

TNPSC THERVUPETTAGAM CURRENT AFFAIRS – OCTOBER, 2017

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Plot No.1742, 1st Floor, 18th Main Road, Anna Nagar, Chennai – 600 040.

Phone : 044-26216435, 64597222, 4353 3445, Mobile : 94441 66435

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TNPSC BITS

- ❖ The government of India has appointed Rajnish Kumar as chairman of the State Bank of India (SBI).
- ❖ Tamil Nadu Special Police XIII Battalion, Poonamallee, will be converted into Tamil Nadu Disaster Response Force (TNDRF) to tackle emergencies during the north-east monsoon.
- ❖ The Supreme Court of India has appointed senior advocate and former additional solicitor general Amrender Sharan as amicus curiae on petition seeking reprobe into assassination of Mahatma Gandhi.
- ❖ The Union Government has made linking Aadhaar mandatory for Public Provident Fund, National Savings Certificate and Kisan Vikas Patra schemes.
- ❖ The Tamil Nadu government would go ahead with excavations in Keezhadi on its own, and has obtained necessary approvals from the Central Advisory Board of Archaeology (CABA). This is not a pilot project but a full-scale project and an in-depth excavation.
- ❖ The first-ever meeting of newly-constituted Economic Advisory Council to Prime Minister (EAC-PM) was held at NITI Aayog, in New Delhi. It was chaired by Dr. Bibek Debroy, Member NITI Aayog.
- ❖ Chief Minister of Tamilnadu inaugurated a newly-constructed Rs. 360 crore footwear manufacturing unit at Bargur in Krishnagiri district.
- ❖ Mr. Gauatam Bambawale, currently serving as High Commissioner to Pakistan, was appointed as new ambassador to China.
- ❖ Bangladesh naval ship Somudra Avijan arrived on a four-day goodwill visit to the Eastern Naval Command (ENC), Vizag of Andra pradesh.
- ❖ Rajya Sabha Chairman M Venkaiah Naidu has constituted a five-member committee, headed by Prasar Bharati Chairman A. Surya Prakash, has been formed to select the candidate for the post of editor-in-chief of Rajya Sabha TV (RSTV).
- ❖ The Union Ministry of Telecommunications cleared the detailed project report (DPR) of the project, which was prepared and submitted by the Tamil Nadu Cable TV Corporation last month, for providing internet services through optical fiber cable.
- ❖ The union government appointed senior IPS officer of the Gujarat cadre Rakesh Asthana as the special director of the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI). The Appointments Committee of Cabinet (ACC) promoted the 1984-cadre officer who is currently posted as additional director.
- ❖ Shri Sibi George 1993 IFS officer, presently Joint Secretary in the Ministry of External Affairs has been appointed as the next Ambassador of India to Switzerland.

- ❖ Suresh Sethi was appointed as new Managing Director & Chief Executive Officer (MD & CEO) of India Post Payments Bank (IPPB).
- ❖ Gina miller, an Indian-origin campaigner has been named the UK's most influential black person of the year for winning a legal challenge that prevented British Prime Minister Theresa May from triggering Brexit without Parliament's approval.
- ❖ Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas launched Start-up Sangam initiative to develop new business models, marketing plans, technology and innovations in heavy oil and gas industry sector by supporting 30 start-ups.
- ❖ The Election Commission on 25-10-2017 announced dates for Gujarat Assembly election. With the announcement the model code of conduct has come into force with immediate effect. The Election Commission announced the election dates 13 days after the announcement of schedule for Himachal Pradesh.
- ❖ The Centre has instructed states not to deny PDS benefits to any beneficiary who does not have Aadhaar or has not linked ration card to the Aadhaar and also asked state governments not to delete eligible households from the list of beneficiaries for non- possession of Aadhaar.
- ❖ 'Anna', meaning elder brother in Tamil and Telugu, has finally found recognition in the Oxford English Dictionary (OED) In all, 70 new Indian words from Telugu, Urdu, Tamil, Hindi and Gujarati have been added to the dictionary in the latest update that happened a month ago.
- ❖ The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet has approved the appointment of Shri Alok Kumar Pateria, IPS as Additional Director General, CISF.
- ❖ Saudi Arabia is the first country to grant citizenship to a robot named 'Sophia'. It is a humanoid robot developed by Hanson Robotics.
- ❖ The Fourth World Tamils Economic Conference will be held in Durban, South Africa. Vice President M. Venkaiah Naidu will participate in the event which commences on November 16.
- ❖ Y.C. Modi, a 1984-batch Assam-Meghalaya cadre IPS officer, took over the reins of the country's premier anti-terror organisation, the National Investigation Agency (NIA) — as its new Director-General.
- ❖ IAS officer Satya Gopal has been appointed as a chief secretary of Arunchal Pradesh.

TAMILNADU

T.N. reduces IMR to all-time low of 17

- ❖ Tamil Nadu's Infant Mortality Rate (IMR) has dropped to an all-time low of 17, dropping two points, as per the latest figures released as part of the Sample Registration Survey.
- ❖ The main reasons that accounts for the fall of IMR are,
 1. Access to affordable health care at the neo natal stage
 2. The impact of good vaccination coverage (MR and against Rota Virus)
 3. The dip in higher order births (Only 8 out of every 100 women have more than two children)
- ❖ Efforts have been made to improve the care available to the new born through the Neonatal ICU (NICU) and comprehensive emergency obstetric care for the mothers.
- ❖ With over 99% of deliveries being institutionalised in the State, the chances for maternal and infant deaths have reduced substantially.
- ❖ The recent emphasis on exclusive breastfeeding for six months since birth is bound to have had an impact in improving outcomes.

Tamilnadu Electoral roll

- ❖ The Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) of Tamilnadu Mr.Rajesh Lakkani has announced that total number of electors in Tamilnadu is 5.95 crore people.
- ❖ Sholinganallur Assembly constituency has the highest number of voters in the State. 6.24 lakh voters there are in that constituency.
- ❖ The lowest voters are in Kilvelur constituency of Nagai District.1.68 lakh voters are there in that constituency.

Banwarilal Purohit sworn in as Governor of Tamil Nadu

- ❖ Banwarilal Purohit was sworn in as the 25th Governor of Tamil Nadu in an oath-taking ceremony held at Raj Bhavan in Chennai.
- ❖ The Chief Justice of Madras High Court, Justice Indira Banerjee administered the oath of office to Purohit.
- ❖ Purohit, who was previously the Governor of Assam, will replace the current governor of Tamil Nadu, Vidyasagar Rao.

Tamil Nadu Cabinet approves 7th Pay Commission

- ❖ The Tamil Nadu state cabinet consented to implement the recommendations of 7th Pay Commission.
- ❖ The decision was taken during the Cabinet meeting chaired by Tamil Nadu Chief Minister, after receiving a report from a high-level committee headed by Finance Secretary K Shanmugan.
- ❖ The recommendations of the Seventh pay Commission of the Central government formed the basis for the Pay revision.
- ❖ Followed by the Centre, the present pay had been increased by 2.57 % for Tamilnadu Government employees.

PIL to declare Arakkonam as general constituency rejected

- ❖ The HC has rejected a plea for a directive to the Election Commission (EC) and the State Election Commission (SEC) to declare Arakkonam constituency, reserved for SC candidates, as a general constituency.
- ❖ The judgement was based on Article 329(a) of Indian Constitution.
- ❖ Article 329(a) states that,
 - “the validity of any law relating to the delimitation of constituencies or the allotment of seats to such constituencies, made or purporting to be made under Article 327 or Article 328, shall not be called in question in any court”.

Delimitation Commission

- ❖ Delimitation literally means the act or process of fixing limits or boundaries of territorial constituencies in a country or a province having a legislative body.
- ❖ The job of delimitation is assigned to a high power body known as Delimitation Commission or a Boundary Commission.
- ❖ In India is Delimitation Commissions constituted once in ten years and so far constituted 4 times in 1952, 1963 , 1973 and 2002.
- ❖ Delimitation Commission in India is a high power body whose orders have the force of law and cannot be called in question before any court.
- ❖ The copies of its orders are laid before the House of the People and the State Legislative Assembly concerned, but no modifications are permissible therein by them.
- ❖ This body has its origin under Article 82 of the Constitution which has provision that the Parliament by law enacts a Delimitation Act after every census. After coming into force commencement of the Act, the Central Government constitutes a Delimitation Commission.

Committees for protection of wetlands

- ❖ The Tamilnadu government has notified the constitution of District Level Wetland Management Committee in continuation of its efforts to preserve the wetlands across the State.
- ❖ It would be responsible for the management and conservation of wetlands in each of the districts.
- ❖ The District Collector would be the chairperson of the 11-member committee and the District Forest Officer would be the Member Secretary.
- ❖ The Tamil Nadu State Wetland Authority that functions as an apex body to bring about an integrated management of wetlands in the State would guide the district committees and monitor their functioning.

Integrated management system at VOC

- ❖ Thoothukudi VOC Port has become the first major port in India to implement Integrated Management System (IMS) by bringing the
 - Quality Management System (QMS),
 - Environment Management System (EMS) and
 - Occupational Health and Safety Assessment Series (OHSAS)under one system complying with ISO certifications.
- ❖ The integration of QMS, EMS and OHSAS will simplify the documentation procedures, besides unifying the audit work by abolishing the three separate auditing and also it will reduce the work load.
- ❖ The certificates and accreditations will be renewed annually.

Umaru Pulavar birth anniversary celebrated

- ❖ The birth anniversary of Tamil poet Umaru Pulavar was celebrated as a government function for the first time at Ettayapuram in the Tuticorin district.
- ❖ Tamil poet Umaru Pulavar was well known for his literary work 'Seerapuranam.' His magnum opus, depicting the history of Prophet Mohammed in 5,027 verses, was considered to be one among the greatest works of Tamil poetry.

