learning level.

SAMVAD

- SAMVAD is a Global Initiative on Conflict Avoidance and Environment Consciousness.
- The second edition of "Samvad" Conference is being organised in Yangon, Myanmar.
- The first edition of this unique conference was hosted by Vivekananda Kendra, New Delhi in September 2015.
- The conference represents various religions and traditions across the world.

Venkaiah Naidu is the new Vice President of India

- Former Union Minister Venkaiah Naidu is elected as the 13th Vice President of India. He secured twice as many votes as Gopal Krishna Gandhi, who was

opposition parties general candidate. Venkaiah Naidu is sworn in as new Vice president of the country on August 11, 2017.

- Out of 771 votes cast, Naidu secured 516 votes in his favour, Gandhi managed to get only 244 votes. Since only Parliamentary members are allowed to vote in this election, there were 790 votes in total. Over 98 percent voting was recorded in the vice-presidential election.
- The tenure of 12th Vice President Mohammad Hamid Ansari ended on August 10th. He has served as Vice President for two continuous terms (2007–2012 and 2012–2017). In the 2012 Vice Presidential election polls, Ansari had bagged 490 and NDA nominee Jaswant Singh 238 votes.
- Naidu has also been credited as the vice president, who has been elected with the highest number of votes (516 votes) in the past 25 years.

Vice presidents of India who were elected unopposed,

S.No	Name	Tenure
1	Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan	1952-1957 1957-1962
2	Mohammad Hidayatullah	1979-1984
3	Shankar Dayal Sharma	1987-1992

Vice Presidents who held the post for two tenures,

S.No	Name	Tenure
1	Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan	1952-1957 1957-1962
2	Mohammad Hamid Ansari	2007-2012 2012-2017

Hathkargha Samvardhan Sahayata

- It is the scheme launched by the Ministry of Textiles for handloom weavers.
- The scheme aims to improve earnings of the handlooms weavers.
- It helps to meet the needs of the handloom weavers for assistance for looms and accessories on larger scale with an objective to improve quality of fabric and productivity.
- Under this scheme, GoI assists the weaver by bearing 90% of the cost of new looms so that they do not have to bear the heavy financial burden.

Aadhar for cattle scheme

- The Central Government has introduced Aadhaar-like unique identity system for cows.
- Under first phase of this scheme, unique Identification Cards were issued to cows in Coimbatore, Tamilnadu.
- The Identity Cards will be issued by National Dairy Development Board (NDDB). In Tamil Nadu, the project is being implemented on a pilot basis in seven districts including Coimbatore, Salem, Vellore, Villupuram, Madurai. Preliminary works have commenced in Coimbatore.
- A unique 12-digit number is tagged on the ear of the animal. Details of the cow, quantity of milk yield, name of owner, and her cell phone number will be uploaded. Tags with barcodes made from thermoplastic polyurethane elastomer will be fixed to cow's ears.
- In addition, these details will be collected and uploaded to the Veterinary Maintenance Department's website. The collected details are uploaded online so that the details of cows can be viewed across the state by officers in Chennai and the top officials in Delhi.
- This card will be given in 3 separate colours for hybrid cow, country cow and buffalo.
- Health Cards under Information Network of Animal Protection and Health (INAPH) is being implemented in the State by Tamil Nadu Live Stock Development Agency (TNLDA).
- The plan is implemented primarily to stop smuggling of cattle, especially through the porous international borders to Nepal and Bangladesh.

Second Phase of Rubella Measles Vaccine campaign

- Aiming to eliminate measles and curb instances of rubella by 2020, the Centre has rolled out the second phase of its measles-rubella (MR) vaccination campaign in the country.
- Nearly 3.4 crore children across eight states and union territories — Andhra Pradesh, Chandigarh, Himachal Pradesh, Kerala, Telangana, Uttarakhand, Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu — will be covered in this stage.
- The first phase of the campaign was launched across five states — Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Goa, Lakshadweep and Puducherry in February.
- “More than 3.3 crore children were vaccinated, reaching out to 97% of the intended age group,” a statement issued by the health ministry read.
- After the special drive is completed, the Measles Rubella vaccine will be made a part of the routine immunisation process — replacing the measles vaccine that's currently being given between 9-12 months and 16-24 months after birth.
- The campaign aims to rapidly build up immunity for both measles and rubella diseases, so as to eliminate them. Therefore, all children should receive MR vaccine during the campaign

Justice Dipak Misra to be next Chief Justice of India

- Justice Dipak Misra will take over Justice Jagdish Singh Khekar as the next Chief Justice of India, the Law Ministry announced. Khekar will be retiring on August 27.
- As per the provisions of the law, Union Law Ministry had asked the present Chief Justice Khekar to recommend for the appointment of next Chief Justice of India.
- The outgoing CJI had recommended the name of Misra, the next senior-most judge in the apex court, as his successor.
- The government cleared the appointment of Justice Dipak Misra as the next Chief Justice of India.
- Justice Misra will have a tenure of nearly 14 months as the Chief Justice of India. The 63-year-old Justice Misra will be the 45th Chief Justice of India.
- Justice Misra is part of benches of Supreme Court that handles constitutionally important cases like Ayodhya Case, Cauvery dispute, BCCI reforms and Panama Papers scandal.
- Justice Misra joined as an advocate on February 14, 1977 and practiced in constitutional, civil, criminal, revenue, service and sales tax matters in the Orissa High Court and the Service Tribunal. He was appointed as Additional Judge of the Orissa High Court on January 17, 1996. He was transferred to the Madhya Pradesh High Court on March 3, 1997. Misra has served as Chief Justice in Patna High Court and Delhi High Court. He was elevated as a Supreme Court Judge on October 10, 2011.

NEET to include Urdu from next academic session

- National Eligibility and Entrance Test (NET), the medical entrance was conducted this year in ten languages including Hindi, Oriya, English, Gujarati, Assamese, Marathi, Bengali, Telugu, Tamil and Kannada.
- In this context, the court in the Supreme Court has asked the Central Government to respond to the petition filed in the Supreme Court for conducting the exam in Urdu language.
- Solicitor General Ranjit Kumar appeared for the centre seeking to conduct the medical entrance in Urdu. Considering a submission by the centre, the court said that it was not opposed to the move.
- The solicitor centre said government is ready to include Urdu as a medium to conduct the National Eligibility and Entrance Test (NEET) from the academic session of 2018-19.

Government merges NCRB with BPRD

- The three-decade old National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) has been merged with another central police organization - BPRD (The Bureau of Police Research and Development) by the government recently with an aim to improve efficiency of development works related to policing.
- The BPRD Director General (DG) will be the head of the merged new entity.
- The NCRB was created in 1986 as the central police organisation to collect crime data, on various parameters, from across all the states of the country.

- It is also implementing the ambitious Crime and Criminal Tracking Network (CCTNS).
- The BPRD, created in 1970, is the national police organisation to study, research and develop on subjects and issues related to policing.
- Both the organisations function under the Union Home Ministry.

75 years of Quit India Movement

- The Quit India Movement or the India August Movement or August Kranti was a movement launched at the Bombay meeting of the All-India Congress Committee by Mahatma Gandhi on 8 August 1942, during World War II, demanding an end to British Rule of India.
- The resolution was passed after the failure of Cripps Mission.
- The famous slogan “Do or Die” was given by Mahatma Gandhi in this movement.

E -Shakti

- E - Shakti is a pilot project of National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD).
- The project aims at digitisation of Self Help Groups (SHGs).
- 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.

The Supreme Court has gave permission to abort the girl's 26-week foetus

- A 26-year-old woman from Maharashtra has filed a petition in the Supreme Court seeking permission to abort her 26-week foetus.
- This petition came to the hearing under the supreme court justice S.A Bapte and Narayana Rao.
- The medical report was submitted on behalf of a Mumbai-based hospital that examined the woman's health.
- It was reported that the skull of the embryo was not fully developed and it was reported that allowing it to grow might affect the woman's psychological health.
- Furthermore, the judges insisted that the embryo should be aborted only in the hospital where the girl was treated.
- According to Section 3 (2) (b) of the Act to be disseminating the embryo more than 20 weeks has been banned. But in the extraordinary situation Medicinal dissolution process with court approval is being pursued.
- Similarly, the Supreme Court has been given a number of judgments in recent times

Lok Sabha clears bill to merge subsidiary banks with SBI

- Lok Sabha passed bills on August 10, clearing the merger of subsidiary banks of State Bank of India with the parent bank.
- Five associates and the Bharatiya Mahila Bank became part of SBI from April 1. The five associates are the State Banks of Bikaner & Jaipur, Hyderabad, Mysore, Patiala and Travancore. Following the merger, the total customer base

of SBI increased to 37 crore with a branch network of around 24,000 and nearly 59,000 ATMs.

- Lok Sabha passed the bill to repeal the SBI (Subsidiary Banks) Act 1959 and State Bank of Hyderabad Act 1956, and to amend the State Bank of India Act 1955, following the merger of five associates with SBI. By this merger, SBI is in the list of top 50 banks in the world. SBI enters the list of top 50 banks globally, with 45th place.

Government launches video of National Anthem in sign language

- The Human Resource Development (HRD) Minister launched an Indian National Anthem video in sign language, featuring differently-abled and partially differently-abled children.
- The three-minute video features Bollywood actor Amitabh Bachchan along with physically challenged children performing the anthem in sign language with the Red Fort in the background. The video was directed by filmmaker Govind Nihalani.
- The video was launched by Union Minister of State for HRD, Mahendra Nath Pandey .

Venkaiah Naidu sworn in as the vice-president of India

- Venkaiya Naidu (68) was sworn as the country's 15th vice president on 10.08.2017.



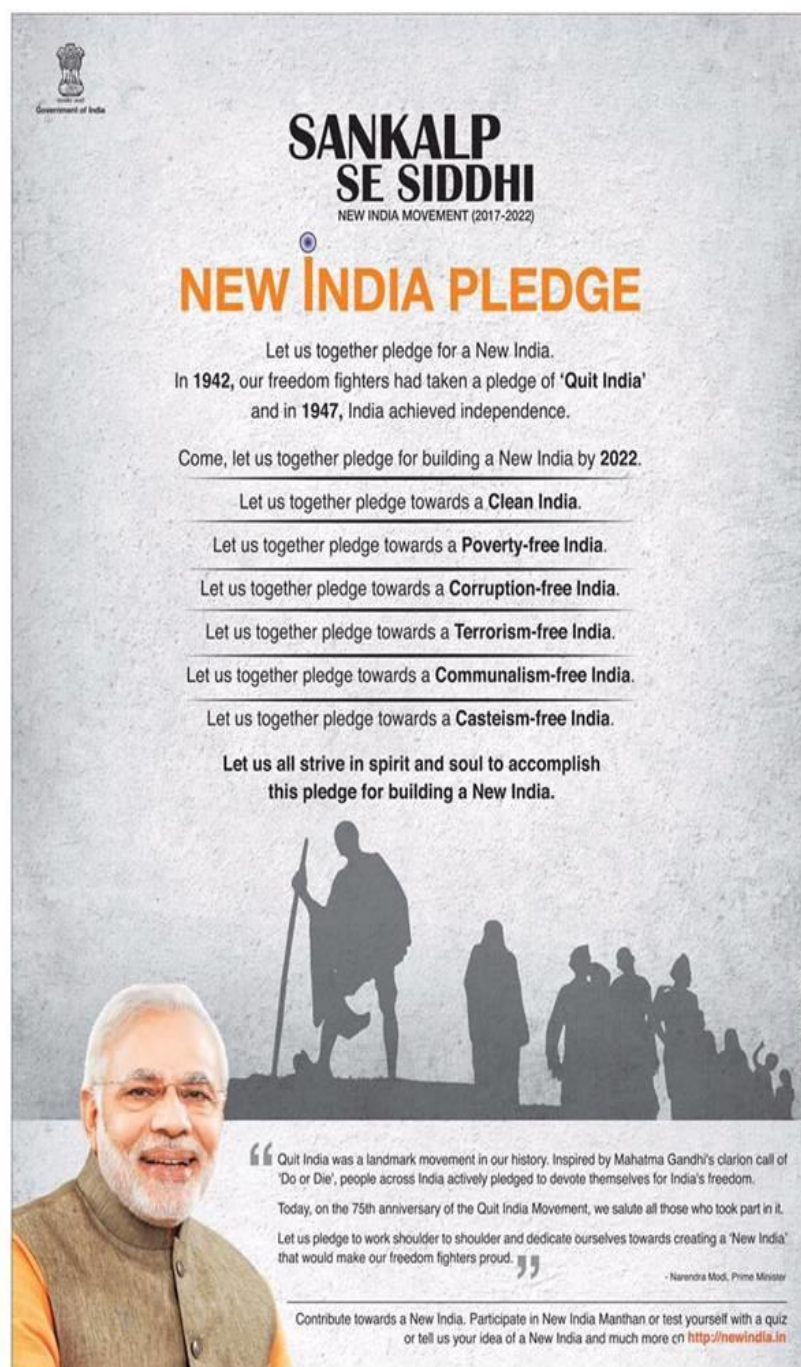
- The Swearing-in ceremony of the Vice President Venkaiah Naidu was held in the Durbar Hall of Rashtrapati Bhawan. President Ram Nath Kovind administered the oath of office to Mr. Naidu
- While Venkaiah Naidu is the 15th Vice-President, he is the 13th person to hold the constitutional post.
- He is the first person born after independence to become the vice president of India.
- As Vice President of the country, Venkaiah Naidu is the leader of the Rajya Sabha.

Financial Data Management Centre

- Law Ministry has recently approved the creation of the Financial Data Management Centre (FDMC).
- They will collect data in electronic format directly from the financial regulators.
- RBI would soon no longer be the sole collector and custodian of financial data.

Sankalp Se Siddhi (The New India Movement 2017-2022)

- The New India Movement 2017-2022 envisages an India free of Poverty, Corruption, Terrorism, Communalism, Casteism and Un-cleanliness. Which is initiated by the Prime Minister of India.



SANKALP SE SIDDHI
NEW INDIA MOVEMENT (2017-2022)

NEW INDIA PLEDGE

Let us together pledge for a New India.
In 1942, our freedom fighters had taken a pledge of 'Quit India' and in 1947, India achieved independence.
Come, let us together pledge for building a New India by 2022.

Let us together pledge towards a **Clean India**.

Let us together pledge towards a **Poverty-free India**.

Let us together pledge towards a **Corruption-free India**.

Let us together pledge towards a **Terrorism-free India**.

Let us together pledge towards a **Communalism-free India**.

Let us together pledge towards a **Casteism-free India**.

Let us all strive in spirit and soul to accomplish this pledge for building a New India.

“Quit India was a landmark movement in our history. Inspired by Mahatma Gandhi's clarion call of 'Do or Die', people across India actively pledged to devote themselves for India's freedom. Today, on the 75th anniversary of the Quit India Movement, we salute all those who took part in it. Let us pledge to work shoulder to shoulder and dedicate ourselves towards creating a 'New India' that would make our freedom fighters proud.”