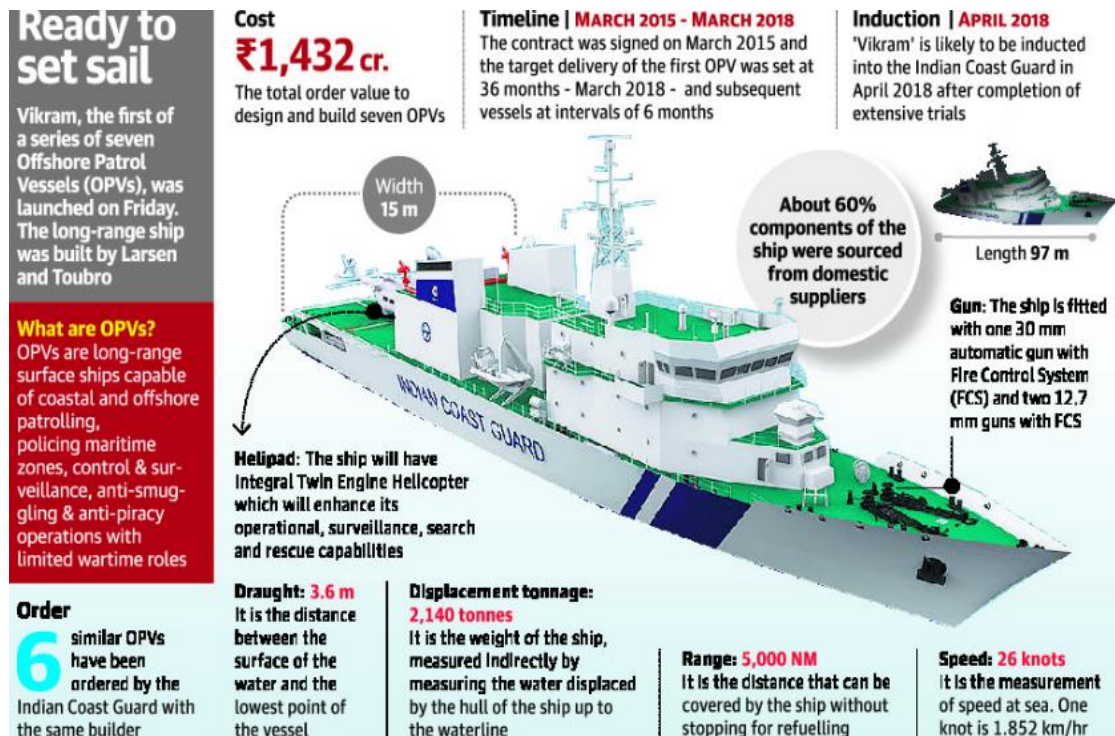
TN government announces fund for setting up Tamil Chair in Harvard

- ❖ The Tamil Nadu government announced a sum of ₹10 crores to set up a Chair for Tamil studies at the prestigious Harvard University, towards the plan mooted by two United States-based Tamil enthusiasts.

- ❖ The setting up of such a Chair would immensely contribute to Indology and also research on Tamil literature and culture
- ❖ Cardiologist Vijay Janakiraman and oncologist S.T. Sambandam had mooted the idea and had contributed funds for the proposal.

L&T hands over offshore patrol vessel to Coast Guard

- ❖ Larsen and Toubro (L&T) handed over the offshore patrol vessel (OPV) named “Vikram” to the Indian Coast Guard.



- ❖ It is the country's first-ever such defence craft to be built in a private shipyard.
- ❖ Vikram, the first of a series of seven Offshore Patrol Vessels (OPVs) was indigenously developed in-house at L & T’s Kattupalli shipyard at Kattupalli village near Ennore of Chennai.
- ❖ The entire design and construction processes have undergone dual certification from American Bureau of Shipping and Indian Registrar of Shipping.
- ❖ The vessel is equipped with state-of-the-art radars, navigation and communication systems capable of operating in tropical conditions.

Video piracy cell renamed

- ❖ The TN government has re-designated the Video Piracy Cell as Intellectual Property Right Enforcement Cell (IPREC).
- ❖ Units of IPREC in various districts of the State have been instructed to investigate offences such as the infringement of copyrights, trademarks, designs, patents and geographical indications of goods.
- ❖ The special cell will also investigate the cases which arise out of the violation of the provisions of the
 - ✓ Cable Television Networks(Regulation) Act,
 - ✓ Cinematograph Act,
 - ✓ Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers' Rights Act,
 - ✓ Semiconductor Integrated Circuits Layout design Act and
 - ✓ Biological Diversity Act.

Tamil Nadu police to get 3 transgender constables

- ❖ Dhakshayini of Cuddalore, Prabha Mohan of Krishnagiri and Jagadeeswaran alias Nazriya of Ramanathapuram qualified to join the police force after Tamil Nadu Police started the process of including the third gender into the force earlier this year
- ❖ A Police Training college is also preparing facilities for the third gender. They will be given the training that is given to female candidates.
- ❖ People of the third gender are eligible to apply for these posts as well. Although, they'll have to fulfill the physical criteria in the men's category.
- ❖ Earlier, there have been instances of transgenders joining the police force as females, many would be disqualified after their genders would be revealed.

Animal Ambulance for Elephants in Tamilnadu for the first time in India

- ❖ A specially designed hydraulic wildlife ambulance with medical facilities has been introduced at the Sathyamangalam Tiger Reserve (STR) to rescue and provide the treatment for the wild animals including harmed elephants and to maintain the safe passage of elephants.
- ❖ Sathyamangalam Tiger Reserve (STR) has many so many elephants. In recent times, the elephants, which are damaging the crops by entering into the villages after exiting the forests due to severe water deficit in the forests, are creating fears among the village people by staying in the same region.
- ❖ Moreover there are more human losses due to Man – Animal conflict when the elephants are trailing. In some cases, the forest authorities are chasing

the elephants, which have camped in the villages, by augmenting Kumki elephants.

- ❖ Apart from these, many animals have lost their life like animals stranded in the slushy water, diseased elephants, and the elephants, which are leaving the Sathyamangalam Tiger Reserve (STR) due to lack of food and fodder, in the absence of vehicles to rescue and provide the treatment.
- ❖ To prevent these type of loss of lives of animal, A specially designed hydraulic wildlife ambulance for the rescue of wildlife animals have been introduced in the Sathyamangalam Tiger Reserve (STR).
- ❖ This is the first time in India, an ambulance vehicle for the elephants. The forest authorities can monitor the movements of animals by putting this vehicle in the deep forest.

NATIONAL

President inaugurates Shirdi airport

- ❖ President Ram Nath Kovind inaugurated the newly-built international airport at Shirdi in Maharashtra's Ahmednagar district.
- ❖ The inauguration coincides with the start of Sai Baba's year-long death centenary celebrations.
- ❖ October 1, 2017 marked the start of the year-long centenary celebrations (from October 1, 2017 to October 18, 2018) of Saint Sai Baba's 'Maha Samadhi' in 1918.

Government announces Swacchhata awards

- ❖ On the occasion of the third anniversary of Swachh Bharat Mission (October 2), the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs conferred Swacchhata awards on those who contributed towards the Clean India objective in urban areas. 20 individuals and agencies in seven categories were felicitated with these awards
- ❖ Winners of Swacchhata Awards:
 1. Delhi-based Facebook citizen group — 'My Delhi Keep It Clean' – was awarded for promoting efforts to clean public places.
 2. Fertiliser Cooperative KRIBHCO was conferred the Swacchhata Award for marketing of compost made from municipal solid waste.
 3. In schools and colleges category, the award was given to Kasturba Gandhi Balika Awasiya Vidyalaya, Ambikar.

4. In self-help group category, Swacch Ambikapur Sahakari Samiti was chosen for the award for women empowerment and livelihood generation by converting garbage into wealth.
5. In the category of religious institutions, Pemayangste Monastery in Sikkim was felicitated for being a Zero-waste institution.

First woman chief justice of Delhi high court to head panel on OBC sub-categorisation

- ❖ The President of India appointed the panel on 02.10.2017, in exercise of the powers conferred by article 340 of the Constitution appointed a Commission to examine the sub-categorisation of Other Backward Classes
- ❖ The decision to appoint the commission follows the August 23 Cabinet decision to examine the extent of inequitable distribution of benefits of reservation amongst caste, communities, included in the broad category of OBC.
- ❖ At present, there is no sub-categorisation and 27 per cent reservation is a monolithic entity.
- ❖ Sub categorization of the OBCs will ensure that the more backward among the OBC communities can also access the benefits of reservation for educational institutions and government jobs.
- ❖ The composition of the Commission is as follows:
 - ✓ Chairperson - Justice (Retd.) G. Rohini,
 - ✓ Member - Dr. J.K. Bajaj
 - ✓ Member(Ex-officio)-Director, Anthropological Survey of India,
 - ✓ Member (Ex-officio)-Registrar General and Census Commissioner, India
 - ✓ Secretary of the Commission-Joint Secretary, Department of SJ&E, Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.
- ❖ The Commission is required to present their Report to the President within a period of twelve weeks of assumption of charge by the Chairperson of the Commission.

Kandla Port renamed as Deendayal Port

- ❖ The Ministry of Shipping has issued a notification renaming Kandla Port Trust as Deendayal Port Trust with effect from 25th of September, 2017.
- ❖ Kandla Port, located on the Gulf of Kutch in Gujarat, is one of the twelve major ports in the country.

- ❖ The Ministry of Shipping issued the required notification on the occasion of the closing of the yearlong centenary celebrations of Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay.

Kandla port

- ❖ The port's journey began in 1931 with construction of a jetty by Maharao Khengarji.
- ❖ Kandla was constructed in the 1950s as the chief seaport serving western India, after the partition of India from Pakistan left the port of Karachi in Pakistan.
- ❖ It is the largest port of India by volume of cargo handled.
- ❖ Ministry of Shipping in exercise of this power conferred on it under Indian Port Act, 1908 made the amendment.

SECURE Project

- ❖ The Centre has launched a six-year project- called SECURE Himalaya- to ensure conservation of locally and globally significant biodiversity, land and forest resources in the high Himalayan ecosystem spread over four states in India - namely Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir, Uttarakhand and Sikkim.
- ❖ It is launched by the Union environment ministry in association with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) on the inaugural day of the Global Wildlife Programme (GWP) conference.

Aim

- ❖ Protection of snow leopard and other endangered species and their habitats.
- ❖ The SECURE – securing livelihoods, conservation, sustainable use and restoration of high range Himalayan ecosystems – is meant for specific landscapes. It includes Changthang (Jammu and Kashmir), Lahaul – Pangi and Kinnaur (Himachal Pradesh), Gangotri – Govind and Darma – Byans Valley in Pithoragarh (Uttarakhand) and Kanchenjunga – Upper Teesta Valley (Sikkim).
- ❖ Curbing illegal trade in some medicinal and aromatic plants which are among the most threatened species in these landscapes
- ❖ The ministry on the occasion also launched India Wildlife mobile App and released the country's National Wildlife Action Plan for the period 2017-2031. The Plan focuses on preservation of genetic diversity and sustainable development through 103 wildlife conservation actions and 250 projects.

'Paryatan Parv' launched

- ❖ As part of Centre's special drive to promote tourism, a 21-day 'Paryatan Parv' was launched, reinforcing the principle of "Tourism for All"

- ❖ The programme was launched by the Ministry of Tourism in collaboration with other Central Ministries, the state tourism, the Indian Museum, the Institute of Hotel Management and stakeholders of the travel and tourism industry.
- ❖ The 'Paryatan Parv' will have three main components:
 - ❖ Dekho Apna Desh (See our Nation)
 - ❖ Tourism for All
 - ❖ Tourism & Governance
- ❖ The "Adopt a Heritage" project launched by the Ministry of Tourism will be implemented at key sites during this period.