— Narendra Modi, Prime Minister

Contribute towards a New India. Participate in New India Manthan or test yourself with a quiz or tell us your idea of a New India and much more on <http://newindia.in>

India's first online course on Infusion Therapy launched

- Infusion Nurses Society (INS) -- a global authority in infusion therapy, launched India's first online course on Infusion Therapy for nurses, under which it aims to train over 3,000 nurses in the vital medical procedure.
- Announcing the initiative, which will boost nurses even in rural parts of India, INS said that utilising the reach and ease of the digital platform, the course will enable members to access the various infusion therapy modules and presentations through its website.
- Infusion therapy means the administration of a drug intravenously, but the term also may refer to situations where drugs are provided through other non-oral routes, such as intramuscular injections and epidural routes.
- Nine of ten patients admitted in hospitals receive infusion therapy during the course of their stay for therapeutic or diagnostic purposes. Improper infusion practices may lead to complications, causing an increase in mortality, morbidity, duration of hospital stay and healthcare costs.

Bharat Ke Veer portal

- Bharat Ke Veer portal was launched by the Union Home Minister and actor Shri Akshay Kumar on April 9, 2017.
- This portal facilitates online donation directly to the families of CAPF Martyrs who have sacrificed their lives for the country in line of duty from January 1, 2016.



- The donated amount will be credited to the account of 'Next of Kin' of those Central Armed Police Force/Central Para Military Force soldiers and this domain also allows anyone to financially support the brave hearts of his/her choice or towards the 'Bharat Ke Veer' corpus

The 2nd World Congress of Optometry is going to be held in Hyderabad

- World Council of Optometry is a partnership initiative with members of Asia Pacific Council of Optometry and the India Vision Institute.

- It is being held once in two years.
- The first Congress was held in Colombia in 2015.
- The second Congress is going to be held in Hyderabad in September 11-13, 2017.
- The theme of this year congress is 'Accessible, quality vision and eye health'.
- It ties into WHO's 'Universal eye health: A global action plan 2014-19,' which aims to reduce the prevalence of avoidable visual impairment by 25 per cent in 2017.

Karur Vysya Bank inaugurates AADHAAR enrolment centre

- Karur Vysya Bank unveiled the Aadhaar Enrolment Centre following UIDAI's directive last month. The Aadhaar Enrollment Centre was rolled out at its Nelson Manickam Road Branch in Chennai. KVB is the first private sector bank to provide this service in India.
- So far Aadhaar card has been issued to 117 crore people in India.
- Customers need to bring the approved documents as proof of residence and identity. The process of enrolment or updating the details in AADHAAR can be completed in 15 minutes.

GeM Samvaad

- Government eMarket place (GeM), a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) and Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) has established an industry forum named GeM Samvaad.
- It promotes participative and collaborative approach for promoting Indian industry and entrepreneurship.
- It aims at
 - ❖ Improving the quality of products/services procured especially from the MSMEs,
 - ❖ Organizing annual Public Procurement Convention of all stakeholders,
 - ❖ Setting up GeM Resource Centres at CII Regional Offices

All NH toll plazas to have separate lane for FASTag vehicles from Sept 1

- In order to facilitate the availability of FASTags for electronic toll collection, NHAI has taken two revolutionary steps in consultation with RBI and NPCI.



- These are the online sale of FASTags and offline sales through Common Services Centres (CSC) to be set up near toll plazas

FASTag

- NHAI has rolled out program for Electronic Toll Collection on Toll Plazas on National Highways to be called FASTag
- FASTag is a device that employs Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) technology for making toll payments directly from the prepaid account linked to it.



- It is affixed on the windscreen of your vehicle and enables you to drive through toll plazas. FASTag has a validity of 5 years and after purchasing it, you only need to recharge/ top up the FASTag as per your requirement.
- FASTag offers near non-stop movement of vehicles through toll plazas and the convenience of cashless payment of toll fee with nation-wide interoperable Electronic Toll Collection Services.

Cabinet approves creation of a single non-lapsable corpus fund for Secondary and Higher education

- The Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister has accorded its approval for creation of a non-lapsable pool in the Public Account for secondary and higher education known as "Madhyamik and Uchchatar Shiksha Kosh" (MUSK) into which all proceeds of "Secondary and Higher Education Cess" will be credited.
- The funds arising from the MUSK would be utilized for schemes in the education sector which would be available for the benefit of students of secondary and higher education, all over the country.
- This Cess levied under Section 136 of Finance Act, 2007.
- Administration and maintenance of the above process comes under Ministry of Human Resource Development.
- Presently, the Ministry of Human Resources Development envisages that the Cess would be utilized in the secondary education for:
 - ❖ Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan Scheme
 - ❖ National Means-Cum-Merit Scholarship Scheme and
 - ❖ National Scheme for Incentives to Girls for Secondary Education.

- For Higher Education: The Cess would be utilized for:
 - ❖ Schemes of Interest Subsidy and contribution for guarantee funds, Scholarship for College & University Students;
 - ❖ Rashtriya Uchchatar Shiksha Abhiyaan
 - ❖ National Mission on Teachers and Training.

55 percent of countries elephants in Southern region, most in Karnataka

- The environment ministry recently released an elephant census report, titled 'Synchronized Elephant Population Estimation India 2017'.
- The total figure of elephants in the country stands at 27312 in 23 states. The last year census (2016) revealed that there were 29,391 to 30,711 elephants in India. A total of 27,312 elephants have been reported in Indian forests in present census (2017).
- Karnataka with 6049 elephants tops the list among 23 census states followed by Assam having 5,719, Kerala with 3054 and Tamil Nadu having 2761 pachyderms. The population of Asian elephant was estimated at around 30000 in 2012 and at 27,670 in 2007 census
- The southern region, which includes Kerala, Andaman and Nicobar, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra and Andhra Pradesh, has the highest number of elephants (11,960) among the four regions in India. North Eastern states have the second highest elephant population with 10,139 elephants.
- The number of elephants in Tamil Nadu has declined significantly. According to the 2012 census, Tamil Nadu had 3,500 elephants.

Reason for fall in elephant population

- The number of elephants has fallen drastically in the last five years in Tamil Nadu due to fragmentation of forest lands and anthropological activities in elephant corridors. The elephant corridors have been identified and reported to the government before 25 years.
- Due to habitat fragmentation, elephants are moving out to agricultural landscapes leading to an increase in the man-elephant conflict.
- After rapid urbanisation, areas in forest land have been fragmented due to plantations in forest area. Tourist resorts and hotels constructed inside forest area cut across elephant corridors and exacerbate the man- animal conflict.
- the elephant habitat has shrunk due to increase in human population, expansion of agriculture, commercial plantations, hydroelectric and irrigation dams. These factors cause migration of elephants from place to place, further increasing conflict with human habitats.
- According to Environmental activists, Man- Elephant conflict is primarily due to depression of elephants caused by habitat destruction.

மாநிலம்	யானைகள் எண்ணிக்கை
கர்நாடகம்	6049
அஸ்ஸாம்	5719
கேரளம்.....	3054
தமிழகம்	2761
ஒடிஸா	1976
உத்தரகண்ட்	1839
மேகாலயா	1754
அருணாசல பிரதேசம் ..	1614
மேற்கு வங்கம்	682
ஜார்க்கண்ட்	679

“Champions of Change” Initiative

- PM interacted with Young Entrepreneurs at the "Champions of Change" initiative organised by NITI Aayog
- ‘champions of change’ is aimed at forging a partnership between the government and young entrepreneurs from across key sectors of the economy to drive growth
- The two-day Champions of Change programme under Niti Aayog’s aegis brought together young entrepreneurs selected from six sectors to seek ways of promoting inclusive growth and development in India.
- Six groups of Young Entrepreneurs made presentations before the PM on themes such as,

- ❖ Soft Power: Incredible India 2.0
- ❖ Education and Skill Development
- ❖ Health and Nutrition
- ❖ Energizing a sustainable tomorrow
- ❖ Digital India

❖ New India by 2022

Cabinet approves raising Rs 9,020 crore for Long Term Irrigation Fund

- The National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (Nabard) has got the central government's approval to raise extra budgetary resources of up to Rs 9,020 crore in FY18 through bonds. The additional funds will be used to fund 99 ongoing irrigation projects under the Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana.
- The Cabinet meeting, in which the decision was taken, was chaired by Prime Minister.
- A large number of major and medium irrigation projects taken up under the Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme will get this fund.

Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana

- The major objective of PMKSY is to achieve convergence of investments in irrigation at the field level, expand cultivable area under assured irrigation, improve on-farm water use efficiency to reduce wastage of water, enhance the adoption of precision-irrigation and other water saving technologies (More crop per drop), enhance recharge of aquifers and introduce sustainable water conservation practices by exploring the feasibility of reusing treated municipal waste water for peri-urban agriculture and attract greater private investment in precision irrigation system.

EPFO Housing Scheme

- Union Minister of State for Labour and Employment Bandaru Dattatreya launched the Employees' Provident Fund Organisation Housing Scheme in a function organised in Thoothukudi.
- EPFO has allowed members i.e. the contributory employees of the provident fund (PF) scheme to use 90 percent of EPF accumulations to make down payments to buy houses and use their accounts for paying EMIs of home loans.
- Under the new rules, an essential requirement for a PF member to withdraw one's PF money to buy a real estate property is that he or she has to be a member of a registered housing society having at least 10 members.
- The scheme is a part of 'Housing for All by 2022' scheme announced by the central government. In the next two years, 10 lakh houses will be completed under this scheme.
- The scheme guarantees social security, job security and wage assurance to the labour force. The Central Government had raised the minimum wages of employees to 12000 rupees per month. Maternity Benefit Act assures that Women workers get 26 weeks paid leave as against the existing 12 weeks when pregnant.

Navika Sagar Parikrama - Circumnavigating the Globe by Indian Women Naval Officers

- Navika Sagar Parikrama is a project wherein a team of women officers of the Indian Navy would circumnavigate the globe on an Indian-built sail boat INSV

Tarini. This is the first ever Indian circumnavigation of the globe by an all-women crew. The project is scheduled to commence in early Sep 17.

- INSV Tarini is the sister vessel of INSV Mhadei. The project is considered essential towards promoting Ocean Sailing activities in the Navy while depicting Government of India's thrust for 'Nari Shakti'.



Additional aims of the Expedition are as follows,

Nari Shakti

- In consonance with the National policy to empower women to attain their full potential, the expedition aims to showcase 'Nari Shakti' on the world platform.
- This would also help to discard the societal attitudes and mind set towards women in India by raising visibility of participation by women in challenging environment.

Environment and Climate Change

- Sailing encourages the use of environment friendly non-conventional renewable energy resources which affects the life of women. The expedition thereby aims at harnessing the energy to optimise the livelihood of the women on board.

Make in India

- The voyage also aims to show case the 'Make in India' initiative by sailing on board the indigenously built INSV Tarini.

Meteorological/ Ocean/ Wave Data Observation

- The crew would also collate and update Meteorological/ Ocean/ Wave data on a daily basis for subsequent analysis by research and development organisations.

Marine Pollution

- The crew would monitor and report marine pollution on the high seas.

Interaction with Local PIOs

- Since the expedition aims to promote Ocean Sailing and the spirit of adventure, the crew would interact extensively with the local PIOs at the various port halts.

- The first Indian Solo circumnavigation was undertaken by Capt Dilip Donde, SC (Retd) from 19 Aug 2009 to 19 May 2010 on board the Indian built vessel, INSV Mhadei.
- The first Indian non-stop solo circumnavigation was undertaken by Commander Abhilash Tomy, KC from 01 Nov 2012 to 31 Mar 2013.

Defence ministry clears proposal to buy six Apache attack helicopters for Indian Army

- The Defence Acquisition Council cleared a proposal to buy six Apache attack helicopters for the Indian Army at a cost of around Rs 4,168 crore.
- The Defence Acquisition Council (DAC) chaired by Defence Minister also cleared another proposal for buying gas turbines from Ukraine for two Admiral Grigorovich class ships being made in Russia for India. The six Apache AH-64E choppers will come with associated equipment which includes spares, training, weapons and ammunition.
- At present the fleet of Russian Mi-25 and Mi-35 attack helicopters are with the Indian Air Force, and used by the Indian Army.

EESL becomes largest streetlight management company

- Street Lighting National programme has illuminated 50 thousand Kilometres of the Indian roads with installation of 30 lakh LED street lights across the country.
- With this milestone, Energy Efficiency Services Limited (EESL), a government company has become the world's largest street light management company. The installation of the LED street lights has resulted in saving of 39 crore kilowatt hour of annual energy. In an official release, Power Ministry said, this programme has helped in reduction of 3.29 lakh tonnes of carbon dioxide annually.

RBI to issue new 50 Rupee Note

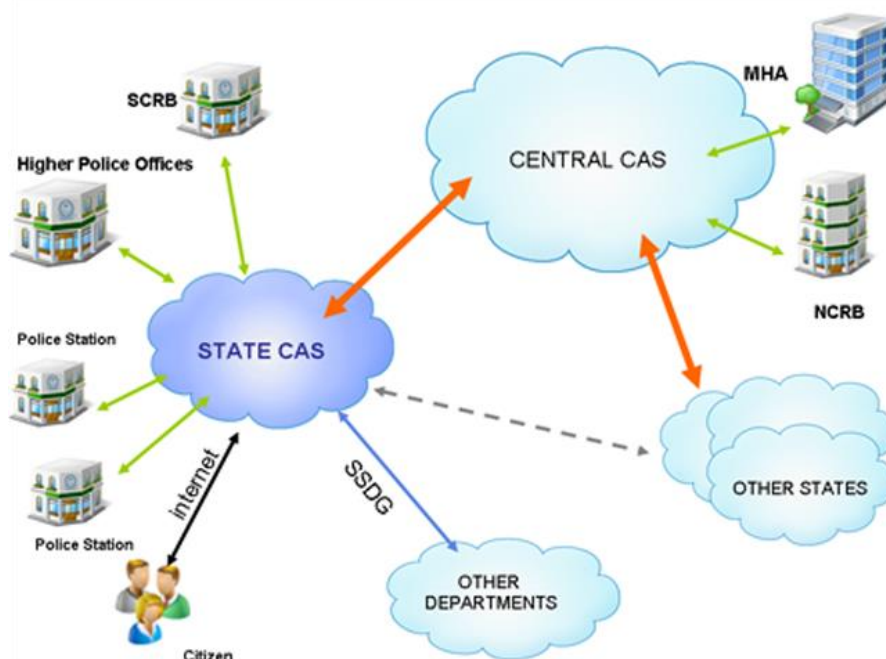
- RBI will shortly issue new banknotes of Rs 50 denomination in the Mahatma Gandhi (New) Series.
- A RBI press release has informed that the base colour of the new notes will be fluorescent blue and its dimension will be 66 mm x 135 mm.
- It will have a motif of Hampi with Chariot on the reverse, depicting the country's cultural heritage along with the Swachh Bharat logo, year of printing, numeral 50 in devnagiri and the language panel.
- The banknote will bear the signature of RBI Governor Dr.Urjit R. Patel on the front side along with the guarantee and promise clause and the RBI emblem.
- Micro letters 'RBI', 'भारत', 'INDIA' and '50' and Ashoka Pillar emblem on the right will also feature on the front side.
- RBI has clarified that all banknotes in 50-rupee denomination issued in the earlier series will continue to be legal tender.