Ministry of Health ranks first in Swachh Bharat initiative

- ❖ The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has been adjudged as the best department for its contribution during 'Swachhta Pakhwada', an inter-ministry initiative of the Swachh Bharat Mission
- ❖ Swachhta Pakhwada was observed within the Ministry offices, in Central Government Hospitals, and in public health facilities in all the States/UTs.

Swachhta Pakhwada

- ❖ It is a pledge ceremony initiated by the central government for spreading awareness among people about maintaining cleanliness within office premises.

Pradhanmantri Grameen Digital Saksharata Abhiyan (PMGDISHA)

- ❖ It is the new scheme launched by the Ministry of Electronics and IT, envisage to make 6 crore citizens digitally literate in rural India by 2019.
- ❖ It is an integral component of Digital India Initiative of the Government.
- ❖ It is expected to be one of the largest digital literacy programs in the world.
- ❖ It would empower the citizens by providing them access to information, knowledge and skills for operating computers / digital access devices.
- ❖ The scheme also focuses on enabling digital financial transactions among the citizens.
- ❖ Under the Scheme, Digital Saksharata Abhinandan Samaroh event will be held in Gandhinagar.
- ❖ Various Common Service Centres and Village level entrepreneurs will be participating in this event.

First ASEAN India Music Festival held at Purana Qila in New Delhi

- ❖ Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India in collaboration with Ministry of Culture and Seher (Cultural Organisation) presents the first ever ASEAN-India Music Festival at Purana Qila in New Delhi.
- ❖ The Festival is organised to celebrate the 25th year anniversary of ASEAN-India Dialogue Relations.
- ❖ The theme for this commemorative year "Shared Values, Common Destiny" along with this Music Festival aims to boost cultural influences among the peoples of the ASEAN member states and India.

(ASEAN)- Association of Southeast Asian Nations

- ❖ ASEAN- it is an association of 10 south east Asian countries
- ❖ Brunei, Cambodia, Myanmar, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, Lao PDR, Indonesia, Thailand, Vietnam

Rashtriya Sanskriti Mahotsav (RSM) 2017

- ❖ RSM-2017 will be held in Ahmadabad, India's 1st World Heritage City.
- ❖ It was by the Ministry of Culture.
- ❖ It was organised with intent to showcase the rich cultural heritage of the country.
- ❖ This year, Ministry of Culture in partnership with Ministry of Tourism is organising a RSM under the Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat mission.

Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat mission

- ❖ The 'Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat' programme under Ministry of HRD, aims to actively enhance interaction between people of diverse cultures living in different States and UTs in India.
- ❖ As per the programme, each year, every State/UT would be paired with another State/UT in India for reciprocal interaction between the people.

'Mission rice' to conserve indigenous seeds

- ❖ Mission rice is organised under the Kudumbasree mission in Kerala.
- ❖ The project aims to conserve and propagate seven vanishing indigenous rice seeds of Wayanad District.
- ❖ It includes Gandhakasala, Jeerakasala, Palthondi, Chenellu, Rakthashali, Veliyan and Adukkan.
- ❖ The project has been executed through Joint liability groups (JLGs) of the mission.

- ❖ Bioslurry pellet method, an innovative method of rice cultivation is followed under the mission.
- ❖ JLG (Joint liability groups)- It is an informal group comprising of 4-10 individuals coming together for the purpose of availing bank loan on individual basis or through group mechanism.

World Dental Show 2017

- ❖ The 'World Dental Show 2017', a 3-day international exhibition was opened in Mumbai, Maharashtra to showcase evolving global technologies and techniques.
- ❖ It was hosted by the Indian Dental Association (IDA).

PM Launches Intensified Mission Indradhanush (IMI)

- ❖ Prime Minister has launched the Intensified Mission Indradhanush (IMI) at Vadnagar in Gujarat.
- ❖ Through this programme, Government aims to reach each and every child under two years of age and all those pregnant women who have been left uncovered under the routine immunisation programme.
- ❖ The achievement of full immunisation under Mission Indradhanush to at least 90% coverage to be achieved by 2020 earlier. With the launch of this programme achievement target has advanced) by December 2018(.

Intensified Mission Indradhanush (IMI)

- ❖ Intensified Mission Indradhanush will cover low performing areas in the selected districts and urban areas and urban slums with migratory population.
- ❖ These areas have been selected through triangulation of data available under
 - ✓ National surveys
 - ✓ Health Management Information System data
 - ✓ World Health Organization's concurrent monitoring data.
- ❖ The focus is also on the urban settlements and cities identified under the National Urban Health Mission (NUHM).
- ❖ Intensified Mission Indradhanush would be closely monitored at the district, state and central level under a special initiative 'Proactive Governance and Timely Implementation (PRAGATI)'.



Ministry of Health & Family Welfare Launches Mission Indradhanush

Full immunization coverage to be expanded
from 65% to at least 90% children of the country.

All vaccines are available free of cost under the
Universal Immunization Programme in India

© NATIONAL HEALTH PORTAL (NHP)

Women fighter pilots on MiG-21 Bisons

- ❖ The three women pilots — Avani Chaturvedi, Bhawana Kanth and Mohana Singh set to fly the MiG-21 Bison jets, one of the potent combat aircraft in the IAF's armoury.
- ❖ At present, the three women pilots are flying Hawk advanced jet trainers.



Government launches Sovereign Gold Bond Scheme (2017-18) – Series-III

- ❖ The Union Government in consultation with Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has launched Sovereign Gold Bonds 2017-18 – Series-III.
- ❖ The bonds will be sold through banks, Stock Holding Corporation of India Limited, designated post offices and recognised stock exchanges namely the NSE and BSE

Sovereign Gold Bonds

- ❖ These bonds were launched under the umbrella sovereign gold bond scheme in November 2015 with an objective to reduce demand for physical gold and shift part of domestic savings, used for purchase of gold, into financial savings.
- ❖ It also aims to ease pressure on the country's trade balance as India's imports are dominated by crude oil and gold by converting gold into a productive asset.

NMCG Approves Eight Projects under Namami Gange Programme

- ❖ National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) has approved eight projects under Namami Gange programme for cleaning Ganga.
- ❖ The approved 8 projects relates to,
 - ✓ Pollution abatement works
 - ✓ Sewage management
 - ✓ Treatment of drains using bio-remediation technology
 - ✓ Pollution inventorization, assessment and
 - ✓ Surveillance project

National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG)

- ❖ NMCG is implementation wing of National Council for Rejuvenation, Protection and Management of River Ganga (also referred as National Ganga Council) which was constituted under the provisions of the Environment (Protection) Act (EPA), 1986.
- ❖ This mission works under the control of Ministry of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation.
- ❖ It has a two tier management structure and comprises of Governing Council and Executive Committee.
- ❖ It was established in 2011 as a registered society under Societies Registration Act, 1860.
- ❖ The aim is to clean Ganga and its tributaries in a comprehensive manner.

India water Week-2017

- ❖ The President of India, has inaugurated India Water Week-2017 in New Delhi. It is an international event organised by the Ministry of Water Resources, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation.
- ❖ In this 5th edition, 13 countries are participating for multi-disciplinary conference.
- ❖ It is seen as a platform to elicit ideas and opinions from global-level decision makers, researchers and entrepreneurs in the field of water resources development and management, Sustainable energy development, Water, Food and Energy Security. Water for inclusive Growth.
- ❖ The theme of India Water Week – 2017 is “Water and Energy for Inclusive Growth”.

Third International Conference on yoga

- ❖ The Vice President of India inaugurated the 3rd International Conference on Yoga in New Delhi.
- ❖ The theme of this year’s conference is “Yoga for Wellness”.
- ❖ The conference is being organized by the Ministry of AYUSH as a part of yearlong events being organized to celebrate 21st June as International Day of Yoga.

International Girl Child Day

- ❖ On the occasion of the International Girl Child Day the Ministry of Women and Child Development and UNICEF together organized a panel discussion on The Role of Sports in the Empowerment of Girls in New Delhi.
- ❖ The Panel discussion was held on the occasion of International Girl Child Day as part of the celebration of “Beti Bachao Beti Padhao Week- The Daughters of New India”
- ❖ Discussion panel is comprising of UNICEF Goodwill Ambassador, Sachin Tendulkar, Indian Women’s cricket team captain Mitali Raj and other eminent personalities.

International Day of the Girl Child

- ❖ Since 2012, 11th October has been marked as the International Girl Child Day to recognize girls’ rights and the unique challenges girls face around the world.
- ❖ UNICEF observes the day to spur global attention and action to the challenges and opportunities girls face before, during, and after crises.

Beti Bachao Beti Padhao Week (9th to 14th Oct)

- ❖ The Ministry of Women and Child Development will be celebrating the Beti Bachao Beti Padhao Week from 9th to 14th October, 2017.
- ❖ The week is being celebrated in view of the International Girl Child Day on 11th October, 2017. The theme of the program will be "Beti Bachao Beti Padhao Week- The Daughters of New India".

SC criminalises sex with minor wife

- ❖ The Supreme Court's landmark ruling that has criminalised sex with wife below 18 years provided the woman files a complaint within a year.
- ❖ The apex court gave its order on a petition filed by NGO Independent Thought, which had challenged exception clause (2) in Section 375 IPC.

The inconsistency

- ❖ The Exception 2 to Section 375 (rape) of the Indian Penal Code permits "intrusive sexual intercourse with a girl aged between 15 and 18 only on the ground that she is married. And says it's not a rape"
- ❖ The Exception is part of the Criminal Law (Amendment) Act of 2013.
- ❖ The exception clause in Sec 375, IPC stands in contrast to the following:
 - (i) Criminal Law Amendment Act, 2013 raised the age of consent for sexual intercourse for girls, from 16 to 18 years.
 - (ii) Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act, 2012 considers sex with children, those below 18, as rape.
 - (iii) Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, 2006 and Juvenile Justice Act, 2015 also define children as those below 18 years
 - (iv) Thus this clause (2) of Section 375 IPC had created dichotomy over age of consent and also it deprives them of legal protection against forced sexual intercourse.
- ❖ Court said this clause violates the fundamental rights given under Article 14,15,21 and also violates bodily integrity of the girl child.

Cabinet approves SANKALP & STRIVE Schemes

- ❖ The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs chaired by the Prime Minister has approved two new World Bank supported schemes to boost Skill India Mission.
 - ✓ Skills Acquisition and Knowledge Awareness for Livelihood Promotion (SANKALP) aimed at providing market relevant training to youths across the country.

- ✓ Skill Strengthening for Industrial Value Enhancement (STRIVE) aimed at improving the quality and the market relevance of vocational training provided in ITIs.
- ✓ Both Schemes are under the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship
- ✓ The two schemes will help in setting up national body for vocational education.
- ❖ The schemes will develop a skilling ecosystem that will support the country's rise in the Ease of Doing Business index by steady supply of skilled workforce to the industry.
- ❖ SANKALP is a centrally sponsored scheme and STRIVE is a central sector scheme.