Higher Education Financing Agency

- The central Government has signed an agreement with Canara bank to set up Non-Banking Financial Company (NBFC) called the Higher Education Finance Agency (HEFA).
- It will be a joint venture between the HRD ministry and the bank.
- It is formed to give a major push for creation of high quality infrastructure in premier educational institutions.
- NBFC will raise funds from the market and also mobilize CSR (Corporate Social Responsibility) funds from PSUs/Corporates and lend to government-run higher educational institutions for promoting research and innovation.
- The HEFA would finance the civil and lab infrastructure projects through a 10-year loan.
- HEFA will leverage the equity to raise up to Rs. 20,000 crore for the funding of world-class infrastructure at the IITs, IIMs, the National Institutes of Technology (NITs) and such other institutions

Digital Police Portal under CCTNS project

- Union Home Ministry launched the Digital Police Portal under CCTNS project. The Ministry of Home Affairs will undertake steps to integrate the various organs of the Criminal Justice System such as the Police, Courts, Prisons, Prosecution, Forensic Laboratories, Finger Prints and Juvenile Homes with the Crime and Criminal Tracking Network & Systems (CCTNS) database.
- The CCTNS portal will provide investigator the complete record history of any criminal from anywhere across the country.



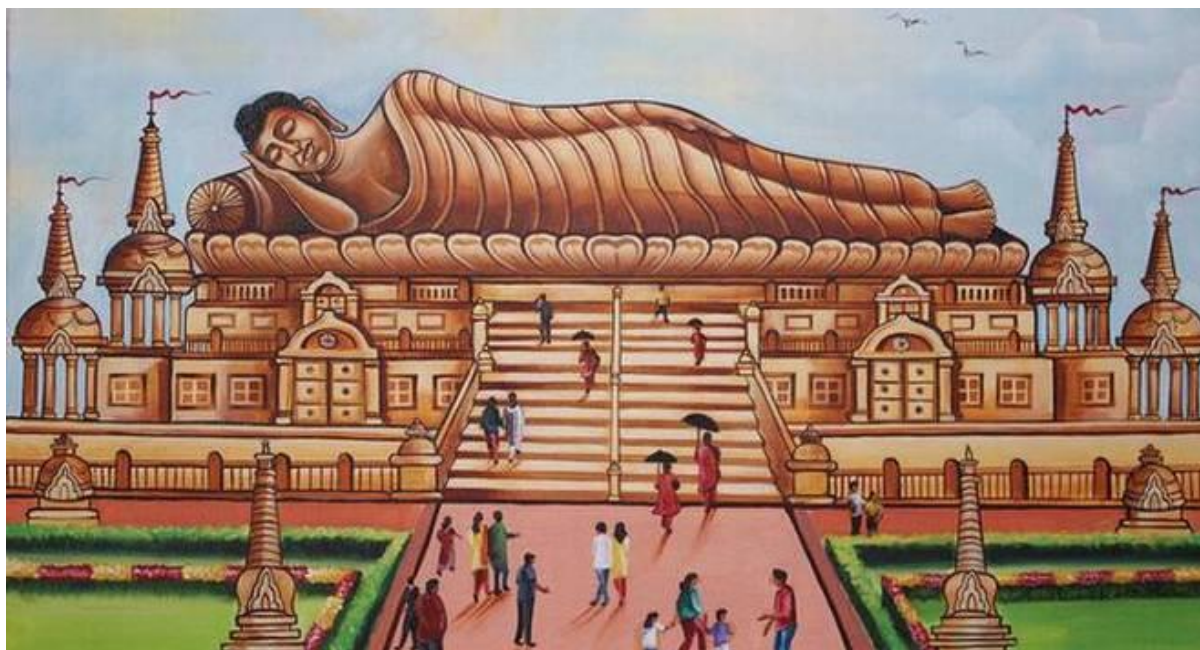
Crime and Criminal Tracking Network & Systems (CCTNS)

- CCTNS is a Mission Mode Project under the National e-Governance Plan (NeGP) of Govt of India. CCTNS aims at creating a comprehensive and integrated system for enhancing the efficiency and effectiveness of policing through

adopting of principle of e-Governance and creation of a nationwide networking infrastructure for evolution of IT-enabled state-of-the-art tracking system around 'Investigation of crime and detection of criminals'.

Buddhist tourism centre in Ghantasala

- The government has cleared the proposal of developing Ghantasala village in Krishna District, Andhra Pradesh as one of the prime Buddhist tourist spots.
- 70feet Buddha Statue in Mahaparinirvana posture will be built and the theme of the tourist spot is also based on it.



- In Buddhism, Mahaparinirvana denotes the enlightenment of Buddha attained under the Bodhi tree.
- Enlightenment in Buddhism means the ultimate state of everlasting, highest peace and happiness entered by an awakened being (Buddha).
- Ghantasala, known as Katakasila in the ancient times, was a renowned Buddhist centre located near the coast.

‘Tele-Law’ initiative

- The Ministry of Law and Justice has launched the ‘Tele-Law’ initiative in collaboration with the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology to provide legal aid services to the marginalized communities and citizens living in rural areas through the Common Service Centres (CSC) at the panchayat level, spread across the country.

Swasth Bachche, Swasth Bharat

- It is a programme launched by the Ministry of Human Resource and Development.
- It was launched by Union HRD Minister Prakash Javdekar in Kochi, Kerala.

- The initiative was taken by Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan to prepare a physical Health and Fitness Profile Card for Kendriya Vidyalaya students.
- It will provide a comprehensive and inclusive report card for children covering all age groups including the differently-abled children.
- The programme also intends to imbibe values of Olympics and Paralympics among students.

OBC creamy layer ceiling raised to Rs 8 lakh

- The Union Cabinet has increased the creamy layer ceiling for the Other Backward Classes (OBC) category to ₹8 lakhs per annum from the existing ₹6 lakh for Central government jobs.
- 'Creamy layer' is the ceiling which bars economically and educationally developed members of the Other Backward Classes (OBC) from availing reservations in employment.
- Those who are classified under this section of OBC will not be given reservation in Central Government employment. The present ceiling of Rs six lakh came into being in 2013, which means person having annual income more than 6 lakh rupee are not eligible for reservation.
- Now, the ministry of social justice and empowerment had proposed that OBC families which earn more than Rs 8 lakh per year should be classified as 'creamy layer' — the ceiling which bars members of the other backward classes from availing reservations in employment.

Cabinet approves MoU for bridge at Indo-Nepal border

- The Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi today approved a memorandum of understanding (MoU) to be signed between India and Nepal for laying down implementation arrangement on cost sharing, schedules and safeguard issues for starting construction of a new bridge over Mechi river at Indo-Nepal border.
- The estimated cost of construction of the bridge is Rs 158.65 crore, which would be funded by the Government of India through ADB (Asian Development Bank) loan.
- National Highway and Infrastructure Development Corporation (NHIDCL) under the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways will be the implementing agency for this project.
- The new bridge is part of up-gradation of the Kakarvitta (Nepal) to Panitanki Bypass (India) on NH 327B covering a length of 1,500 meters including a six-lane approach road of 825 meters.
- Mechi bridge is the ending point of Asian Highway 02 in India leading to Nepal and provides critical connectivity to Nepal.
- Construction of the bridge will improve regional connectivity and has potential to strengthen cross border trade between both the countries and cementing ties by strengthening industrial, social and cultural exchanges

Cabinet approves Closure of loss making Bharat Wagon and Engineering Company

- The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs, chaired by the Prime Minister, has approved the proposal of Ministry of Railways to close the Bharat Wagon and Engineering Company Limited (BWEL) - a Central Public Sector Enterprise (CPSE) under Ministry of Railways.

NITI Aayog launched “Mentor India” Campaign

- NITI Aayog launched the Mentor India Campaign, a strategic nation building initiative to engage leaders who can guide and mentor students at more than 900 Atal Tinkering Labs, established across the country as a part of the Atal Innovation Mission.
- Mentor India is aimed at maximizing the impact of Atal Tinkering Labs, possibly the biggest disruption in formal education globally.
- The idea is to engage leaders who will nurture and guide students in the Atal Tinkering Labs. These labs are non-prescriptive by nature, and mentors are expected to be enablers rather than instructors.

Atal Tinkering Labs

- Atal Tinkering Labs are dedicated works spaces where students from Class 6th to Class 12th learn innovation skills and develop ideas that will go on to transform India.
- The labs are powered to acquaint students with state-of-the-art equipment such as 3D printers, robotics & electronics development tools, Internet of things & sensors etc.

Right to Privacy as Fundamental Right – The Supreme Court in Aadhar case

- The Supreme Court has given the verdict in Aadhar case that the individual information is Fundamental Right according to the Indian Constitution.
- The constitution bench, which included nine judges, gave this verdict in the case on whether mandating of aadhar violates the Fundamental Right provided in the Indian constitution.
- There were so many litigations filed in the Supreme Court after the declaration of Aadhar as mandatory for availing various social welfare schemes including LPG, Mid-Day Meal Scheme, Bank services and Old Age Pensions etc.
- The mandate faced heavy criticism citing that it violated the Right to Privacy guaranteed to the citizen as a Fundamental Right in the Indian Constitution.
- Earlier, with respect to individual privacy, the Supreme Court bench, which included eight judges, gave verdict in M.P.Sharma and Karak Singh case. To take decision in this matter a bench was formed comprised of Chief Justice of India J.S.Kher, J.Chellameswar, S.A.Bapte, D.Y.Chandra Chud, Abdul Nazeer, R.K. Agarwal, R.F. Nariman, A.M.Sapre and S.K.Kaul.
- In this most expected case, the nine-judge bench gave the historical verdict on 24th of August, 2017. All the nine judges gave the verdict in the same line that

the Right to Privacy is a Fundamental Right guaranteed under Article 21 of the Constitution.

- The Supreme Court has given this verdict simultaneously when the central government is making the Aadhar mandatory for availing many social welfare schemes.

India largest seafood exporter in 2016: FAO

- Globefish is the unit within the FAO of United Nation responsible for information and analysis on international fish trade and markets.
- Globefish's flagship reports cover over 14 of the most major traded seafood commodities, including shrimp, tuna, salmon, small pelagics and other species with detailed statistics.
- According to its latest report, India is the largest sea food exporter in 2016.
- The top five shrimp exporters to the international market in 2016 were India, Vietnam, Ecuador, Indonesia, and Thailand.
- India's top export markets included the US, Vietnam, the EU and Japan.
- India is the second-largest fish producer in the world after China and accounts for nearly 6% of global fish production

Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO)

- It was established on 16 October 1945 in Quebec City, Quebec, Canada with the objective of eliminating hunger and improving nutrition and standards of living by increasing agricultural productivity.
- It is a Rome based specialised agency of the United Nations.

Introduction

An intergovernmental organization.

FAO emblem with its Latin motto, *Fiat panis* ("Let there be bread")

Abbreviation	FAO, ONUAA
Formation	16 October 1945, in Quebec City, Canada
Type	Specialized Agency
Legal status	Active
Headquartes	Palazzo FAO, Rome, Italy
Head	José Graziano da Silva (current)
Parent organization	UN Economic and Social Council
Website	www.fao.org

- There are a total of 197 members comprising 194 member nations, 1-member organization (European Union) and 2 associate members (Faroe Islands and Tokelau).
- Some of the important key programmes of FAO are Food Security Programmes, Codex Alimentarius, International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) etc.,

Science Ministers' Conclave

- The conclave is part of the India International Science Festival (IISF).
- It is organised by the Ministry of Science and Technology and Vijnana Bharati, a not for profit organisation working for science popularization.
- The conclave is a 3 year-old mela of students and scientists that showcases contemporary and historical achievements of Indian science.
- The 3rd IISF will be organised from 13-16 October 2017 in IIT-Madras, Anna University, NIOT Chennai and the Science and Technology Ministers from neighbouring countries were invited, including China.
- The IISF is largely a platform for science-and-technology-themed exhibitions
- At the first IISF held at the IIT-Delhi in December, 2015, students congregated to set a 'Guinness world record' for the world's "largest science lesson".
- The 2nd IISF was held at CSIR-National Physical Laboratory, New Delhi in December, 2016

National registry of skilled people

- Indian Society for Training and Development (ISTD) is planning to form a National registry of skilled people to help upgrade the large number of unskilled population in the country.

India's first Videsh Bhavan inaugurated at Mumbai

- The Union External Affairs Minister, inaugurated India's first Videsh Bhavan on August 27, 2017 at the Bandra Kurla Complex (BKC) in Mumbai, Maharashtra.
- As a first pilot project, four offices of MEA – Regional Passport Office (RPO), Protector of Emigrants (PoE) office, Branch Secretariat and Regional Office of ICCR – have been assimilated and brought under one roof at the state-of-art office.
- The pilot project of the Videsh Bhavan of Mumbai is part of the Centre's policy to bring together different offices of the MEA under a single roof and work closely with states as more and more Indians are going abroad for employment, education, business and tourism.
- In other words, the "Videsh Bhavan" at Mumbai is the first integrated office complex of the Ministry of External Affairs established in any State of India.

Government to hold Pan India Handloom and Handicraft Camps

- The Ministry of Textiles proposes to organize Pan India camps in handlooms and handicrafts clusters, under the initiative "Hastkala Sahyog Shivir".
- The camps will be organized during 7th October to 17th October, 2017.
- This initiative is dedicated to Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay Garib Kalyan Varsh, the birth centenary year of Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay.
- A number of services will be provided to the weavers and artisans in these camps like issuance of credit facilities through MUDRA scheme, assistance for technological enhancement under Hathkargha Samvardhan Sahayata, distribution of modern tool kits and equipment and issuance of Yarn Pass Book

Vice President of India Launched Sports Talent Search Portal

- Ministry of Youth Affairs and sports has launched Sports Talent Search Portal to spot the best talent from among the young population of the country.
- The portal was launched by the Vice President of India Shri M.Venkaiah Naidu at a function at the Indira Gandhi Stadium in New Delhi on 29th august.

‘YUVA’ – a skill development programme

- The YUVA is a Delhi Police initiative under Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana
- YUVA is a skill development programme and an initiative by Delhi Police under Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY).
- It aims to connect with the youth by upgrading their skill as per their competencies and help them to get a gainful employment under PMKVY.
- 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 the selected youth.

Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana

- It is the India's largest outcome based skill certification scheme implemented by National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC).
- Individuals with prior learning experience or skills will also be assessed and certified under Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL).
- The scheme is implemented by the Ministry of Skill Development. It was launched on 16 July 2015
- Training and Assessment fees are completely paid by the Government.

INTERNATIONAL

BRICS trade ministers meet

- BRICS countries Trade Minister's conference for year 2017 was held at Shanghai, China.
- The conference concentrated on development and cooperation in different sectors like e-commerce, freight transport and financial transactions between the BRICS Countries.
- BRICS is the acronym for an association of five major emerging national economies: Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa. Since 2009, the BRICS nations have met annually at formal summits. China will host the 9th BRICS summit in Xiamen on September 3rd, 4th and 5th, 2017.

19th RCEP Meeting: HYDERABAD

- The 19th round of the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) Trade Negotiating Committee (TNC) meetings and other related meetings were held from 17 to 28 July 2017 in Hyderabad, India.
- RCEP is a proposed comprehensive regional economic integration agreement amongst the 10-ASEAN countries (Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia,

Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Vietnam) and its six Free Trade Agreements (FTAs) partners, viz. Australia, New Zealand, Japan, China, South Korea and India.

- During the 19th round, parallel meetings were held by the three main Working Groups on Trade in Goods, Trade in Services and Investment, including their respective Sub-Working Groups. Working Groups in other areas like Intellectual Property, electronic commerce, Legal and Institutional Issues etc. also had their meetings.