IHGF- Delhi Fair Autumn 2017

- ❖ Union Textiles Minister inaugurated the 44th edition of Indian Handicrafts and Gift Fair (IHGF) 2017 at India Expo Centre and Mart in Greater Noida.
- ❖ IHGF is amongst Asia's largest gifts & handicrafts fair, held biannually (Spring & Autumn edition) and is organised by Export Promotion Council for Handicrafts (EPCH).

Mobile Health App 'Med Watch'.

- ❖ On the occasion of its 85th anniversary, Indian Air Force (IAF) has launched an innovative mobile health App named 'MedWatch'.
- ❖ 'Med Watch' is the first mobile health app for the three Armed Services.
- ❖ It comprises a host of features that will provide authentic health information to all IAF personnel.
- ❖ It acts as a reminder for timely immunisation for the children of all Air Warriors, enabling 'Mission Indradhanush' programme.

India's first Sewage Treatment Plant under PPP

- ❖ NMCG (National Mission For Clean Ganga) has approved setting up of India's first ever Sewage Treatment Plants (STP) under Hybrid Annuity Model (HAM) at Haridwar and Varanasi.
- ❖ Hybrid Annuity Model is One of the PPP type.

Sewage Treatment Plants in PPP

- ❖ It will ensure that untreated sewage from the cities does not flow into the Ganga, giving a boost to Namami Gange Programme.

- ❖ As per HAM, the government will contribute to 40% of the project cost to the private entity in the first five years through annual payments.
- ❖ The remaining payment will be made on the basis of the assets created and the performance of the developer.
- ❖ Thus the annuity payment based on performance of the sewage infrastructure assets will ensure the continued performance of the sewage plants.
- ❖ It also allows the financial risk to be shared between the government and private entity.

Global Hunger Index 2017

- ❖ India ranked 100th position among 119 countries on Global Hunger Index (GHI) 2017 report released by the Washington-based International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI).
- ❖ Compared to 97th rank in 2016 Global Hunger Index (GHI), this year it slipped by three positions.

Global Hunger Index

- ❖ The Global Hunger Index (GHI) is a multidimensional statistical tool used to describe the state of countries' hunger situation.
- ❖ The GHI measures progress and failures in the global fight against hunger and is updated once in a year.
- ❖ The GHI ranks countries taking into account of four parameters on a 100-point scale. Zero is the best score and 100 is the worst.
- ❖ The Four Parameters are,
 - ✓ Undernourishment
 - ✓ Child wasting
 - ✓ Child stunting
 - ✓ Child mortality.
- ❖ India ranks 100 among 119 countries with a score of 31.4 and hunger situation is in the "Serious" category.
- ❖ Over three-year duration, the country has seen a slide of 45 positions from 55 in 2014.
- ❖ According to the report, India is better only than Pakistan and Afghanistan among the Asian countries.

Sabarimala women's entry - constitution bench

- ❖ The Supreme Court referred to a five-judge Constitution Bench the question whether the fundamental right of women to pray at the place of their choice can be discriminated against solely based “on a biological factor exclusive to the female gender.”
- ❖ The questions for the Constitution Bench to decide were framed by a three-judge Bench of Chief Justice of India Dipak Misra and Justices R. Banumathi and Ashok Bhushan.
- ❖ The Constitution Bench will decide whether
 - ✓ Kerala Hindu Places of Public Worship (Authorisation of Entry) Rules, 1965 allows a ‘religious denomination’ to ban entry of women between the age of 10 to 50 years.
 - ✓ If so, does this amount to discrimination and violation of the fundamental rights to equality and gender justice.

Constitution Bench

- ❖ Constitution bench is the name given to the benches of the Supreme Court of India which consist of at least five judges of the court which sit to decide any case “involving a substantial question of law as to the interpretation” of the Constitution of India.
- ❖ This provision has been mandated by Article 145 (3) of the Constitution of India. The Chief Justice of India has the power to constitute a Constitution Bench and refer cases to it.

Life Insurance Schemes

- ❖ In a bid to provide Affordable Life Insurance to all the ministry of Communication has launched,
 - i. Sampoorna Bima Gram Yojana- To Provide Postal Department’s Life Insurance Service to the Rural areas of the Country.
 - ii. Expansion of Postal Life Insurance- To professionals apart from government Employees.
- ❖ Under Sampoorna Bima Gram (SBG) Yojana, a minimum of one village will be taken up in each of the districts of the country, and efforts will be made to cover all households of village with at least one Rural Postal Life Insurance policy each.
- ❖ Under PLI Expansion Scheme- expanding the ambit of Postal Life Insurance (PLI), which will now be available to professionals as well as employees of BSE and NSE listed companies.

India-Japan Joint Exercise

- ❖ Indian Naval Ships Satpura and Kadmatt participated in Passage Exercise (PASSEX) with Japanese Marine Self Defence Force (JMSDF) held at Sasebo, Japan.
- ❖ These ships are participating in the exercise in pursuance of India's Act East Policy and demonstration of India's commitment to peace and stability in the Indo-Pacific Region.

Mithra Sakthi

- ❖ The fifth India-Sri Lanka Joint Training Exercise Mitra Shakti 2017 was held at Aundh Military Station, Pune.
- ❖ The two weeks' exercise is based on Counter Terrorist Operations (CTO), weapons training, basic military tactics and complex battle strategies.
- ❖ The Mitra Shakti series of exercise between India and Sri Lanka had started in 2012, mainly as a response to China's efforts to increase its influence in South Asia and Indian ocean region.

Bureau of Indian standards (BIS) Act 2016

- ❖ A new Bureau of Indian standards (BIS) Act 2016 which was notified on March, 2016, has been brought into force with effect from October, 2017.
- ❖ The Act establishes the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) as the National Standards Body of India.
- ❖ The Act enables the Central Government to appoint any authority/agency, in addition to the BIS, to verify the conformity of products and services to a standard and issue certificate of conformity.
- ❖ The Act has enabling provisions for the Government to bring under compulsory certification regime which it considers necessary in
 - The public interest or for the protection of human
 - Animal or plant health, safety of the environment
 - Prevention of unfair trade practices
 - National security

INS Kiltan

- ❖ INS Kiltan is an indigenously-built anti-submarine warfare stealth corvette that was commissioned into the Indian Navy on October 16th.
- ❖ This is the third of the four Kamorta-class corvettes being built under Project 28.

- ❖ The ship derives its name from one of the islands in Aminidivi group of the strategically located Lakshadweep and Minicoy group of islands.
- ❖ INS Kiltan is India's first major warship to have a superstructure of carbon fibre composite material resulting in improved stealth features, lower top weight and maintenance costs.
- ❖ INS Kiltan is the latest indigenous warship after Shivalik Class, Kolkata Class and sister ships INS Kamorta and INS Kadmatt.
- ❖ It is the first major warship to have undertaken sea trials of all major weapons and sensors as a pilot project.

Clean Air Campaign

- ❖ Ahead of Diwali, the government will flag off a mini marathon as part of its Clean Air campaign to raise awareness about air pollution.
- ❖ It will be flagged off from India Gate on October 15, coinciding with the birth anniversary of former president Dr A P J Abdul Kalam.
- ❖ The campaign is being launched to create a mass movement for reducing air pollution.
- ❖ Taking forward the momentum of Swachh Bharat Abhiyan and extending the Harit Diwali-Swasth Diwali initiative, the "Swachh Hawa for Swachh and Swasth Bharat" campaign, is being launched by the Ministry of Environment.
- ❖ The "Run for Clean Air" campaign is the harbinger of positive energy for Clean Air.

Top Ranked Airports

- ❖ Jaipur and Srinagar airports have been ranked among the best aerodromes in the world in the traffic volume of 2-5 million passengers per annum category by the Airport Council International (ACI).
- ❖ This is for the second consecutive year that the Jaipur airport has been ranked the best airport in terms of traffic volume.
- ❖ The Airport Service Quality (ASQ) Awards are the aviation industry's most prestigious accolades.
- ❖ While Jaipur was ranked first, Srinagar was ranked second in the annual ACI-ASQ survey.
- ❖ ASQ Survey is the world's benchmark measure of airport excellence and it is the only worldwide programme to survey passengers at the airports on their day of travel.

INDRA-2017

- ❖ Indra is the joint exercise of India and Russia.
- ❖ Exercise INDRA in its previous 9 years has been conducted as a single service exercise alternately between the two countries.
- ❖ This year, it has been upgraded to involve all the three Services of the Armed Forces (Army, Navy & Air Force).
- ❖ Thus it is the First Ever International Tri Service Exercise.
- ❖ It will be conducted in Vladivostok of Russia and the main focus of the joint exercise will be counter-terrorism.
- ❖ The Indian Air Force had participated in an exercise 'Avia Indra' with Russian air force in 2014.

All India Institute of Ayurveda - Delhi

- ❖ On the occasion of National Ayurveda Day, Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the All India Institute of Ayurveda (AIIA) at Delhi's Sarita Vihar on October 17 .2017.
- ❖ The first ever AIIA has been set up along the lines of All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS). Build up as an apex institute under the ministry of AYUSH, the institution is expected to bring synergy between the traditional wisdom of Ayurveda and modern diagnostic tools and technology.
- ❖ Ministry of AYUSH has decided to celebrate the National Ayurveda Day every year on Dhanwantari Jayanti.

Project CHAMAN

- ❖ It is a pioneer project to provide strategic development to the horticulture sector, so as to increase farmers' income.
- ❖ This project is being implemented by Mahalanobis National Crop Forecast Centre (MNCFC) using remote sensing technology and is likely to be completed in March 2018
- ❖ The Geo-Spatial Studies like crop intensification, orchard rejuvenation and aqua-horticulture are deployed for preparing reliable estimates of crop production.
- ❖ This methodology developed for seven important horticulture crops would be made operational in all the states.
- ❖ It would further help the farmers to grow their horticultural crops in a profitable manner which will help doubling their income.

Footwear Design & Development Institute Act (FDDI) 2017

- ❖ The Provisions of FDDI Act 2017 have come into force making FDDI an 'Institute of National Importance' (INI).
- ❖ Footwear Design & Development Institute (FDDI) has been declared an 'Institute of National Importance' under the Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Government of India.
- ❖ FDDI, after becoming an INI, now has the autonomy to design its courses as per the requirement of the industry, and award its own degree to the students.
- ❖ FDDI is a premier Institute, serving as a 'One stop solutions provider' in footwear, leather and allied industry.

NIIF signed First Investment Agreement with ADIA

- ❖ To mobilise long term investment into National Investment and Infrastructure Fund (NIIF), the first investment agreement between NIIF Master Fund and a wholly owned subsidiary of Abu Dhabi Investment Authority (ADIA) has been signed.
- ❖ As a part of the agreement, ADIA will become the first institutional investor in NIIF's Master Fund and a shareholder in the NIIF's investment management Company.