India-Bhutan new trade pact comes into force

- The new agreement on trade, commerce and transit between India and Bhutan has come into force from July 29, a move which will further strengthen economic ties between the two countries.
- The agreement provides for a free trade regime between the countries and it also gives duty free transit of Bhutanese goods for trade with third countries.
- The bilateral trade relations between India and Bhutan are governed by this pact.
- The pact was last renewed on July 29, 2016 for a period of ten years. Its validity was extended for one year or till the new agreement comes into force.
- The bilateral trade between the countries has increased to USD 7.43 billion in 2016-17.

US imposed sanctions on Venezuelan leader Nicolás Maduro

- The US government has frozen any assets held by Venezuela's President Nicolás Maduro in the US, after he held a controversial poll.



- The US imposed sanctions in response to the July 30 elections of representatives of the Constituent Assembly that Maduro planned to use to draft a new national charter. However, the opposition and other social societies criticized the move as a way for Maduro to consolidate a dictatorship in the country.

Shahid Khaqan Abbasi elected as Prime Minister Pakistan

- Former petroleum minister Shahid Khaqan Abbasi will be appointed as interim prime minister of Pakistan until Shahbaz Sharif, the brother of ousted PM Nawaz Sharif, can be elected to parliament and take over as PM.



- He has becoming the interim leader of the country after Nawaz Sharif was disqualified by the Supreme Court over the Panama Papers scandal.

Christopher Wray takes over as new FBI Director

- Christopher Wray was sworn in as the new FBI Director on August 03. He replaced James Comey.
- Trump on May 10 abruptly fired Comey who was overseeing a criminal probe into whether the Trump campaign colluded with the Russian government to influence the 2016 presidential election.
- Donald Trump nominated Christopher Wray for the post. US Senate panel confirmed Trump's pick Christopher Wray as new FBI director on 3rd August.

Israel launches first environmental research satellite: Venus

- Israel has launched its first environmental research satellite named as Venus (Vegetation and Environment Monitoring New Micro-Satellite). It is a joint venture between the Israel Space Agency (ISA) and its French counterpart CNES.

8th Mekong – Ganga Cooperation (MGC) Ministerial Meeting: Manila, Philippines

- 8th Mekong – Ganga Cooperation (MGC) Ministerial Meeting was held at Manila, Philippines.
- MGC countries have proposed to add newer areas of cooperation to the traditional areas on tourism, culture, education, transport and communication to further deepen mutually beneficial partnership and cooperation.
- The Mekong–Ganga Cooperation (MGC) was established on November 10, 2000, at Vientiane, Laos at the First MGC Ministerial Meeting. It comprises six member countries, namely India, Thailand, Myanmar, Cambodia, Laos and Vietnam. The five areas of cooperation are tourism, culture, education, and

transportation and communication. The organization takes its name from the Ganga and the Mekong, two large rivers in the region.

- The working mechanism for MGC consists of the Annual Ministerial Meeting (back to back with ASEAN Ministerial Meeting), the Senior Official's Meeting, and the five Working Groups namely;
 - ❖ Working Group on Tourism (Thailand is the lead country)
 - ❖ Working Group on Education (HRD) (India is the lead country)
 - ❖ Working Group on Culture (Cambodia is the lead country)
 - ❖ Working Group on Communication & Transportation (Laos PDR is the lead country)
 - ❖ Working Group on Plan of Actions (Vietnam is the lead country)

North Korea has threatened to launch a nuclear attack on Guam Island, a US territory

- North Korea has threatened to launch a nuclear attack on Guam Island, a US territory in Pacific.
- Recently, after repeated tests, North Korea succeeded in successfully testing an 'Intermediate Range Ballistic Missile - IRBM' known as 'Hwasong -12' with a range of above 3700km.
- This brings the island of Guam within its range



- Guam is an island located in the Micronesia region of the Pacific, it is positioned just over 3000 miles from both Sydney and Hawaii.

15th BIMSTEC Ministerial meeting: Kathmandu, Nepal

- The 15th BIMSTEC ministerial meeting was held in Kathmandu, Nepal on 11 August.
- The 18th session of the BIMSTEC Senior Officials' Meeting (SOM) was held after this meeting.



BIMSTEC

- Bay of Bengal Initiatives for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) is the sub-regional grouping comprising seven countries of South Asia and South East Asia. These are: Bangladesh, India, Myanmar, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Bhutan and Nepal.
- On 6 June 1997, a new sub-regional grouping was formed in Bangkok and given the name BIST-EC (Bangladesh, India, Sri Lanka, and Thailand Economic Cooperation). Later Myanmar and Nepal joined this group, after which the organisation was renamed as BIMSTEC
- Nepal is the current Chair of the BIMSTEC. Its Secretariat is located in Dhaka.

International Maritime Search and Rescue Exercise (IMMSAREX)

- Bangladesh, the current Chair of Indian Ocean Naval Symposium (IONS) is scheduling a International Maritime Search and Rescue Exercise (IMMSAREX) in November, 2017 in the Bay of Bengal.
- It is going to be attended by the members and observers of the IONS.
- China will be participated in the Rescue Exercise as an observer.

Indian Ocean Naval Symposium (IONS)

- The IONS is a regional forum of Indian Ocean littoral states, launched in 2008.
- It presently has 23 members and 9 observers.
- Indian Ocean littoral states are represented by the heads of their navies and the organization aims to foster military-to-military cooperation.
- The Voluntary initiative seeks to increase maritime co-operation among navies of the littoral states of the Indian Ocean Region.
- The grouping has working groups on Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR), Information Security and Interoperability (IS&I) and anti-piracy now renamed as maritime security.

Mega War Game: India and Russia will hold integrated tri-services exercises

- India and Russia will hold a mega war game in October from 19 to 29 involving their armies, navies and the air forces to further strengthen military ties.
- It will be the first time both Russia and India carry out an integrated tri-services exercise.

- It will be for the first time India will participate in a tri-services exercise with a foreign country with such large scale participation by the Navy, the Army and the Air Force.
- The armies, navies and air forces of Russia are holding bilateral exercises separately such as
 - ❖ Exercise INDRA – Joint Exercise conducted by both Armies
 - ❖ Exercise INDRA NAVY - Joint Exercise conducted by both Navies
 - ❖ Exercise AVIAINDRA - Joint Exercise conducted by both Air Forces.


Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan-India (TAPI) gas pipeline

- The Turkmenistan–Afghanistan–Pakistan–India Pipeline (TAPI), also known as Trans-Afghanistan Pipeline, is a natural gas pipeline being developed by the Asian Development Bank.
- The pipeline will transport Caspian Sea is natural gas from Turkmenistan through Afghanistan into Pakistan and then to India.
- Construction of the project was started in Turkmenistan on December 13th, 2015. The pipeline is expected to be operational by 2020.

FOREIGN POLICY'S 'BIG BANG' MOMENT

The groundbreaking ceremony of a \$10-billion pipeline that will supply natural gas from Turkmenistan to Afghanistan, Pakistan and India (TAPI) will be held on Dec. 13

- TAPI pipeline is being funded by the Asian Development Bank, and is to be completed by 2020
- It is expected to help ease an ever-increasing energy deficit in Pakistan, Afghanistan and India by transporting 90 million standard cubic meters of gas per day
- Turkmenistan has world's fourth largest reserves of natural gas
- The pipeline will originate in Galkynysh gas fields and run through Afghanistan, Pakistan to Fazilka in Punjab



Map not to scale

1,800 kms. long

— SUSHMA SWARAJ, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS MINISTER

The heart of Asia cannot function if its arteries are blocked

- The abbreviation TAPI comes from the first letters of those countries. Proponents of the project see it as a modern continuation of the Silk Road

The largest volcanic region on Earth under Antarctica

- Scientists have uncovered the largest volcanic region on Earth – consisting of almost 100 volcanoes – two kilometres below the surface of the vast Antarctic ice sheet. Researchers at Edinburgh University in the UK revealed 91 volcanoes,

adding to the 47 others that had been discovered previously, with the highest as tall as the Eiger, which stands at almost 4,000 metres, in Switzerland.

- The newly discovered volcanoes range in height from 100 to 3,850 metres. All of them are covered in thick layers of ice. These active peaks are concentrated in a region known as the west Antarctic rift system, which stretches 3,500 km from Antarctica's Ross Ice Shelf to the Antarctic Peninsula.

US sends Crude Oil to India after 40 years of ban

- The first shipment of American crude oil is likely to reach India in the last week of September.
- The 40-year-old ban on export of American oil to India was lifted by the then US President Barack Obama in December 2015
- Maiden meeting between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and US President Donald Trump on June 26, the two leaders agreed to deepen the engagement in the energy sector.
- Soon thereafter, State-run oil refining and marketing giants Indian Oil Corp and Bharat Petroleum Corp placed orders for over four million barrels
- India, which is the world's third-largest oil importer, joins the likes of other Asian nations South Korea, Japan and China
- Consignments of American crude oil worth about \$ 10 billion (Rs 636 crore) left the US shores between August 6-14 and is likely to reach Paradip (Odisha) in the last week of September.

NASA successfully places next generation tracking and data relay satellite TDRS-M into orbit

- NASA on 18 August said its third and final in a series of next generation communications satellites has successfully been placed into orbit.
- TDRS-M will become part of NASA's Space Network providing navigation and high-data-rate communications to the International Space Station, NASA's Hubble Space Telescope, rockets and a host of other spacecraft.
- TDRS-M's predecessors, TDRS-K and TDRS-L, also launched on Atlas V rockets from the same launch complex in January 2013 and January 2014, respectively.

China launched first cyber court for internet disputes

- It is specialized agency to handle internet-related cases in the e-commerce hub of Hangzhou.

Exploration in Deep Sea Bed

- India's exclusive rights to explore polymetallic nodules from seabed in Central Indian Ocean Basin have been extended by five years.
- The rights in the international water, is allocated by the International Seabed Authority (ISA) for developmental activities.

- India's rights have been approved unanimously in the 23rd session of the ISA concluded on August 18, 2017 at Kingston, Jamaica.
- India is implementing a long-term programme on exploration and utilization of Polymetallic nodules through the Ministry of Earth Sciences.
- This includes survey and exploration, environmental studies, technology development in mining and extractive metallurgy.

Second Indian Ocean Conference, 2017

- A two-day Indian Ocean Conference-2017, to be held at Temple Trees, the official residence of the Sri Lankan PM, is being co-hosted by the India Foundation, a Delhi-based think tank, in collaboration with RSIS, Singapore, and NIFS, Colombo — both research and study centres.
- The theme of the conference is peace, progress, and prosperity.
- The first was held in Singapore in 2016 in partnership with think tanks from Singapore, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh.

India, Germany sign pact to improve grid integration of renewable energy

- India and Germany signed an agreement on technical cooperation under the Indo-German Energy Programme – Green Energy Corridors (IGEN-GEC).
- In 2013, Germany had decided to provide concessional loans of up to 1 billion euro through KfW (German Development Bank).

World's first low Enriched Uranium bank

- The International Atomic Energy Agency, the U.N. global nuclear watchdog, opened a uranium bank in Kazakhstan, a \$150-million facility designed to discourage new nations from enriching the nuclear fuel.
- The Low Enriched Uranium (LEU) Bank in the city of Oskemen, in eastern Kazakhstan, will store up to 90 tonnes of the fuel and sell it to IAEA members if they are unable to procure it elsewhere.



- This project ensures a steady supply of fuel for nuclear power plants, and the idea behind the bank is to make such supply available without domestic enrichment.
- Russia has operated a similar bank since 2010 but the one in Kazakhstan will be the first one fully owned and operated by the global nuclear watchdog.
- The project was funded by donors, including the United States, the European Union, Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates, Norway and the Nuclear Threat Initiative.

IAEA

- The IAEA was created in 1957 in response to the deep fears and expectations generated by the discoveries and diverse uses of nuclear technology. The Agency's genesis was U.S. President Eisenhower's "Atoms for Peace" address to the General Assembly of the United Nations on 8 December 1953.
- In October 1957, the delegates to the First General Conference decided to establish the IAEA's headquarters in Vienna, Austria.
- Theme for 60-year anniversary of IAEA (1957-2017): Our motto is Atoms for Peace and Development
- IAEA Director General: Yukiya Amano

ECONOMY

The Union Finance Minister Announces a New Exchange Traded Fund (ETF): "BHARAT 22"

- The Union Finance Minister announced a new Exchange Traded Fund (ETF) by the name BHARAT 22.



- Bharat 22 consists of 22 stocks of CPSE's, PSB's & strategic holding of SUUTI. Compared to energy heavy CPSE ETF, Bharat 22 is a well-Diversified portfolio

with 6 sectors (Basic Materials, Energy, Finance, FMCG, Industrials & Utilities).

- The Bharat 22 Index will be rebalanced annually. ICICI Prudential AMC will be the ETF Manager and Asia Index Private Limited (JV BSE and S&P Global) will be the Index Provider.

POWER OF 22

The new ETF is another tool to raise ₹72,500 crore budgeted through disinvestment

BLUE CHIPS UNDER ONE ROOF

ENERGY ONGC, IOC, BPCL and Coal India	FMCG ITC
BASIC MATERIALS National Aluminum	INDUSTRIALS L&T, Bharat Electronics, Engineers India, NBCC
FINANCIALS SBI, Axis Bank, Bank of Baroda, Indian Bank, PFC and REC	UTILITIES Power Grid, NTPC, GAIL, NHPC, NLC, SJVN

ANOTHER WAY OF INVESTING

ETFs are akin to mutual funds but with a defined asset basket like shares of an index



They are more liquid than mutual funds as they can be traded on stock exchanges

Value of units of ETF depends on the value of assets held by the fund

India VIX

- India Volatility Index (VIX) is released by National Stock Exchange (NSE).
- It measures the degree of volatility or fluctuation that active traders expect in the 'Nifty50' over the next 30 days.
- It is a good indicator of whether participants in stocks are feeling fearful or satisfied about the near future.

7.5% economic growth is not possible: information in economic Survey

- The Economic Survey said that the country's economic growth rate is not likely to be higher than expected (7.5 percent).
- The reason for this are Agricultural credit discounts, and the decline in Indian rupee against foreign exchange.
- The Prime Minister has commented that the demonetisation will improve the country's economic position.
- The first part of the economic survey of this year was published in last January, in which the economic growth rate of the country was projected to grow from 6.5 percent to 7.5 percent.
- In the meantime, the Central Government initiated various reform measures in the coming months. In particular, the Goods and Service Tax (GST) procedure

has been implemented. Their implications were expected to reflect the financial position of the country.

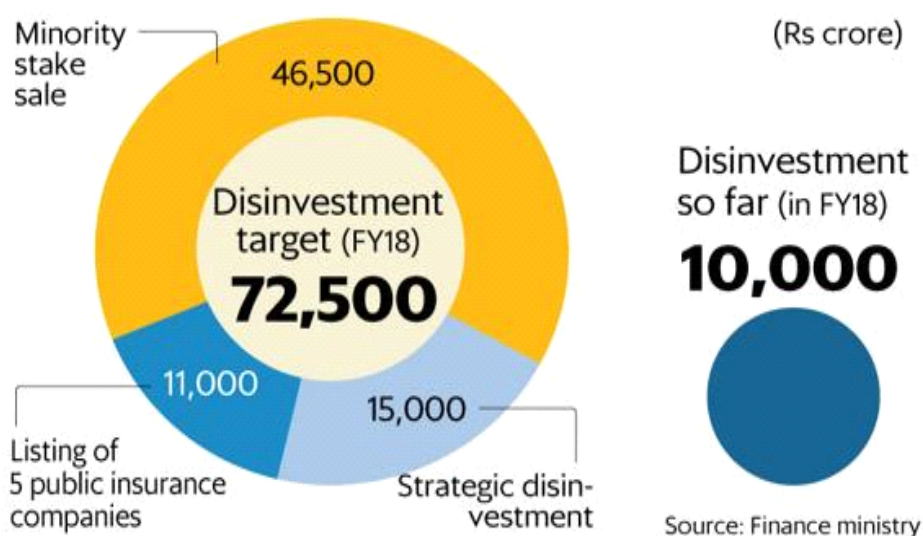
- To confirm this, some features of this context has been published in the second part of the economic survey.
- Union Finance Minister Arunjaitley tabled the Economic Survey report in the parliament, which was prepared under the supervision of Chief Economic Advisor Arvind Subramanian.

Cabinet approved the new mechanism to speed up strategic disinvestment

- To accelerate strategic disinvestments in central public sector enterprises (CPSEs)
- The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs has recently approved the proposal of setting up a Ministerial Group to decide on the details of strategic disinvestment of Public sector firms.
- The proposal was given by the Department of Investment and Public Asset Management (DIPAM).
- The empowered ministerial group is led by Finance Minister and members include Minister for Road Transport, Minister of Administrative Department.
- The approval will help in speedy completion of strategic disinvestment transactions.

Long way to go

The government has set an ambitious target of raising Rs72,500 crore from disinvestment in 2017-18. So far this year, it has raised around Rs10,000 crore through stake sales.



Anti-dumping duty imposed on tempered glass from China

- The Finance Ministry has imposed a definitive anti-dumping duty on certain "textured toughened (tempered) glass" imports from China.
- Textured toughened (tempered) glass is used as a component in solar photovoltaic panels and solar thermal applications.
- This product is also known as solar glass, low iron solar glass or high transmission photovoltaic glass.
- The duty aims at protecting the domestic industry from cheaper imports. It will be effective for five years

Anti-Dumping Duty

- An anti-dumping duty is a protectionist tariff that a domestic government imposes on foreign imports that it believes are priced below fair market value. Dumping is a process where a company exports a product at a price lower than the price it normally charges on its own home market.
- To protect local businesses and markets, many countries impose stiff duties on products they believe are being dumped in their national market.

New 200 Rupees Note

- For the first time, the Reserve Bank of India released the 200 rupees notes. It is expected that the demand for smaller denominations will be reduced by this move.
- Released in the dark yellow colour, the new note will be in the size of 66 mm * 146 mm. There will be image of Mahatma Gandhi in the center of the note along with the number 200 printed in differentiating colour.
- Apart from this, magnifying numbers, Ashok Chakra symbol and four line in two corners will be placed for the easy identification by visually challenged people.
- The slogan and symbol of 'Clean India'; the image of Sanchi stupa, which promotes the Indian heritage and culture, will be printed in the backside of the new note.
- The central government released the new denominations of 500 and 2000 in the last November (2016) after the demonetization of high value notes of 500 and 1000.
- Due to this, liquidity crunch occurred along with the reduction of currency circulation.

Five-year anti-dumping duty on sodium nitrite imports from China

- The Finance Ministry has imposed a five year anti-dumping duty on Sodium Nitrite imports from China.
- Based on the recommendations of the Designated Authority in the Commerce Ministry in its final findings of its third sunset review investigations, the revenue department has imposed definitive anti-dumping duty of \$ 72.95 per tonne on Sodium Nitrite imports from China.

- Sodium Nitrite is an oxidising and also a reducing agent. It is a white crystalline powder mostly used in the pharmaceutical and dye industries, lubricants, construction chemicals, rubber blowing agent, meat processing, and textiles.
- In India, the Sodium Nitrite is produced by -Punjab Chemicals & Crop Protection Ltd, National Fertilisers Ltd and Rashtriya Chemicals and Fertilisers Limited.

NITI Aayog launched Ease of Doing Business Report

- NITI Aayog launched the Ease of Doing Business report based on an Enterprise Survey of 3,500 manufacturing firms across Indian states and union territories.
- The survey has been conducted, along with the IDFC Institute, to assess the business regulations and enabling environment across India from firms' perspective.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Humraazapp: Army launches app for soldiers

- The Indian Army has developed a mobile application called Humraaz, through which serving soldiers can track details like postings and promotions.
- Through the 'Humraaz' app, soldiers can also view their monthly salary slips and the Form 16 and also download them.

Government launches e-RaKAM portal

- The government launched a portal, e-RaKAM, to provide a platform to sell agricultural produce.
- The portal is a joint initiative by state-run-auctioneer MSTC and Central Warehousing Corporation arm CRWC.
- e-RaKAM is a first-of-its-kind initiative that leverages technology to connect farmers of the smallest villages to the biggest markets of the world through internet and e-RaKAM centres.
- e-RaKAM is a digital initiative bringing together the farmers, FPOs, PSUs, civil supplies and buyers on a single platform to ease the selling and buying process of agricultural products.

Innovate in India (i3)

- The National Biopharma Mission, named Innovate in India (i3), is the first ever Industry-Academia mission to accelerate biopharmaceutical development in India in India.



- The Mission to be implemented by Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council (BIRAC), a Public Sector Undertaking of Department of Biotechnology, and is partially being funded by the World Bank.

NISAR-Joint Project between NASA and ISRO

- ISRO and NASA are working towards realisation of NASA-ISRO Synthetic Aperture Radar (NISAR) mission by 2021.
- In NISAR mission, NASA is responsible for development of L-band SAR and ISRO is responsible for development of S-band SAR. The L & S band SAR will be integrated with ISRO's spacecraft and launched on-board India's GSLV.
- After the launch in 2021, the plan of action includes:
 - ❖ calibration of instruments & validation of data products;
 - ❖ development of science acquisition plan;
 - ❖ development of data processing procedures & applications; and
 - ❖ conduct of outreach activities in research institutes & academia.
- ISRO and NASA have a framework agreement for cooperation in the exploration and use of outer space for peaceful purposes signed in 2008.
- Under this framework agreement, ISRO and NASA have executed an implementing arrangement for cooperation in NISAR mission, which is valid

until 2034 and provides scope for joint activities on science & applications of NISAR data after the launch.

National Cyber Coordination Centre made operational: IT Ministry

- The first phase of National Cyber Coordination Centre(NCCC), set up to scan the country's web traffic to detect cyber security threats, has been made operational.
- NCCC scans internet traffic coming into the country to detect real-time cyber threat and alert various organisations as well as internet service providers for timely action.
- The government has also made operational botnet and malware cleaning center that will detect malicious software in devices of citizens and clean them.
- NCCC, a multi-stakeholder body, will be implemented by Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-In) at Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology.
- The Centre derives necessary powers as per provisions of section 69B of the Information Technology Act, 2000 and the Rules notified thereunder.

Indian Coast Guard Ship 'Shaurya' commissioned in Goa

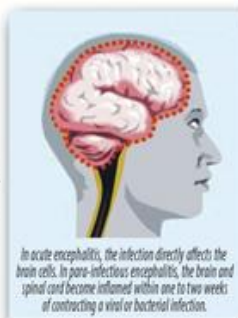
- Indian Coast Guard ship "Shaurya", the fifth in the series of six 105-metre offshore patrol vessels (OPVs), was commissioned in Goa.
- The OPV, which draws 2,350 tonne and is propelled by 9100 kilowatt diesel engine, has been designed and built indigenously by Goa Shipyard Ltd and is fitted with state-of-the-art navigation and communication equipment, sensors and machineries.
- The ship is designed to carry one twin engine light helicopter and five high-speed boats, including two quick reaction inflatable boats for swift boarding operations, search and rescue, law enforcement and maritime patrol. The ship is also capable of carrying pollution response equipment to contain oil spill at sea.
- The ship will be based at Chennai and operate under the operational and administrative control of Commander Coast Guard Region (East) and will be deployed extensively for Exclusive Economic Zone surveillance, apart from safeguarding India's maritime interests.

Japanese Encephalitis Disease

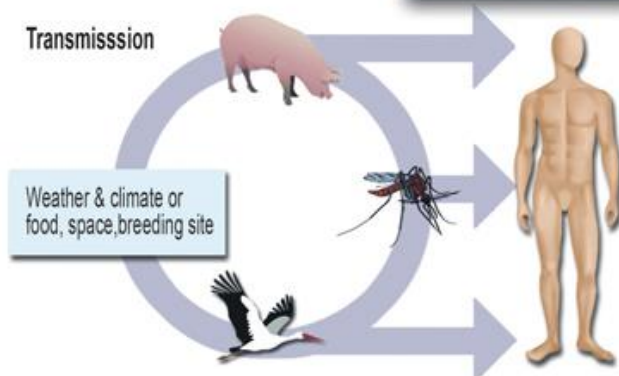
- It is a mosquito-borne viral infection of the brain.
- Japanese encephalitis virus (JEV) is a flavivirus related to dengue, yellow fever and West Nile viruses, and is spread by mosquitoes.
- There is no cure for the disease. Treatment is focused on relieving severe clinical signs and supporting the patient to overcome the infection.
- JEV is transmitted to humans through bites from infected mosquitoes of the Culex species.

Japanese encephalitis

is a flavivirus related to dengue, yellow fever and West Nile viruses, and is transmitted to humans through bites from infected mosquitoes of the *Culex* species (mainly *Culex tritaeniorhynchus*). The virus exists in a transmission cycle between mosquitoes, pigs and/or water birds (enzootic cycle). The disease is predominantly found in rural and periurban settings, where humans live in closer proximity to these vertebrate hosts.



Transmission



neurological sequelae

painful neck stiffness

nausea and abdominal pain

Symptoms

Most JE virus infections are mild (fever and headache) or without apparent symptoms, but approximately 1 in 250 infections results in severe disease characterized by rapid onset of high fever, headache, neck stiffness, disorientation, coma, seizures, spastic paralysis and death. The case-fatality rate can be as high as 30% among those with disease symptoms.

headache

vomiting

fever

myalgia

convulsion

Of those who survive, 20%–30% suffer permanent intellectual, behavioral or neurological problems such as paralysis, recurrent seizures or the inability to speak.

- The virus exists in a transmission cycle between mosquitoes, pigs and/or water birds (enzootic cycle).
- This disease is most prevalent in Southeast Asia, South Asia and East Asia.
- Safe and effective JE vaccines are available to prevent disease and it is one of the vaccines given under Universal Immunisation Programme of India.

First plant-based Zika vaccine developed

- In a first, US scientists from Arizona State University (ASU) have developed a plant-based Zika vaccine that could be more potent, safer and cheaper to produce than other medicines being developed for the disease.
- The vaccine, developed using tobacco plant, targets a key protein -- called DIII -- which envelopes the outside of the Zika virus and plays a key role for the virus to infect people. By developing this protein without the dangerous virus within it, it could be used to immunise people to the real strain of Zika.
- Immunisation experiments on mice showed a 100 per cent success in inducing antibody and cellular immune response to protect against multiple Zika virus strains.
- The worldwide Zika threat first emerged in 2015, infecting millions as it swept across the countries and led to the birth of babies with severe brain birth defects.

DNA sensor for quick *Streptococcus pyogenes* pathogen detection

- An ultrasensitive DNA sensor that can detect *Streptococcus pyogenes*, a bacterium which causes a wide range of diseases in about 30 minutes has been developed. The DNA chip is highly specific device for *S. pyogenes*. The

conventional method of identification takes 18-24 hours and the basic culture test does not specifically help distinguish *S. pyogenes*.

- From mild skin and throat infections to life-threatening toxic shock syndrome, *S. pyogenes* infections affect 700 million people every year. If not treated during early stages of the infection, *S. pyogenes* can even lead to rheumatic heart disease (heart valves damage).
- The sensor was developed by scientists from CSIR-Institute of Genomics and Integrative Biology (CSIR-IGIB) and National Centre for Disease Control (NCDC) Delhi, and the results were published in the International Journal of Biological Macromolecules.
- The DNA chip based sensor consists of a carbon electrode embedded with gold nanoparticles.

NSDC, Google India to launch mobile app development programme

- The NSDC(National Skill Development Corporation) and Google India will come together to train app developers for mobile platform on the Android and web platforms, a move aimed at improving the country's mobile application development ecosystem.
- Under the initiative, NSDC will introduce a specific course with the scope to train developers to create applications for the mobile platform that can be used on smartphone and tablets running on the Android operating system.
- The National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) is a public-private partnership enterprise under the Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship.
- Its objective is to create training capacity in the country; fund vocational training initiatives and create a market ecosystem for skill development. Its mandate is to train 150 million people by 2022.

MyFASTag, FASTag Partner apps launched by NHAI

- National Highways Authority of India has launched two mobile Apps, MyFASTag and FASTag Partner. These mobile apps will help in the availability of FASTags for Electronic Toll Collection.
- From 1st October 2017, all lanes of all 371 NHAI toll plazas in the country will become FASTag enabled. One lane in every toll plaza will be a dedicated FASTag lane where no other form of payment will be accepted.

What is Electronic Toll Collection (ETC)?

- Electronic payment of highway tolls without human involvement. ETC systems use vehicle-to-roadside communication technologies to perform an electronic monetary transaction between a vehicle and the toll collection agency.

What is MyFASTag?


- FASTags are an electronic toll collection system, where the amount is automatically deducted from one's bank account once the tag is scanned by a radio frequency identification scanner.

What is MyFASTag Partner?

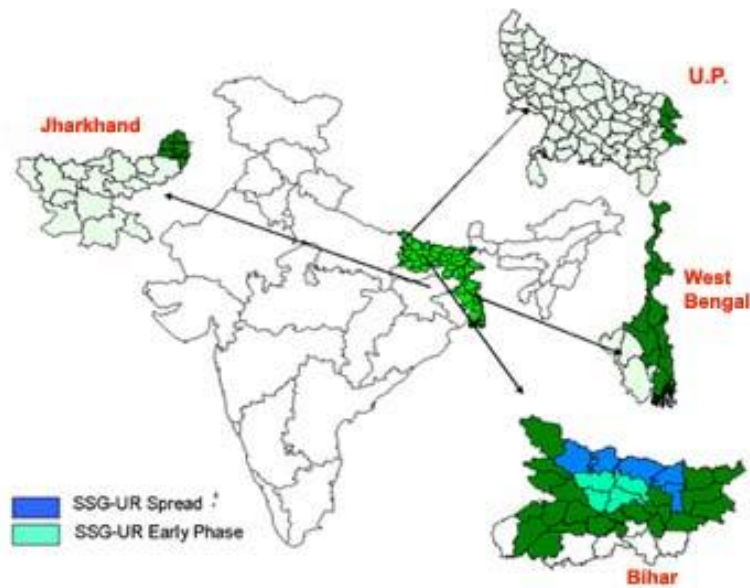
- 'FASTag Partner' is for banks and agencies selling the tag. A total of 10 banks, including mobile wallets, provide FASTags.

Kala Azar or Dum-Dum fever or Black fever

- It is a second largest parasitic killer in the world (after Malaria)
- Visceral leishmaniasis (VL), also known as kala-azar, is the most severe form of leishmaniasis.
- Leishmaniasis is caused by the protozoan *Leishmania* parasites.