National Investment and Infrastructure Fund (NIIF)

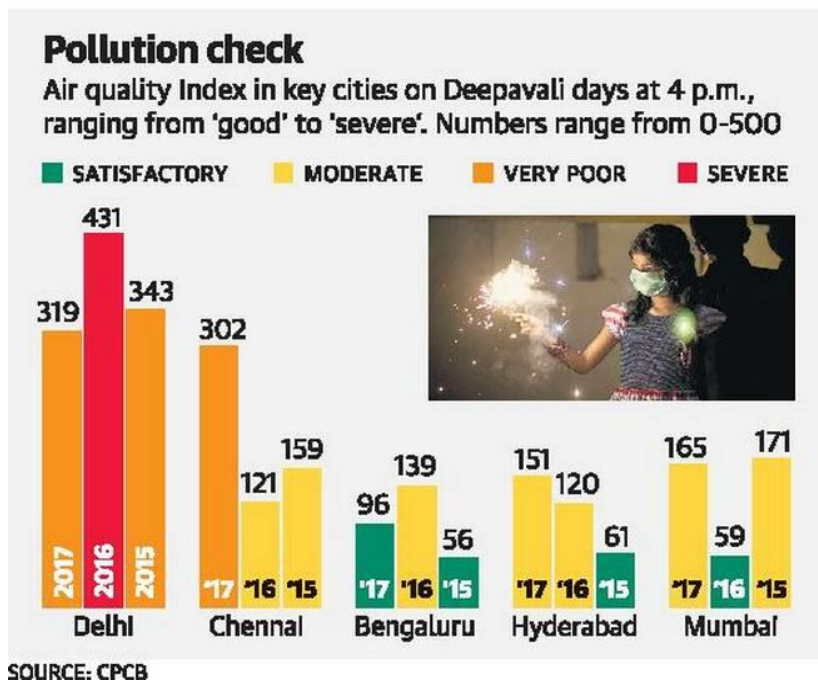
- ❖ The Union Government has set up NIIF in 2015 with aim to attract investments from both domestic and international sources for infrastructure development.
- ❖ It was envisaged to be Category II Alternative Investment Funds (AIFs) under SEBI Regulations.
- ❖ NIIF is claimed to be India's first sovereign wealth fund and it will also serve as an umbrella fund with several funds underneath it.

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

- ❖ The Union Ministry of Women and Child Development (WCD) has launched online campaign #IamThatWoman in an attempt to end Gender bias in women against women.
- ❖ Through this campaign, the Ministry seeks to highlight the various aspects of women standing 'by' and 'for' women.
- ❖ Twitter and Facebook users have been encouraged to tag and share stories of women helping women with a photograph and post online with the hashtag #IamThatWoman.

Air quality declined

- ❖ According to the Central Pollution Control Board Chennai's pollution levels rose to 302 which is slightly less than Delhi's 319. Delhi is the city where smog and pollution usually touches higher toxic level during Diwali season.



- ❖ The Air Quality Index (AQI), a six-rung classification scale that rates air quality from 'good' to 'severe', downgraded air quality in Chennai from 'satisfactory' on October 16 to 'poor' and 'very poor'.
- ❖ India has topped the list of countries with pollution-related deaths in 2015, with 2.51 million people dying prematurely in the country that year due to diseases linked to air, water and other forms of pollution, according to a new study published in the reputed medical journal, The Lancet.

Swachh Bharat mission logo on new currency notes

- ❖ The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) refuses to share details of a decision to put the logo of 'clean India mission' on the new Rs 500 and Rs 2,000 currency notes, citing security concerns
- ❖ The information on form, material, design and security features of bank notes, other than available in public domain, is exempt from disclosure in terms of Section 8 (1) (a) of the Right to Information (RTI) Act, 2005
- ❖ The central bank was asked to give a copy of the order, communication, letter or note sheet in which a decision regarding printing of Swachh Bharat or clean India mission's logo (spectacle frame) and message of 'Ek Kadam

Swachhata Ki Aur' (a step towards cleanliness) on Rs 500 and Rs 2,000 currency notes was taken.

- ❖ The RTI query was filed with the Department of Economic Affairs (DEA) — that deals with the policy formulation in respect of currency, coins and security documents, and planning, coordination issues related to printing and minting currencies and coins — under the Finance Ministry.
- ❖ The DEA had forwarded the application to the RBI for the response.
- ❖ As per Section 25 of the RBI Act, 1934, the design, form and material of bank notes shall be such as may be approved by the central government after consideration of the recommendations made by central board of the Reserve Bank of India.

Clean Air Campaign

- ❖ Ahead of Diwali, the government will flag off a mini marathon as part of its Clean Air campaign to raise awareness about air pollution.
- ❖ It will be flagged off from India Gate on October 15, coinciding with the birth anniversary of former president Dr A P J Abdul Kalam.
- ❖ The campaign is being launched to create a mass movement for reducing air pollution.
- ❖ Taking forward the momentum of Swachh Bharat Abhiyan and extending the Harit Diwali-Swasth Diwali initiative, the "Swachh Hawa for Swachh and Swasth Bharat" campaign, is being launched by the Ministry of Environment.
- ❖ The "Run for Clean Air" campaign is the harbinger of positive energy for Clean Air.

INS Ship Visit Jakarta, Indonesia

- ❖ INS Tir, Sujata, Shardul, and ICGS Sarathi are visiting Jakarta & Indonesia, aimed to expose the trainees to the conduct of INS warship in foreign waters, port familiarisation and foster bridges of friendship between the two countries.
- ❖ The ships belong to the First Training Squadron of the Indian Navy functioning under the Southern Naval Command, headquartered at Kochi and comprises six indigenously built ships, namely,
 - ❖ Indian Naval Ships
 - Tir
 - Sujata
 - Shardul
- ❖ Indian Coast Guard Ship

- Sarathi
- ❖ Two Sail Training Ships
 - INS Sudarshini
 - INS Tarangini

Solicitor General resigns

- ❖ Solicitor General of India - Ranjith Kumar, the second highest ranking law officer of the government has resigned.

Solicitor General

- ❖ The Solicitor General of India is the secondary law officer of the country, assists the Attorney General, and is himself assisted by several Additional Solicitors General of India.
- ❖ The Solicitor General of India is appointed for the period of 3 years.
- ❖ Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) appoints the Solicitor General and the Additional Solicitors General and it's a statutory post. But Attorney General is appointed by president under Art 76(1).
- ❖ It should be noted that office and duties of Attorney General is created by the Constitution under the Article 76.
- ❖ Solicitor General and Additional Solicitor Generals' office and duties are governed by Law Officers (Conditions of Service) Rules, 1987 and not by the constitution.

New facility to link UAN with Aadhaar online

- ❖ Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) introduced a new facility to its members having Universal Account Number (UAN) and other relevant details to link their respective UAN with Aadhaar online.
- ❖ Ministry of Labour and Employment stated that this would facilitate the members, a better and speedy EPFO services.

Surakshit Bachpan-Surakshit Bharat

- ❖ The President of India, Shri Ram Nath Kovind, graced and addressed the closing ceremony of the Bharat Yatra for a 'Surakshit Bachpan-Surakshit Bharat' being organised by Shri Kailash Satyarthi Children's Foundation at Rashtrapati Bhavan on October 16, 2017.
- ❖ This Yatra for a 'Surakshit Bachpan-Surakshit Bharat' is a big step towards providing a safe environment for children in our nation. It is the duty of

every person in the country to connect with the objectives of this Yatra and provide our children the opportunity and experience of being citizens of a better India.

- ❖ The Bharat Yatra for 'Surakshit Bachpan-Surakshti Bharat' was a non-violent war on sexual abuse, rape and trafficking of children.
- ❖ On the occasion, the President also lit a symbolic Diya – 'Bal Suraksha Jyoti'.

Heavy Rainfall in Bengaluru

- ❖ The southwest monsoon continued to stay heavy over interior regions of Karnataka, and the Bengaluru city witnessed highest ever annual rainfall this year breaking the record of 115 years. The highest ever was recorded earlier in 2005 with more than 1606.8 mm rainfall.
- ❖ The annual rainfall for the city, 1615.2mm, as on October 14th, is the highest ever.

Himachal Pradesh - Election date announcement

- ❖ The Election Commission (EC) on October 12 announced elections in Himachal Pradesh.
- ❖ Voting for the 68-seat Himachal Pradesh assembly will take place on 9 November and the results will be declared on 18 December.
- ❖ With the announcement of the election schedule, the model code of conduct for Himachal Pradesh comes into force immediately.
- ❖ Himachal Pradesh would be the second state, after Goa earlier this year, to use a 100% paper audit trail or VVPAT.
- ❖ Also, on a pilot basis, to enhance transparency, one polling station in each assembly constituency will be randomly selected for VVPAT counting.
- ❖ The term of the current assembly in Himachal Pradesh ends on 7 January.

Model Code of Conduct

- ❖ Election Commission of India's Model Code of Conduct is a set of guidelines issued by the Election Commission of India for conduct of political parties and candidates during elections
- ❖ The Model Code of Conduct comes into force immediately on announcement of the election schedule by the commission for the need of ensuring free and fair elections.
- ❖ The MCC, often described as a voluntary "Moral Code of Conduct" is a set of guidelines issued to parties, candidates and the government to ensure free and fair elections.

- ❖ There is no statute governing these guidelines.
- ❖ However major violations like attempts to create enmity between communities for votes can be dealt with under existing laws, including the Indian Penal Code.
- ❖ There guidelines for what is allowed or isn't under the MCC, and the Election Commission (EC) or State Electoral Officer often acts as the arbiter.

Gram Samridhi Evam Swachhata Pakhwada-Oct 1 to Oct 15

- ❖ In partnership with State Governments and other Departments, Department of Rural Development organized Gram Samridhi Evam Swachhata Pakhwada from 1st October to 15th October, 2017.
- ❖ Gram Sabhas were held in nearly all the Gram Panchayats of the Country on 2nd October.

During this period,

- ❖ DISHA Monitoring Portal and Gram Samvaad App were introduced.
- ❖ Disha Monitoring Portal would enable Members of Parliament to track progress in implementation of various centrally sponsored schemes in their constituency.
- ❖ Gram Samvaad Mobile app allows a citizen to access information on and implementation of Rural Development schemes at Panchayat level.
- ❖ Pakhwada has two distinct components.
 - i. Gam Sabha meetings, cleanliness campaigns and public information on different schemes of government, would be implemented across all the gram panchayats.
 - ii. Baseline ranking of 50,000 GPs to be taken up in Mission Antyodaya.

Gram Samridhi Evam Swachhata Pakhwada

- ❖ It is an effort to prepare the Gram Panchayat Development Plan through extensive community participation especially of women and youth.
- ❖ The recommendations of this plan will be given top most priority in finalization of Annual Action Plan across schemes and programmes of various Ministries and Departments.