WHAT IS KALA-AZAR	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ A slow progressing indigenous disease ▪ Caused by protozoan parasite of genus <i>Leishmania</i> ▪ In India, <i>Leishmania donovani</i> is the only parasite causing the disease ▪ The parasite primarily infects reticuloendothelial system 	Signs & Symptoms <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Recurrent fever ➤ Loss of appetite ➤ Weakness ➤ Spleen enlargement ➤ Anaemia
Transmission	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Sandfly of genus <i>Phlebotomus argentipes</i> only known vector of kala-azar in India 	
 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Indian kala-azar has a unique epidemiological feature of being anthroponotic 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Female sandflies pick up parasite while feeding on infected human host
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Development and multiplication in the gut of sandflies and move to mouthparts 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Parasite undergoes morphological change to become flagellate 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Healthy human hosts get infection when an infective sandfly vector bites them

- It is transmitted to humans (confined to human only, no animal reservoir) through infected female sandflies.
- It is characterized by irregular bouts of fever, weight loss, enlargement of the spleen and liver, and anaemia.
- The parasite migrates to the internal organs such as the liver, spleen, and bone marrow, and, if left untreated, may result in the death.
- A rapid diagnostic test, called rK39 can — with a pinprick of blood — indicate the presence of the parasite.



- Endemic in eastern States of India namely Bihar, Jharkhand, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal

UK scientists create world's smallest surgical robot: Versius

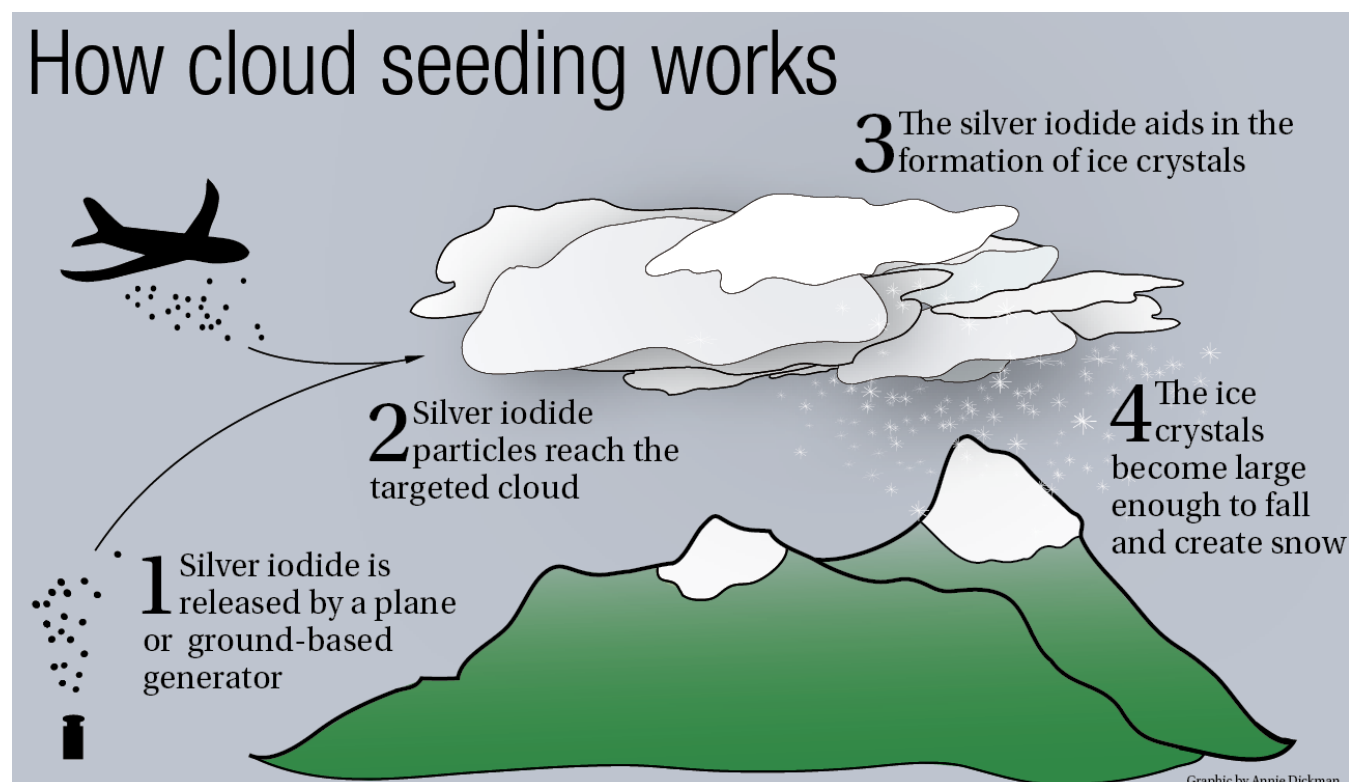
- Scientists in the UK have developed the world's smallest surgical robot with low-cost technology used in mobile phones and space industries. The robot, called Versius, mimics the human arm and can be used to carry out a wide range of procedures in which a series of small incisions are made to circumvent the need for traditional open surgery.
- These include hernia repairs, colorectal operations, as well as prostate, ear, nose and throat surgery. Such procedures reduce complications and pain after surgery and speed up recovery time for patients

Project Varshadhari: Cloud seeding project by Karnataka Govt

- Karnataka Government has launched clouding seeding Project Varshadhari in Bengaluru under which an aircraft will spray chemicals to induce rainfall.
- The cloud seeding project is an experimental project that will cover Bengaluru, Gadag and Yadgir districts of the state.
- This cloud seeding operation aims to condense small water particles by clouds (size less than 10 microns) to droplets of 50 microns, which can constitute rains.
- It was in 2003 that Project Varuna, a cloud seeding project, was launched by the then Minister for Water Resources, Karnataka. While the results of that project have been subject to debate, this time around the monitoring committee of meteorologists and cloud physicists expects better results.

Cloud seeding

- Cloud seeding is a form of weather modification, a way of changing the amount or type of precipitation that falls from clouds, by dispersing substances into the air that serve as cloud condensation or ice nuclei, which alter the microphysical processes within the cloud. The usual intent is to increase precipitation (rain or snow).



- The most common chemicals used for cloud seeding include silver iodide, potassium iodide and dry ice (solid carbon dioxide). Liquid propane, which expands into a gas, has also been used. This can produce ice crystals at higher temperatures than silver iodide.

Task Force on Artificial Intelligence

- Ministry of Commerce and Industry has constituted a task force headed by Kamakoti of IIT Madras to explore possibilities to leverage artificial intelligence for development across various fields.
- The 18-member task force will submit its recommendations to the government, industry and research institutions.

Microsoft launches Project Brainwave

- Microsoft launches Project Brainwave for real-time Artificial Intelligence, which means the system processes requests as fast as it receives them, with ultra-low latency.
- Real-time AI is becoming increasingly important as cloud infrastructures process live data streams, whether they be search queries, videos, sensor streams, or interactions with users.

Artificial Intelligence

- The theory and development of computer systems able to perform tasks normally requiring human intelligence, such as visual perception, speech recognition, decision-making, and translation between languages.

ENVIRONMENT

National Level Tiger Census to be released next year

- The Tiger Census, which is being carried out in last four years, will be released next year by March, reports say.

Tamil Nadu ranked 4

- According to the 2014 census, Tamil Nadu was ranked fourth in the number of Tigers. There were 229 tigers in Tamil Nadu.
- In Tamilnadu, Survey was conducted at Kalakkad-Mundanthurai Tiger Reserve, Anaimalai, Mudumalai National Park and Wildlife Sanctuary, and Sathyamangalam Wildlife Sanctuary. According to the Tamil Nadu Forest Department's Survey, around 64 Tigers are said to be in Sathyamangalam, and 43 tigers in Mudumalai.

Tiger Deaths

- In 2014, largest number of tiger deaths in nation is reported in Tamil Nadu, with 15 tigers dead for various reasons. In 2015, the death rate reduced to 6 tiger deaths in Tamilnadu. Further in 2016, only 3 tiger deaths were reported in Tamilnadu.

National Green Tribunal bans use of non-biodegradable plastic bags in Delhi

- The National Green Tribunal (NGT) imposed an interim ban on use of non-biodegradable plastic bags which are less than 50 microns in the entire national capital.
- A bench headed by NGT chairperson Justice Swatanter Kumar also announced an environment compensation of Rs5000 on anyone found in possession of such banned plastic.
- It had also said that an environment compensation of Rs10,000 would be imposed on vegetable vendors and slaughter houses for throwing garbage in public places.

About NGT

- The National Green Tribunal has been established on 18.10.2010 under the National Green Tribunal Act 2010 for effective and expeditious disposal of cases relating to environmental protection and conservation of forests and other natural resources including enforcement of any legal right relating to environment and giving relief and compensation for damages to persons and property and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.
- New Delhi is the Principal Place of Sitting of the Tribunal and Bhopal, Pune, Kolkata and Chennai shall be the other four place of sitting of the Tribunal.

‘Gaj Yatra’ campaign to Protect Elephants

- Union Environment, Forest and Climate Change Ministry launched ‘Gaj Yatra’, a nationwide campaign to protect elephants on the occasion of World Elephant Day (August 12).
- The campaign is planned to cover 12 elephant range states.
- During the period of the campaign, artists and craftsmen will create life-size works on the theme of elephants in places along the route of the roadshow, covering 12 states that have wild elephants, using local art and craft. Specially fabricated vehicles will be deployed to display these on pre-determined routes with campaigners.
- The ‘Gaju’ mascot, which was released by the Ministry in 2012, will be helm of the campaign. The campaign will be led by the Wildlife Trust of India.
- The Environment Ministry released the All India Census 2017 Report on elephants as also the Agreed Points of Action on Trans-Boundary Conservation of Elephants by India and Bangladesh and a document titled ‘Right of Passage’ on elephant corridors in India.
- A compilation, ‘Glimpses of Initiatives Taken for Elephant Conservation in India (2012-2017) based on Parliamentary Questions and Replies’ by ENVIS Centre, WWF-India and the Project Elephant Division, MoEFCC, was also released.

North Koel reservoir project

- Cabinet has given the approval for the completion of North Koel reservoir project in Jharkhand and Bihar.
- The project aims to provide irrigation for the most backward and drought prone areas of Palamu & Garhwa districts in Jharkhand and Aurangabad & Gaya districts in Bihar.



- The North Koel River rises on the Ranchi Plateau in Jharkhand.

- It is a tributary of River Sone that joins the river Ganga in Bihar.
- The project envisages building a dam named “Mandal dam” in Jharkhand.
- The river along with its tributaries meanders through the northern part of Betla National Park.
- The reservoir project is expected to flood villages which are within the Palamau Tiger Reserve.
- Thus the GoI restricted the storage capacity of Mandal dam in order to reduce the submergence and to protect Betla National Park and Palamau Tiger Reserve.

India signs Global Environment Facility (GEF) Grant Agreement with the World Bank

- A Grant Agreement from the Global Environment Facility (GEF) of the World Bank of USD 24.64 million for “Ecosystem Service Improvement Project” was signed by India.
- The size of Project is USD 24.64 million which entirely will be financed by the World Bank out of its GEF Trust Fund.
- The project’s duration is 5 years.
- Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC) will implement the project in the states of Chhattisgarh and Madhya Pradesh through Indian Council of Forestry Research & Education (ICFRE) under the National Mission for Green India.
- The objective of the Project is to strengthen the institutional capacity of the Departments of Forestry and Community Organisations to enhance forest ecosystem services and improve the livelihoods of forest dependent communities in Central Indian Highlands.

Environment Ministry Launches “Harit Diwali, Swasth Diwali” Campaign

- Ministry for Environment, Forest and Climate Change launched the “Harit Diwali, Swasth Diwali” campaign to make awareness to the children about the importance of their contribution towards reducing pollution by not bursting harmful fire crackers during Diwali.
- As a part of the campaign, the Environment Ministry will undertake various activities to create awareness among various stakeholders and encourage people to participate in combating air pollution.
- As has been the experience in the past few years, airborne pollution has been rising above safe limits during winter in many cities. The excessive burning of crackers during Diwali aggravates the problem.
- The pollution levels in Delhi last year, especially post Diwali, reached such levels that the government had to declare an emergency situation, which had socio-economic consequences like closing down of schools, construction sites and power stations.

2 New Earthworm Species Found in Kerala

- Scientists have discovered two new primitive species of earthworm in the Western Ghats mountain ranges in Kerala.

- They have named the new earthworm species *Drawidapolydiverticulata* and *Drawidathomasi*.
- There had been sixteen *Drawida* species known from the state with ten of them being unique.
- The present discovery of two new species and five new local records further contributes to the vast species richness of the genus in Kerala.
- To date, there are 73 species of the genus *Drawida* confirmed to be living in the Indian subcontinent. However, the greatest concentration (43 species) is found in the Western Ghats. The genus has an important centre of speciation in Kerala.



Drawida polydiverticulata

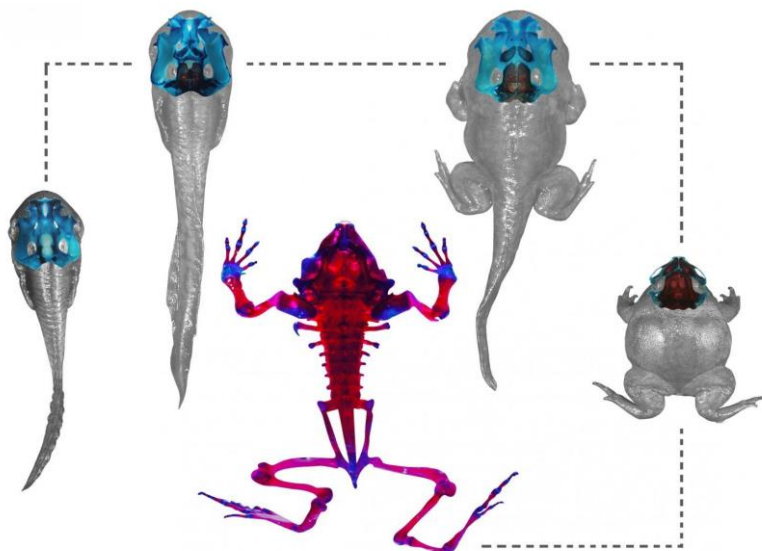
- For *Drawida polydiverticulata*, its multiple lobes, also called diverticulum – an organ located in the front of its body – are unique amongst the members of the genus.
- This species was found to be widespread in the protected shola grasslands of the Munnar region, including Eravikulam National Park, Pampadun Shola National Park and Chinnar Wildlife Sanctuary.

Drawida thomasi

- The second new earthworm, *Drawida thomasi*, was collected at the Kozhippara Waterfalls near Kakkadampoyil, at the border between Malappuram and Kozhikode.

Nasikabatrachus bhupathi: A New species of the genus *Nasikabatrachus*

- A new species of the endemic frog genus *Nasikabatrachus* has been discovered from the eastern slopes of the Western Ghats.



- The newly discovered frog is named *Nasikabatrachus bhupathi*.
- It has a snout-shaped nose, just like a pig's and is a soil dwelling species of purple frog.



- It inhabits the eastern slopes of the Western Ghats, near the Srivilliputhur Grizzled Giant Squirrel Wildlife Sanctuary in Tamil Nadu.
- The discovery is significant as it constitutes additional evidence in favour of the theory of continental drift.
- The frog is an inhabitant of Seychelles, and the discovery of this frog species in India suggests that the Indian subcontinent was part of the ancient landmass of Gondwana before splitting from Seychelles 65 million years ago.

STATE

‘Indira Canteen Scheme’

- ‘Indira Canteen Scheme’ was launched in Bengaluru.

- The Indira Canteen scheme—a Karnataka state government initiative named after former prime minister Indira Gandhi—aimed at providing food at low cost to the urban poor.
- The canteens are loosely modelled on Tamil Nadu's 'Amma Canteens'

Haryana banned mixing of liquid nitrogen with any drink

- The Haryana food and drugs administration department has banned flushing/mixing of liquid nitrogen with any drink or food article.
- The prohibitory orders have already been issued under Section 34 of Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006. Liquid nitrogen can also cause frost bite, leading to instant death.



Coconut palm declared as State tree of Goa

- The Goa state government has decided to include coconut palm as a tree in the Goa, Daman and Diu Preservation of Trees Act, 1984, to regulate felling of coconut trees under the act.
- The cabinet has also declare the coconut tree as the “state tree”.

MahaDBT, MahaVASTU online portals launched by Maharashtra govt

- Maharashtra Government has launched two online portals MahaDBT and MahaVASTU to streamline the process of direct benefit transfer and to bring in more transparency in construction sectors, respectively.

Spice Park

- The Telangana Government is setting up a Spices Park in Nizamabad for turmeric.
- The idea of setting up of Spices Park is to eliminate middlemen and provide the farmers with remunerative prices for the commodity.
- Land and funds for Spices Park will be provided by the State Government and Spices Board of India will provide technical support.
- Spices Board is under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry and it is the regulatory and export promotion agency for Indian spices, headquartered in Kochi.

Punjab has launched “Care Companion programme”

- The Punjab government has launched its flagship health scheme “Care Companion Programme (CCP)” to educate family members of patient about taking better care of patients.
- The CCP scheme is targeted to improve patients outcome by implementing better family engagement.
- The innovative programme includes teaching the family of patient’s to take care of the patients in the hospital and at home.

Mumbai Metro introduces India's first Mobile Ticketing System

- Mumbai Metro One will launch the India’s first Mobile Ticketing System ‘OnGo’ which will help commuters pass the Automated Fare Collection (AFC) gates using their mobile phones.
- Commuters of Mumbai Metro will now be able to make use their smartphones for journey ticket, apart from tokens and smart cards
- The commuters will be able to buy tickets or monthly passes using the Mumbai Metro app on their smartphone.
- The system is in the final advanced stage of testing and will be implemented by mid-August.

India’s first helicopter-taxi (heli-taxi) service will be started in Bengaluru

- India’s first helicopter-taxi (heli-taxi) service will be started in Bengaluru, Karnataka for those who cannot afford to spend time battling traffic to travel across the city.
- The Kempegowda International Airport will become the first airport in India to have this facility.
- The service will be operated by Thumbby Aviation Private Limited and is expected to take off within three months.

Government declares entire Assam as ‘disturbed’ area under AFSPA for another month

- Assam has been declared “disturbed” under the AFSPA with effect from August 3 till August 31. Areas near Meghalaya’s border, areas adjoining Assam and

three districts in Arunachal Pradesh have also been declared as “disturbed” under the AFSPA for two more months with effect from August 3.

- AFSPA has been continuing in Assam since November 1990.
- The AFSPA was enacted by the parliament in 1958.
- Presently AFSPA is enforced in the 6 states of North East (Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram and Nagaland) and Jammu and Kashmir.
- It was lifted in Tripura in May 2015.

Chhattisgarh: India's first micro forest being built in Raipur

- India's first micro forest will be built in Raipur, Chattisgarh. Approximately, 19 acres of land which housed around 70 government office buildings will be converted into micro forest in order to create an oxy-zone.
- The micro forest will provide fresh air to Raipur which is the 7th most polluted city in the world.
- It will reportedly be open to the public in the next 8 months.

Maharashtra to raise \$270 m from Green Climate Fund

- The 2030 Water Resources Group (2030WRG) will help the Maharashtra Government to raise \$270 million from the Green Climate Fund, which will be invested in integrated watershed programmes such as Jalyukt Shivar Yojana.
- One of the areas of work under the platform will be acceleration of water use efficiency programme in irrigated areas, along with agriculture growth and income enhancement.
- It will also develop public-private-community partnership models for implementation of the programmes.
- The Green Climate Fund (GCF) is a new fund under the UN and is guided by the principles and provisions of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change.
- The 2030WRG is hosted by the International Finance Corporation and is public-private-civil society collaboration for water resources reform in developing economies.
- Its ultimate aim is to close the gap between water demand and supply by the year 2030.

Namami Gange Jagriti Yatra launched by UP government

- The Uttar Pradesh Government has launched Namami Gange Jagriti Yatra, an awareness drive along banks of Ganga River to maintain cleanliness. The campaign was flagged off by Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath from the state capital in Lucknow.

Bihar Government launched mobile therapy van for elderly people

- Nitish Kumar, the Chief Minister of Bihar, has recently flagged off mobile therapy vans which would provide basic medical assistance to elderly people, widows and other section who requires social security.
- The therapy vans will be equipped with basic medical apparatus and accompanied by a technical team.

- The van is an outcome of a joint project of the World Bank and the Bihar government which is run by Social Welfare department.

Odisha govt and Facebook launches 'She Means Business' programme

- Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik launched 'She Means Business' programme of Facebook for women entrepreneurs in Odisha.
- Under the scheme 25, 000 women entrepreneurs and self-help group (SHG) members will be given training on digital marketing skills within next one year. Facebook will also make a database of entrepreneurs in the state and will monitor their growth, turnover and profit after one year.

Maharashtra: Namo Yuva Rojgar Kendra

- Devendra Fadnavis, the Chief Minister of Maharashtra, has launched 'Namo Yuva Rojgar Kendra' on August 14, 2017 to provide job opportunities to unemployed youth in Mumbai.
- Under this initiative, there are various schemes like farmers weekly market, farmers mobile market and mother's tiffin.
- These products will be made available with the help of mobile vans all over Mumbai and the information about the location of the vans is made available through an app.

India's first museum on the Partition of the Indian Sub-continent


- After 70 years, India's first museum on the Partition of the Indian Sub-continent will soon open in Town Hall building in the city of Amritsar, Punjab, which focuses on stories and display memorabilia of survivors.
- 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, as communal clashes left hundreds of thousands of Hindus, Muslims and Sikhs dead and another 15 million displaced from their ancestral homes.

Partition of India

- The Partition split British India into India and Pakistan in 1947.
- The partition was part of the end of British rule over the Indian subcontinent.
- It was caused in part by the two-nation theory presented by Sir Syed Ahmed Khan.
- The main spokesperson for Partition was M.A.Jinnah. He became the first Governor- General of Pakistan.
- Millions of people moved across the new Radcliffe line between the two newly formed states.

Uttar Pradesh launched Chief Minister's Helpline

- UP state government has proposed to operationalise a 1,000-seater grievance cell in Lucknow —to be christened 'Chief Minister's Helpline' —which will be capable of handling as many as 80,000 calls a day from harried residents from across the state on a single toll-free number.



24X7 Support

CM TO MONITOR
set-up through
a special dashboard

COMPLAINANTS
WILL RECEIVE
commitment
via text messages
specifying
"minimum time"
for resolving issue

CELL WILL
CONTACT the
complainant for
feedback on quality
of work done

Will allow
55,000
outbound calls per day
for follow-up action

CALLS PERTAINING TO
EMERGENCIES LIKE LAW AND
order or medical will be
transferred by to the existing
'UP 100' service

Odisha launched a New Renewable energy programme

- Odisha launched a grid-connected rooftop solar programme through the net-metering system
- The Chief Minister of Odisha, has launched a grid-connected rooftop solar programme through the net-metering system at the Bhubaneswar in a bid to enable public participation to harness renewable energy.
- The State government will provide 30% subsidy to the consumers belonging to residential and institutional segments as well as to registered societies and trusts.
- At present, current investment for installation of a rooftop project is around Rs 70,000 per KW.
- The web portal "www.rtsodisha.gov.in" was also launched that will provide an opportunity to the stakeholders to interact with customers for timely delivery of services online.
- Under the programme, consumers can install solar plants on their rooftops and consume the generated solar power during day time.
- Excess power can be sold to the grid at 220 v/440 v levels through service cables.
- The program is being implemented by Odisha Renewable Energy Development Agency (OREDA).

Kerala Launched a new 'E-Waste Disposal' scheme

- The Kerala government has recently launched a new 'E-Waste Disposal' scheme in its state schools with an aim to process the electronic waste in the IT labs, offices and stores.
- Through this scheme, over 1 crore kilogram of e-waste from over 10,000 schools and offices will be scientifically recycle, and the funds earned through this e-waste disposal will be used to buy new computers for the same institutions.
- The E-waste includes old monitors, mouse, keyboards and UPS, among other things that have been lying unused since 2000 in the state.
- The programme is a joint initiative of Kerala Infrastructure and Technology for Education (KITE), formerly IT@School project and Clean Kerala Company.

West Bengal's Gobindobhog rice gets Geographical Indication status

- Gobindobhog rice, a specialty from Burdwan district of West Bengal, has got the geographical indication (GI) status.
- The region of Burdwan (now divided into the districts of east and west Burdwan) is known as the rice bowl of Bengal.
- The south Damodar belt has been the traditional area of Gobindobhog rice cultivation.
- It is cultivated late and therefore not much affected by rains.
- It is a short grain, white, aromatic, sticky rice having a sweet buttery flavour.
- It is less prone to pests as well. The productivity per area is high and farmers get better prices for Gobindobhog rice.

PERSONALITIES, AWARDS AND EVENTS

Renowned scientist Pushpa Mitra Bhargava passed away

- Renowned scientist Pushpa Mitra Bhargava, the founder director of CSIR-Centre for Cellular Molecular Biology (CCMB) Hyderabad, passed away.
- Bhargava is a pioneer in the field of biotechnology in the country and he was instrumental in setting up a separate department for biotechnology (DBT) in the Union Ministry of Science and Technology in the 1970.



- In 2005, he initiated and played a major role in drafting the Indian Council for Medical Research's (ICMR) national guidelines for accreditation, supervision and regulation of Assisted Reproductive Technology (ART) clinics in India.

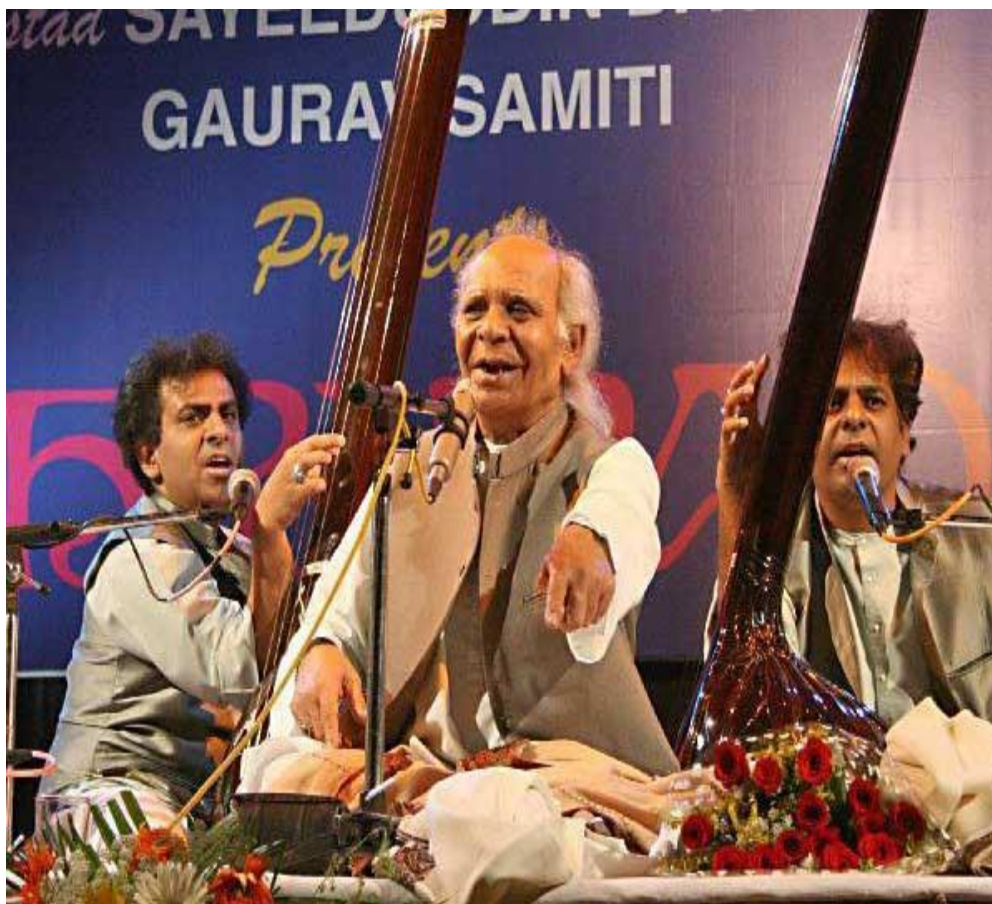
Niti Aayog vice-chairman Arvind Panagariya Quits

- Arvind Panagariya resigns as Niti Aayog vice-chairman. In August 2014, PM Narendra Modi had announced that the Planning Commission had become redundant, and handpicked Panagariya to head the organisation in its new avatar, the National Institution for Transforming India.



Eminent Dhrupad singer Ustad Sayeeduddin Dagar passed away

- Ustad Hussain Sayeeduddin Dagar, one of the foremost exponents of the Dhrupad tradition, died.
- He was the youngest of the famous seven 'Dagar Bandhus' and had dedicated his life to keeping the Dhrupad tradition alive. Born in Alwar, Rajasthan on April 29, 1939, he started his musical journey at the age of six.



- Dagar was also President of Dhrupad Society Jaipur and Pune.

S. Aparna appointed as Executive Director, World Bank

- S. Aparna, an IAS officer from Gujarat cadre has been appointed as Executive Director, World Bank to represent the constituency of India, Bangladesh, Bhutan and Sri Lanka for three years.
- A 1988-batch IAS, she is currently Principal Secretary to Gujarat Chief Minister Vijay Rupani. At the World Bank, she will replace Subhash Garg, who was recently appointed Economic Affairs Secretary, Ministry of Finance.
- The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) headed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi cleared Ms.Aparna's name for the position.

Rajiv Kumar as the new vice chairman of NitiAayog

- Economist Dr Rajiv Kumar was named as the new Vice Chairman of NITI Aayog, five days after the incumbent Arvind Panagariya announced that he would quit to return to academics.
- He was a member of the National Security Advisory Board between 2006 and 2008.
- He has also served as the chief economist of the Confederation of Indian Industries (CII) and held senior positions in the the Asian Development Bank, the Indian Ministry of Industries, and the Ministry of Finance.



- Kumar is also a member of boards of several international and national institutions, including the King Abdullah Petroleum Studies and Research Center in Riyadh, the Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and Asia in Jakarta, the State Bank of India, and the Indian Institute of Foreign Trade.
- The government also appointed Dr Vinod Paul, a pediatrician at the AIIMS, as a member of the NITI Aayog.

New Chairman of Film Audit Board: Praseen Joshi Appointment

- Central government sacked BahalamNihalani from the post of Central Film Audit Board (CBFC). He was replaced by the national award winning Bollywood songwriter Praseen Joshi.