'Ro-Ro' ferry service in Gujarat

- ❖ Prime Minister of India has inaugurated the first phase of the 'roll-on-roll-off' (RORO) ferry service between Ghogha in Saurashtra and Dahej in south Gujarat in the Gulf of Khambhat region.

- ❖ This is the first of its kind world class RORO ferry service project for passengers in South Asia.
- ❖ In RO-RO service, vessels have either built-in or shore-based ramps that allow the cargo to be efficiently rolled on and off the vessel when in port.
- ❖ This is in opposite to the lift-on and lift-off (lo-lo) vessels, which use a crane to load and unload cargo.
- ❖ The project will reduce travel time of 8 hours to 1 hour only.
- ❖ It will reduce a distance of 360 kms by road to 31 kms only by sea.



Shri Dineshwar Sharma as representative of J&K talks

- ❖ The Union Government has appointed former Intelligence Bureau (IB) Chief Dineshwar Sharma as its Representative to initiate and carry forward sustained dialogue on Jammu and Kashmir with all stakeholders including separatists.
- ❖ He will hold the position of a Cabinet Secretary and on talks with separatists, the interlocutor will be free to decide on whom to talk.
- ❖ The sustained political dialogue will help in Confidence-Building Measures (CBM) between government, civil society and dissidents in Kashmir.
- ❖ Sharma has worked as the interlocutor for peace talks with Assam's insurgent groups, including the United Liberation Front of Asom (ULFA) and worked as director of IB include from 2014 to 2016.

'No Need to Stand at Cinema to Prove Patriotism': Supreme Court

- ❖ 'No Need to Stand at Cinema to Prove Patriotism' says Supreme Court.
- ❖ The court said that "People do not need to stand up at a cinema hall to be perceived as patriotic," and added that it "cannot be assumed that if a person does not stand up for national anthem, then the person is less patriotic".

- ❖ "What is stopping you from amending the Flag Code? You can amend it and say where to play national anthem and where it can't be done" said Justice DY Chandrachud.
- ❖ The Fundamental Duties of citizens were added to the Constitution by the 42nd Amendment in 1976, upon the recommendations of the Swaran Singh Committee that was constituted by the government which says,
"It shall be the duty of every citizen of India to abide by the Constitution and respect its ideals and institutions, the National Flag and the National Anthem"
- ❖ The playing of the national anthem fostered national unity in a vast and diverse country like India, and referred to the fundamental duties enshrined in the constitution. The attorney general also opposed recalling of the order by the top court.

4th ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting-Plus held in Philippines

- ❖ The fourth edition of ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting (ADMM)-Plus held in Philippines.
- ❖ Union Defence Minister Nirmala Sitharaman represented India and it is her first foreign visit as Defence Minister.
- ❖ The ADMM-Plus is platform for ASEAN and its eight dialogue partners to strengthen security and defence co-operation for peace, stability, and development in the region.
- ❖ Its objective is to promote mutual trust and confidence between defence establishments through greater dialogue and transparency.

ADMM – Plus

- ❖ The ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting (ADMM) is the highest defence consultative and cooperative mechanism in ASEAN. The objectives of the ADMM are endorsed at the Inaugural ADMM in Kuala Lumpur on 9 May 2006
- ❖ The Inaugural ADMM-Plus was convened in Ha Noi, Viet Nam, on 12 October 2010.
- ❖ The Defence Ministers then agreed on five areas of practical cooperation to pursue under this new mechanism, namely maritime security, counter-terrorism, humanitarian assistance and disaster relief, peacekeeping operations and military medicine.
- ❖ The ADMM-Plus countries include ten ASEAN Member States, namely, Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Viet Nam, and eight Plus countries, namely Australia, China, India, Japan, New Zealand, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation and the United States.

TRAI recommends reduction in carbon emission for sustainable telecom

- ❖ The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has recommended to set the target for reduction in carbon emissions by the telecommunication sector as 30 per cent by 2019-20 and 40 per cent by 2022-23, taking the base year as 2011-12.
- ❖ It was mentioned in TRAI's recommendation to Department of Telecom (DoT) on approach towards sustainable telecommunications in order to make telecom sector greener.
- ❖ TRAI is an independent regulator of telecommunications business in India. It came into existence by Act of the Parliament in 1997.
- ❖ Its mandate is to deliver a fair and transparent environment for fair competition in telecom market. TRAI also fixes or revises the tariffs for telecom services in India.

56th Raising Day Parade of Indo-Tibetan Border Police

- ❖ The Union Home Minister attended the 56th Raising Day Parade of Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) at 39th Bn, ITBP, Lakhnawali Camp, Surajpur, Greater Noida.
- ❖ ITBP was raised on 24th October in 1962 and is deployed on guarding 3488km long India-China Border from Karakoram Pass in Ladakh to Jachep La in Arunachal Pradesh.
- ❖ The ITBP is one of five Central Armed Police Forces of India and was raised on 24 October 1962, under CRPF Act, in wake of 1962 Sino-Indian War.
- ❖ It was provided full autonomy after Parliament enacted the Indo-Tibetan Border Police Force Act, 1992. It works under command of Union Home Ministry.

Ministries of Power & Textiles join hands under new initiative SAATHI

- ❖ Ministries of Power and Textiles have joined hands under a new initiative SAATHI (Sustainable and Accelerated Adoption of efficient Textile technologies to Help Small Industries).
- ❖ Under this initiative, Energy Efficiency Services Limited (EESL), a PSU under the Ministry of Power, would procure energy efficient Powerlooms, motors and Rapier kits in bulk and provide them to the small and medium Powerloom units at no upfront cost.
- ❖ The initiative of the Government will be jointly implemented by EESL and the office of the Textile Commissioner on a pan-India basis.

- ❖ The use of these efficient equipment would result in energy savings and cost savings to the unit.
- ❖ The aggregation of demand and bulk procurement will also lead to reduction in capital cost, benefits of which will be passed on to the Powerloom units so that their repayment amount and period would reduce.
- ❖ The Powerloom sector in India is predominantly an unorganized sector and has a large number of micro and small units which produce 57 percent of the total cloth in the country.

Plea in SC to protect Election Commissioners from removal

- ❖ A petition was filed in the Supreme Court pointing out the vagueness in the procedure for removal of Election Commissioners, saying it affects the top poll body's autonomy.
- ❖ According to the Article 324 (5), CEC can be removed only by the order of the President, just like a judge of the Supreme Court.
- ❖ But the provision is silent about the procedure for the removal of EC and only provides that ECs cannot be removed except on the recommendation of CEC.
- ❖ Election commission of India, a constitutional body is headed by a Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) and two Election Commissioners.
- ❖ They are appointed by the President of India on the recommendation of PM and Council of Ministers.
- ❖ CEC and EC have tenure of six years or hold office till the age of 65 years and receive salary and other allowances similar to the Judge of the Supreme Court of India.
- ❖ Though they are appointed in a similar manner with equal tenure and salary, their removal process varies.
- ❖ Petitioner has alleged that this kind of discrimination will create ambiguity and affects the autonomy of the office.

Bharat Mala Pariyojana

- ❖ The Government has announced to build 83,677km of roads, highways, greenfield expressways and bridges by 2022 to further optimise efficiency of movement of goods and people across the country.
- ❖ It includes first phase of new umbrella programme Bharat Mala Pariyojana that involves construction of 34,800 km highways by 2022.
- ❖ 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.
- ❖ The cabinet has approved the proposal for Bharatmala Pariyojana Phase-I.



Prime Minister inaugurates Global Conference on Consumer Protection

- ❖ Prime Minister inaugurates International Conference on Consumer Protection for East, South and South-East Asian Countries with the theme of “Empowering Consumers in New Markets” in New Delhi.
- ❖ This is the first time that an international conference on consumer protection is being organized by India for countries of the region.
- ❖ The conference is deliberated upon steps taken by Asian countries to implement the UN guidelines on consumer protection as well as challenges faced by consumers of financial services and e-commerce.
- ❖ Twenty-two countries from East, South and South-East Asia are participating in the international conference and these include China, South Korea, Singapore, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka.
- ❖ International Conference on Consumer Protection is being organised by the Department of Consumer Affairs, Government of India in association with United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD).

New Consumer Protection Bill

- ❖ The main objective is to protect the rights of the consumers.
- ❖ It will replace the Consumer Protection Act of 1986 by incorporating the amended 2015 UN guidelines on consumer protection.
- ❖ It proposes to have Consumer Dispute Redressal Commissions, which will be set up at the district, state and national levels

- ❖ Central Consumer Protection Authority with executive powers will be constituted for quick remedial action.
- ❖ Additionally, it recommends following provisions,
 - Provision of high quality ICT infrastructure at affordable prices
 - Consumer safety from hazardous goods, complete disclosure of all information for guidance of consumers
 - Regulations against identity theft and provision for data privacy protection.
 - crack down on misleading advertisements.

CVC to develop Integrity Index of 25 Organizations

- ❖ Central Vigilance Commission has set to develop integrity index for public sector undertakings, public sector banks and financial institutions, Ministries and its departments.
- ❖ CVC will calculate scores by linking the essential drivers of vigilance with long term efficiency, profitability and sustainability of public organizations.
- ❖ It will help in creating an internal and external ecosystem that promotes working with Integrity in public organizations.
- ❖ Initially 25 organizations have been selected for development of the index.

Central Vigilance Commission

- ❖ Central Vigilance Commission (CVC) is an autonomous statutory body created to address governmental corruption.

Madras High Court bans photos of living persons on banners

- ❖ The Madras High Court banned the use of “photographs or pictures” of living persons on “banners, flex boards, signboards” across the state.
- ❖ The court then directed the Chief Secretary of State to ensure that the provisions of the Tamil Nadu Open Places (Prevention of Disfigurement) Act, 1959 were complied with.

Indian Railways' first set of solar plants launched

- ❖ The Railway's first set of solar plants with a total capacity of 5 megawatt peak (MWp) launched by the Railway Minister Piyush Goyal.
- ❖ This project were launched as part of the Government's National Solar Mission in which Indian Railways plans to commission 1000 MWp solar plants across its network.

- ❖ The minister launched the plants at the inauguration of the “International Conference on Green Initiatives and Railway Electrification” which is about finding new ways to increase the use of renewable energy by the national transporter.

‘Adopt a Heritage’ Scheme

- ❖ Seven companies were short-listed for ‘Letters of Intent’ (LoI) by the Ministry of Tourism for 14 monuments under ‘Adopt a Heritage’ Scheme at the closing ceremony of ‘Paryatan Parv’ at Rajpath Lawns, New Delhi.
- ❖ These companies will be the future ‘Monument Mitras’ who would associate pride with their CSR activities.