- Popular filmmaker Bahalaj Nihalani was appointed as the head of the Film Audit Board in January 2015.
- During the last two and half years of his career, there were various controversies raised. Other members of the audit board accused him of specifically acting in dictatorship. Recently, the Censor Board issued a major controversy for cutting scenes in different places in the film 'Hindu Sarkar' directed by famous director Madhur Bhandarkar.
- Furthermore, the Censor Board refused to allow 'Lipstick Under My Burqa' to be screened by various parties.

- In this scenario, the Central Board of Information and Broadcasting has removed Bahala Nihalani from the position of Chairman of Film Audit Board. Renowned Bollywood songwriter Prasoon Joshi has been appointed for the post.

Milkha Singh appointed WHO's ambassador for physical activity

- Sprint legend Milkha Singh has been appointed as the World Health Organisation's goodwill ambassador for physical activity in South-East Asia Region (SEAR)
- As goodwill ambassador, he will promote WHO SEAR's Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs) prevention and control action plan which seeks to reduce the level of insufficient physical activity by 10% and NCDs by 25% by 2025.
- Milkha Singh, also known as 'the Flying Sikh', is a Padma Shri awardee and had won medals in athletics in Commonwealth and Asian games.

Ashwani Lohani takes charge as new Railway Board Chairman

- Ashwani Lohani, who was at the helm of Air India for two years was appointed as the Chairman of the Railway Board.
- Incumbent Chairman of the Railway Board A.K.Mital tendered his resignation following back-to-back train accidents.
- Ashwani Lohani has also served as the India Tourism Development Corporation chairman and headed the Rail Museum

Rishang Keishing passes away

- Former Manipur Chief Minister and a member of the first Lok Sabha Rishang Keishing passed away on August 22nd, 2017. The veteran Congress leader was 96.
- Rishang Keishing was born in Bungpa Khunou village in the present-day Ukhrul district of Manipur on October 25, 1920.
- Keishing contested and got elected to the first Lok Sabha in 1952 as a candidate of the Socialist Party.

National Agriculture Leadership Award-2017

- Telangana Chief Minister K Chandrashekhara Rao has been selected for the prestigious National Agriculture Leadership Award-2017 by the Indian Council of Food and Agriculture (ICFA) under the chairmanship of well-known agriculture scientist Prof MS Swaminathan. Rao.
- The Chief Minister has been selected for the award for his innovative services rendered to the welfare of farmers and the farm sector.
- The award will be presented on September 5, 2017 at Taj Palace Hotel in New Delhi.
- The award, instituted by Indian Council of Food and Agriculture in 2008, is presented every year since then.
- The award was given annually to recognise efforts made in agriculture and farm economy.
- The past recipients of the award instituted in 2008 include Prof. M.S. Swaminathan (2008), Dr. Balram Jakhar (2009), Sharad Pawar (2010), Prof. P.K.

Dhumal (2011), Dr. Raman Singh (2012), Prakash Singh Badal (2013), Akhilesh Yadav (2014), Shivraj Singh Chauhan (2015) and Ratan Tata (2016).

Justice Dipak Misra sworn in as 45th Chief Justice of India

- Justice Dipak Misra was sworn on 28.08.17 as the 45th Chief Justice of India (CJI).
- At a brief ceremony in the Darbar Hall of Rashtrapati Bhawan, President Ramnath Kovind administered the oath of office to Misra
- Justice Deepak Misra succeeded Chief Justice Jagdish Singh Khehar.
- Chief Justice Misra will preside over the top court for 13 months and six days - till October 2, 2018
- Justice Misra was part of the bench that confirmed the death sentence of the four convicts in the December 16 gang rape case, and passed the order for mandatory singing of the national anthem in cinema halls

SPORTS

World Athletic Championship: Tori Bowie win gold in Women's 100m

- Tori Bowie won gold medal in Women's 100-meter race event in World Athletic Championships.
- Elaine Thompson, Jamaica's Olympic champion, was beaten by Tori Bowie. Elaine secured 5th place in the event. Tori Bowie took 10.85 seconds to finish the race.
- The 16th World Athletic Championships tournament is being held in London.

FIBA Asia Cup 2017: Asia's biggest basketball tournament has started in Beirut, Lebanon

- The FIBA Asia Cup, (formerly known as the FIBA Asia Championship) is the 29th continental basketball championship in Asia, which is started from August 8-20, 2017.
- It is an international basketball tournament which takes place every two years between men's national teams of Asia.
- This was the Asian qualifying tournament for the FIBA Basketball World Cup and the Olympic basketball tournament.
- Indian men's team, led by Amjyot Singh Gill, is participating in the tournament

Bulgaria Open – lakshya Champions

- India's 16-year-old Lakshya Sen won the Bulgaria Open International Series
- Lakshya clinched a three-game win against second seed Zvonimir Durkinjak from Croatia .

National Sports Awards – 2017

(i) Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna 2017

S. No.	Name of the Awardee	discipline
1.	Shri Devendra	Para Athlete
2.	Shri Sardar Singh	Hockey

(ii) Dronacharya Awards 2017

S. No.	Name of the Awardee	Discipline
1.	Late Dr. R. Gandhi	Athletics
2.	Mr. Heera Nand Kataria	Kabaddi
3.	Mr. G.S.S.V. Prasad	Badminton (Lifetime)
4.	Mr. Brij Bhushan Mohanty	Boxing (Lifetime)
5.	Mr. P.A. Raphael	Hockey (Lifetime)
6.	Mr. Sanjoy Chakraverthy	Shooting (Lifetime)
7.	Mr. Roshan Lal	Wrestling (Lifetime)

(iii) Arjuna Awards 2017

S. No.	Name of the Awardees	Discipline
1.	Ms. V.J. Surekha	Archery
2.	Ms. Khushbir Kaur	Athletics
3.	Mr. Arokia Rajiv	Athletics
4.	Ms. Prasanthi Singh	Basketball
5.	Sub. Laishram Debendro Singh	Boxing
6.	Mr. Cheteshwar Pujara	Cricket
7.	Ms. Harmanpreet Kaur	Cricket
8.	Ms. Oinam Bembem Devi	Football
9.	Mr. S.S.P. Chawrasia	Golf
10.	Mr. S.V. Sunil	Hockey
11.	Mr. Jasvir Singh	Kabaddi
12.	Mr. P. N. Prakash	Shooting
13.	Mr. A. Amalraj	Table Tennis
14.	Mr. Saketh Myneni	Tennis
15.	Mr. Satyawart Kadian	Wrestling
16.	Mr. Mariyappan	Para-Athlete
17.	Mr. Varun Singh Bhati	Para-Athlete

(iv) Dhyan Chand Award

S. No.	Name (S/Shri)	Discipline
1 .	Mr. Bhupender Singh	Athletics
2.	Mr. Syed Shahid Hakim	Football
3.	Ms. Sumarai Tete	Hockey

- The awardees will received their awards from the President of India at a specially organized function at the Rashtrapati Bhawan on August 29, 2017.
- Apart from a medal and a citation, Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna Awardee will receive a cash prize of Rs. 7.5 lakh. Arjuna, Dronacharya and Dhyan Chand Awardees will received statuettes, certificates and cash prize of Rs. 5 lakh each.

National Sports Museum to be established in New Delhi

- The Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports is going to establish National Sports Museum, first of its kind, at Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium, New Delhi.
- The Museum will showcase the India's achievements in sports and also focus on the traditional sports within the country.
- The aim of the Museum is to popularise the sports as a way of life within the country.
- Accordingly, the proposed Museum would go beyond the classical approach of a collection of memorabilia to become an interactive venue of interest for all age groups.
- It will display achievements of the Indian greats in sports and also act as an educational hub and offer opportunity for the young to delve into some sporting activity.

First edition of Grameen Khel Mahotsav

- The first edition of Rural Games or Grameen Khel Mahotsav will kick-start from Delhi and will take place between 28th August to 3rd September 2017.
- The purpose of the Rural Games is to popularize the indigenous games like wrestling and athletics and will also have fun games like Matka Race, Tug of War for senior citizens.
- The Union Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports will also launch sports talent search portal.
- The portal will enable any person from across country to upload his information and as per that the Ministry will tap their talent and train them further in their respective disciplines.

World Badminton - Sindhu won silver

- India's P.V.Sindhu won silver medal in women's single title in World Badminton Championship.
- In the final match held at Glasgow of Scotland, Sindhu lost against Japan's NozomiOkuhara.

- This is the first time Sindhu played in the finals of World Badminton Championship. Sindhu is the second Indian to play in the finals of World badminton Championship.
- The first Indian, who reached till final was Saina Newal in the last Championship event at Jagarta.
- In the last year's World Badminton Championship (2016), Saina won Bronze for India while Sindhu won Silver for India. This is the first time India has won two medals in World Championship event.

MISCELLANEOUS

August 15 to be celebrated as 'Sankalp Parva': Central Govt

- The Centre has decided to observe this Independence Day as 'Sankalp Parva' and asked the people to dedicate themselves to social causes and share their ideas to make a new India.

World Breastfeeding Week: August 1st to 7th

- The World Breastfeeding Week (WBW) is observed every year from August 1st to 7th to focus attention on the important aspect of promotion and support of breastfeeding.



WABA | WORLD BREASTFEEDING WEEK

**SUSTAINING
BREASTFEEDING
TOGETHER**

1-7
August
2017

Objectives of WABA|World Breastfeeding Week 2017

			
INFORM	ANCHOR	ENGAGE	GALVANISE
Understand the importance of working together across the four Thematic Areas	Recognise your role and the difference you make within your area of work	Reach out to others to establish areas of common interest	Work together to achieve the SDGs by 2030

- The 2017 theme is "Sustaining Breastfeeding Together".
- The World Breastfeeding Week's 25th year in 2017

7 August: National Handloom Day

- The National Handloom Day is being observed every year on 7 August to honour the handloom weavers in the country and also carter an impetus to India's handloom industry.
- This year it was third edition of the National Handloom Day after it was instituted in 2015.

The 8th edition of Global Entrepreneurship Summit (GES)-2017 will be hosted by India

- The 8th edition of Global Entrepreneurship Summit (GES)-2017 will be hosted by India and is scheduled to be held on November 28, 2017 at Hyderabad.
- The NITI Aayog in association with the Ministry of External Affairs and the Andhra Pradesh government have been assigned with organising the event.
- The GES brings together investors and entrepreneurs from around the world to create new opportunities for collaboration.
- The summit will promote economic growth, inclusion and opportunities among entrepreneurs from across the world, with a special focus on emerging nations from Africa and Asia.
- The summit was started in 2010 under the leadership of then US President Barack Obama at Washington DC to bring entrepreneurs from across the globe on one platform.
- US President Donald trump's daughter Ivanka trump will be participated in this Summit.

India – ASEAN Youth summit, 2017 will be held in Bhopal:

- The 2017 India – ASEAN Youth summit will be held in Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh from August 14 to 19, 2017
- Theme: 'Shared values, common destiny'.
- This event is being organized in collaboration with the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Secretariat and the India Foundation.
- Over 100 delegates from 10 ASEAN countries – Brunei, Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Malaysia, Indonesia, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Vietnam – will participate in the summit.
- This forum will enhance people-to-people contacts between India and ASEAN countries.

Asia's 30 largest cities

- The recent study by Oxford Economics ranked Asia's 30 largest cities.
- According to it, Delhi will have the fastest growth of any city in Asia, with the economy to be almost 50% larger in 2021 than it was at the end of the last year.
- Indian cities are set to expand the most across the region, with growth speeding up from the past 5 years.

TOP 10 FASTEST GROWING CITIES

Rank	City	GDP growth in %
1	Delhi	8.3
2	Ho Chi Minh City	7.9
3	Chennai	7.6
4	Mumbai	7.5
5	Hyderabad	7.1
6	Bengaluru	6.9
7	Beijing	6.7
8	Tianjin	6.7
9	Kolkata	6.6
10	Guangzhou	6.6

Source: Bloomberg

- Financial and business services are projected to be the fastest growing sector in India.
- China's expansion will be slow and Ho Chi Minh City in Vietnam was the only non-Indian city in the top 5.

WORLD LION DAY: 10 August

- World Lion Day (10th August) aims to raise awareness about the conservation issues that lions face and celebrate this magnificent animal.

August 10: World Bio Fuel Day

- Every year 10th August is observed as World Bio-Fuel Day in a bid to create awareness about non fossil-fuels (Green Fuels).
- On this day in 1893, Sir Rudolph Diesel (inventor of the diesel engine) for the first time successfully ran mechanical engine with Peanut Oil.

World Elephant Day: August 12

- World Elephant Day is an international annual event on August 12, dedicated to the preservation and protection of the world's elephants.
- The goal of World Elephant Day is to create awareness of the urgent plight of African and Asian elephants, and to share knowledge and positive solutions for the better care and management of captive and wild elephants.

- African elephants are listed as "Vulnerable" and Asian elephants as "Endangered" on the IUCN Red List of threatened species.

International Youth Day: August 12

- International Youth Day (IYD) is an awareness day designated by the United Nations. The purpose of the day is to draw attention to a given set of cultural and legal issues surrounding youth.
- The first IYD was observed on 12 August, 2000.

2017 theme:

- The theme of IYD is "Youth Building Peace" which recognises the contributions of young people to preventing conflict, supporting inclusion, social justice, and sustainable peace.

World Humanitarian Day: 19 August

- World Humanitarian Day (WHD) is held every year on 19 August to pay tribute to aid workers who risk their lives in humanitarian service, and to rally support for people affected by crises around the world. It was designated by the United Nations General Assembly.
- 2017 WHD campaign theme: Not A Target

Global Liveability Ranking

- Melbourne, Australia - World's most liveable city
- Australia's Melbourne city has been named the world's most liveable city for the sixth consecutive year, according to the Global Liveability Ranking.
- Global Liveability Ranking is a list of 140 cities published by the Economist Intelligence Unit.
- The ranking considers 30 factors related to things like public safety, healthcare, education, infrastructure and environment.
- Melbourne is followed by Austrian capital Vienna and Canada's Vancouver.
- The least liveable city is Damascus at 140th place.
- No Indian cities were ranked in the top ten or bottom ten in the list

World Photography Day: August 19

- The World Photography Day (WPD) is observed every year on August 19 to inspire photographers across the planet to share a single photo with a simple purpose: to share their world with the world.

International Day for the Remembrance of the Slave Trade and its Abolition - August 23

- International Day for the Remembrance of the Slave Trade and its Abolition, August 23 of each year, the day designated by UNESCO to memorialize the transatlantic slave trade.
- The date is significant because, during the night of August 22 to August 23, 1791, on the island of Saint Domingue (now known as Haiti), an uprising began

which set forth events which were a major factor in the abolition of the transatlantic slave trade.

National Sports Day: August 29

- The National Sports Day is observed every year on 29th august every year to birth anniversary of the legendary hockey player Dhyan Chand who was born on 29 August 1905.

Dhyan Chand

- The legendary hockey player was born on 29 August 1905 in Allahabad, Uttar Pradesh.
 - The Government of India honoured him by conferring the Padma Bhushan
 - He is mostly remembered for his extraordinary goal-scoring feats, in addition to earning 3 Olympic gold medals in field hockey in 1928 (Amsterdam), 1932 (Los Angeles) and 1936 (Berlin).
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