Monument Mitras	Adopted Monuments
SBI Foundation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jantar Mantar, Delhi.
TK International Limited	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sun Temple, Konark • Raja Rani Temple, Bhubaneshwar • Ratnagiri Monuments, Jaipur, Odisha
Yatra Online Pvt. Limited	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hampi, Karnataka • Leh Palace, Jammu & Kashmir • Qutub Minar, Delhi • Ajanta Caves, Maharashtra
Travel Corporation of India Ltd.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mattancherry Palace Museum, Kochi • Safdarjung Tomb, Delhi
Adventure Tour Operator Association of India	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gangotri Temple Area and Trail to Gaumukh • Mt. Stok Kangri, Laddakh, Jammu and Kashmir
Special Holidays Travel Pvt. Ltd. (With Rotary Club of Delhi)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agrasen ki Baoli, Delhi
NBCC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Purana Quila, Delhi.

SC questions centre on delay judicial appointments

- ❖ A Bench of Justices A.K. Goel and U.U. Lalit issued notice to the Attorney-General of India, the Centre's top law officer, to explain why the finalisation

of the Memorandum of Procedure (MoP) for appointment of judges to the Supreme Court and the high court's continues to delay

- ❖ Earlier in October 2015 Constitution Bench struck down the government's National Judicial Appointments Commission (NJAC) law.
- ❖ In December 2015, Apex Court directed the centre to iron out the do's and don'ts of judicial appointments to the Supreme Court and the high courts.
- ❖ The apex court underlined that the "arrangement" of Acting Chief Justices in high courts should not continue for more than a month.
- ❖ Six of the 24 high courts have been without regular Chief Justices for months.

Programme on dangers of Blue Whale game

- ❖ Declaring the Blue Whale online game, a threat to life, the Supreme Court directed Doordarshan (DD) to conceive and air a cautionary and educational programme on the dangers of Blue Whale online game.
- ❖ The court said, DD would script the programme in consultation with the Ministry of Home Affairs, Women and Child Welfare Department, HRD Ministry and Ministry of Information, Broadcasting and Technology.

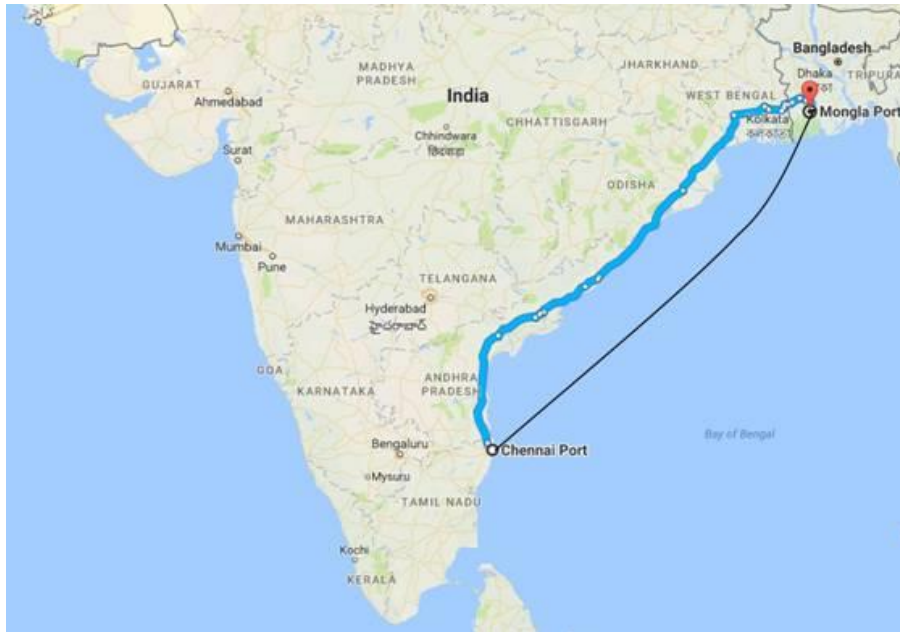
Panel to review orders of additional judges

- ❖ The Supreme Court Collegium has decided that a committee of two apex court judges will evaluate the judgments of additional judges of high courts to decide their suitability to be made permanent.
- ❖ The Collegium is led by Chief Justice of India Dipak Misra.
- ❖ The government had recently urged the Collegium to have a relook at its decision to end the practice of evaluating the judicial performance of additional judges.
- ❖ A candidate is first appointed as additional judge of a High Court.
- ❖ He or she serves a probationary period before being appointed a permanent judge.

RORO Ship flagged off from Chennai Port to Mongla Port in Bangladesh

- ❖ The Minister of Shipping, Road Transport & Highways and Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation Shri Nitin Gadkari digitally flagged off a RoRo cum general cargo vessel M.V. IDM DOODLE from Chennai Port to Mongla port in Bangladesh.

- ❖ The Coastal Shipping Agreement between India and Bangladesh was signed during Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's visit to Bangladesh in June 2015.
- ❖ Based on the agreement sea transportation from Indian ports to Bangladesh ports is being treated as coastal movement, making it eligible for 40% concession on vessel related and cargo related charges.
- ❖ For coastal movement through RoRo vessels, 80% concession on vessel related and cargo related charges are applicable in Indian Ports.
- ❖ The fuel consumption at per tonne cargo is much lower via sea route, so transportation by sea will also reduce carbon footprints on the environment.



3rd Global Investors India Forum

- ❖ The 3rd Global Investors India Forum held at Delhi.
- ❖ It is the global event of investors and investees organized by ASSOCHAM, India's oldest apex chamber for commerce and industry.
- ❖ The event is officially supported by the Ministry of External affairs and Department of Industrial policy and promotion, Ministry of commerce and Industry.
- ❖ It was started in 2015 and this year it is organized with a theme "Ideate, Innovate, Implement and Invest in India".

India ships wheat to Afghanistan via Chabahar

- ❖ India has began shipment of 1.1 million tonnes wheat to Afghanistan through the Iranian port of Chabahar.

- ❖ The consignment would be the first to use the new route via Chabahar to access Afghanistan after Trilateral Agreement on Establishment of International Transport and Transit Corridor was signed.
- ❖ The consignment was flagged off by External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj and her Afghan counterpart Salahuddin Rabbani through a joint video conference.
- ❖ India had earlier sent goods through the Iranian port of Bandar Abbas in 2003 as Pakistan had not eased land access to Afghanistan.



Vigilance Awareness Week - 2017

- ❖ On the eve of the birth anniversary of India's first Home Minister, Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, the Vice President of India, Venkaiah Naidu inaugurated Vigilance Awareness Week in New Delhi.
- ❖ The theme of the Vigilance Awareness Week – 2017 is “My Vision-Corruption-free India”.
- ❖ The 2017 Vigilance Awareness Week (VAW) will be observed by the Central Vigilance Commission (CVC) from 30th October to 4th November.
- ❖ The purpose of observing VAW is to educate the public at large about the corruption related practices and also educating them how to report about it.

Central Vigilance Commission

- ❖ Central Vigilance Commission (CVC) is an autonomous statutory body created to address governmental corruption.
- ❖ It is free of control from any executive authority, charged with monitoring all vigilance activity under the Central Government of India.
- ❖ The Commission shall consist of
 - ✓ A Central Vigilance Commissioner (CVC) - Chairperson;
 - ✓ Not more than two Vigilance Commissioners (VC) - Members
- ❖ They are appointed by the President on the recommendation of three member committee.
- ❖ The committee consists of PM as its head, the union minister of Home affairs and the leader of opposition in the Lok Sabha.
- ❖ They hold office for a term of 4 years or until they attain the age of 65 years whichever is earlier.

Home Ministry set to take over Bureau of Civil Aviation Security

- ❖ The Union Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) is set to move a proposal before the Cabinet Committee on Security for taking over the Bureau of Civil Aviation Security (BCAS), currently under the Ministry of Civil Aviation (MoCA).
- ❖ Ministry of Civil Aviation has showed its opposition to this Home Ministry's move.
- ❖ The decision is based on a security audit conducted by a team of experts from the MHA, Intelligence Bureau, CISF and BCAS, which had recommended the change.

Bureau of Civil Aviation Security

- ❖ The Bureau of Civil Aviation Security (BCAS) is an agency of the Ministry of Civil Aviation.
- ❖ Its head office is located in New Delhi.
- ❖ BCAS has four regional offices - Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai, and Kolkata.
- ❖ BCAS is responsible for laying down standards, policies and measures with regard to security of all commercial flights.
- ❖ It was set up as a cell in the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) in 1978, after an Indian Airlines flight was hijacked in September 1976.
- ❖ After that BCAS was re organised as an independent department under the MoCA on April 1, 1987, as a follow-up to the Kanishka bombing in June 1985.
- ❖ It is currently headed by a commissioner of security.

- ❖ Multiple agencies working at airports, including the Intelligence Bureau, immigration officials, security personnel, local police, are bound by regulations passed by BCAS.

Centres for vulnerable victims under all High Courts

- ❖ The Supreme Court bench comprising A.K. Goel and U.U. Lalit has recently ordered the setting up of at least two vulnerable witnesses' deposition centres in the jurisdiction of every High Court within 3 months.
- ❖ It is primarily to help witnesses in criminal cases, often minor survivors of rape or victims of sex abuse, to testify without fear or intimidation in a conducive environment.
- ❖ The order upholds the right of vulnerable witnesses to be protected while testifying in court and is in consonance with international norms in these matters.
- ❖ At present, Delhi has four such deposition centres, backed by guidelines framed by the Delhi High Court.
- ❖ The Delhi High Court's guidelines are inspired by the UN Model Law on Justice in matters involving child victims and witnesses of crime.

Five-judge bench to decide on Aadhaar validity

- ❖ The Supreme Court bench comprising Chief Justice Dipak Misra and Justices A M Khanwilkar and D Y Chandrachud, decided to constitute a five-judge Constitution bench to hear petitions against the validity of the Aadhaar in Adhar linkage case where adhaar linking is made mandatory by the government to get benefits in social beneficiary schemes.
- ❖ Recently, a nine-judge Constitution bench had held that the Right to Privacy was a Fundamental Right under the 21 Article of the Constitution.

Expert group for suggestions on artificial intelligence policy

- ❖ The Union ministry of electronics and information technology has set up an internal committee to advise the government on a policy on artificial intelligence (AI).
- ❖ The government's main focus is to reduce cyber-attacks with AI.
- ❖ AI is also widely seen as a major challenge in generation of employment as many companies are likely to depend more on it to cut down on human resources.
- ❖ The government has recently drawn up a seven-point strategy that would form the framework for India's strategic plan to use AI.

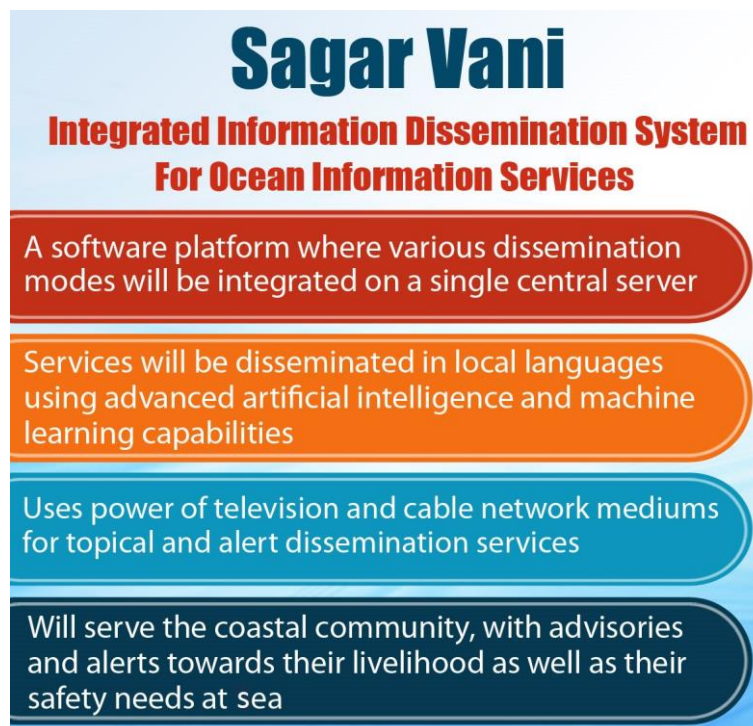
- ❖ The strategy includes developing methods for human machine interactions; ensuring safety and security of AI systems; creating a competent workforce in line with AI and R&D needs, understanding and addressing the ethical, legal and societal implications of AI, measuring and evaluating AI technologies through standards and benchmarks, among others.

Artificial intelligence

- ❖ Artificial intelligence (AI, also machine intelligence, MI) is apparently intelligent behaviour by machines, rather than the natural intelligence (NI) of humans and other animals.
- ❖ In computer science AI research is defined as the study of "intelligent agents".
- ❖ Colloquially, the term "artificial intelligence" is applied when a machine mimics "cognitive" functions that humans associate with other human minds, such as "learning" and "problem solving".

'Sagar Vani' System

- ❖ Ministry of Earth Sciences launched 'Sagar Vani' system to communicate and help the coastal community, especially fishermen, with advisories and warnings related to the safety at sea.



- ❖ The Integrated Information Dissemination System (IDS) 'Sagar Vani', a first in India, was launched as the Minister inaugurated the 11th Foundation Day of Earth Sciences Ministry.

- ❖ 'Sagar Vani' seeks to target the reach of information to the 9.27 lakh people involved in actual fishing either full or part time. The system that can send information in regional languages through various platforms including radio, television, voice calling, text service, social media, mobile apps and e-mail aims at timely dissemination of ocean information and advisory services that includes Potential Fishing Zone (PFZ) advisories, Ocean State Forecast (OSF), High Wave Alerts and Tsunami early warnings.
- ❖ The advanced system has been developed by Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS).

New Free Contraceptive Medicine under Parivar Vikas Scheme – Central Government

- ❖ To fulfill the needs of population control for the Public, the Union Government has introduced two free contraceptive medicines namely Anthara and Chhaya. In these, Anthara has to be injected through syringe while Chhaya has to be taken in the form of Pills.
- ❖ Under the Parivar Vikas scheme, these drugs have been introduced in the important 146 districts among the country's 44 % of Population. In the first phase, the drug has been introduced in the states of Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Karnataka, Haryana, West Bengal, Odisha, New Delhi and Goa.
- ❖ To help the women community for preventing and postponing the pregnancy these to drugs have been introduced at free of costs.
- ❖ The main aim of the Parivar Vikas is to reduce the Fertility ratio to 2:1 level within 2025.

INTERNATIONAL

First non-white politician to lead a major party in Canada

- ❖ New Democratic party is a major National party in Canada. Jagmeet Singh, a Sikh lawyer was elected as the leader of the New Democratic Party of Canada.
- ❖ This is the first time a first non-white politician elected as a leader of a major party in Canada.

Catalonia movement

- ❖ Referendum on independence for Catalonia was recently held.
- ❖ preliminary results of its referendum have shown 90% in favour of independence in the vote vehemently opposed by Spain government.

- ❖ The ballot will have no legal status as it has been blocked by Spain's Constitutional Court and also its declared as illegal by Spain's central government.

Catalonia background

- ❖ Catalonia is an historically an autonomous region of Spain in the north-east end of the Iberian Peninsula.
- ❖ Barcelona is its capital
- ❖ However, its cultural autonomy was never recognised despite having its own distinct history, culture and language laws, and customs.
- ❖ Many sovereigns tried to impose the Spanish language and laws in order to culturally unify the kingdom.
- ❖ This fuelled Catalan separatism which was crushed under the dictatorship of General Francisco Franco in 1940s.
- ❖ Pro -independence supporters claim that Catalonia which is one of Spain's wealthiest region , offers 20 % economic output support to Spain than it receives from Cental government.
- ❖ So the prevailing feel is that the wealth from Catalonia region is being diverted disproportionately to other poorer provinces.



President's Djibouti visit

- ❖ President Ram Nath Govind is to make his maiden visit as President to Djibouti.
- ❖ He will also be the first Indian President and first Indian leader to visit Djibouti, a part of the Horn of Africa.
- ❖ India does not even have an embassy in Djibouti.
- ❖ The four different states constituting the Horn are Somalia, Ethiopia, Eritrea, Djibouti.
- ❖ Djibouti is geo-politically significant is its location because it is -

- ✓ at the crossroads connecting Africa, the Middle East and Asia.
- ✓ at the confluence of the Red Sea with the Indian Ocean.

- ❖ China is raising its strategic profile in the region through -
 - ✓ infrastructure development in the Horn of Africa.
 - ✓ the One Belt and One Road (OBOR) initiative.
 - ✓ the recent first ever foreign military base for China, in Djibouti.
 - ✓ the rail link project between landlocked Ethiopia and Djibouti.

- ❖ In addition, countries like France, Japan, Italy, US and regional powers like UAE, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, etc. are increasing their military presence in Djibouti.

Cabinet approves the Extradition Treaty between India and Lithuania

- ❖ Centre has approved signing of an extradition treaty between India and Lithuania.
- ❖ The treaty provides a mutual legal framework for seeking deportation of terrorists, economic offenders and other criminals.
- ❖ India has signed extradition treaties with 37 countries and extradition arrangements with eight other nations.

Extradition Treaty Vs Arrangement

- ❖ An extradition treaty is a mutually agreed text signed and ratified by two Governments.
- ❖ The arrangement is made in the absence of an extradition treaty on the assurance of reciprocity including under an international convention.
- ❖ In the arrangement, two countries consider any international convention as the legal basis for extradition in respect of any offence to which the convention applies.
- ❖ It does not cover all offences.
- ❖ For e.g India has signed extradition arrangement with Italy.
- ❖ India and Italy are both States are Parties to the 1988 UN Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances.
- ❖ This Convention has been notified under the Extradition Act by the Government of India.
- ❖ Thus the legal basis for extradition will be based on this convention

Cabinet approves MoU on Upgradation of the Women's Police Training Centre

- ❖ The centre has given its ex-post facto approval to the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between India and Myanmar on upgradation of the Women's Police Training Centre at Yamethin, Myanmar.
- ❖ The MoU covers upgradation of the Yamethin Women's Police Training Centre with technical and financial assistance from the Government of India.

World Space Week (October 4-10)

- ❖ The United Nations General Assembly declared World Space Week as an annual event celebration to be commemorated between October 4–10.
- ❖ It is an international celebration of science and technology for their contribution to betterment of human condition.
- ❖ The choice of dates was based on recognition of two important dates in space history,
 - ✓ The launch of the first human-made Earth satellite, Sputnik 1, on October 4, 1957.
 - ✓ The signing of the Outer Space Treaty on October 10, 1967.
- ❖ The 2017 theme for the week is "Exploring New Worlds in Space".
- ❖ World Space Week is the largest annual space event in the world.

World's highest power pylon

- ❖ The world's highest pylon is a part of a new ultra-high voltage power line project between cities of Zhoushan and Ningbo of China.
- ❖ The 380-metre tall pylon will be four times height of London's iconic Big Ben.
- ❖ After completion it will break previous world record for the tallest power pylon currently held by China's Damaoshan pylon, which stands at 370 m.

First BIMSTEC Disaster Management Exercise (DMEx)-2017

- ❖ The first BIMSTEC (Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation) Disaster Management Exercise-2017 was held in New Delhi.
- ❖ It was conducted by National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) which is under the Ministry of Home Ministry.
- ❖ The main focus of BIMSTEC DMEx-2017 was to provide platform for sharing best practices on all aspects of Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR), strengthening regional response and coordination for Disaster Management among BIMSTEC

BIMSTEC

- ❖ The BIMSTEC is sub-regional grouping comprising of seven countries of South Asia- India, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Nepal, Sri Lanka and South East Asia- Myanmar, Thailand.

Japan launches latest satellite of positioning system

- ❖ Japan successfully launched the fourth and final satellite that makes up its terrestrial positioning network system.
- ❖ The Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA) and Mitsubishi Heavy Industries launched a Japanese H-IIA rocket with the Michibiki-4 communications satellite from the space centre on Tanegashima Island, Kagoshima.
- ❖ This is the second system that Japan launches as part of its Quasi-Zenith Satellite Systems

Quasi-Zenith Satellite System

- ❖ Quasi-Zenith is a regional terrestrial positioning network system launched by Japan.
- ❖ The satellite system consists of 4 satellites which will operate at an altitude of between 33,000 and 39,000 km above the earth in geosynchronous orbit.
- ❖ Its function is to improve GPS data accuracy for smartphones and vehicle navigation systems and complementary use of GPS.
- ❖ Japan recently launched its fourth and final quasi-zenith satellite into orbit.
- ❖ These satellites will be to establish communications during a malfunction of traditional networks due to a natural disaster.

Cabinet approves signing of the MoC between India and Japan

- ❖ The Union Cabinet has approved the signing of the Memorandum of Cooperation (MoC) between India and Japan on establishing a liquid, flexible and global LNG Market.
- ❖ The MoC provides a framework to cooperate in facilitating flexibility in
 - ✓ LNG contracts,
 - ✓ Abolition of Destination Restriction Clause
 - ✓ Explore possibilities of cooperation in establishing reliable LNG spot price indices reflecting true LNG demand and supply.
- ❖ India and Japan are major consumers of energy in the world. In the LNG sector, Japan is the world's largest importer and India is the 4th largest importer.

- ❖ The MoC will promote bilateral relationship between India and Japan in the energy sector. It will contribute to the diversification of gas supplies for India and this will strengthen our energy security.

U.S. exits UNESCO

- ❖ The United States announced its withdrawal from the U.N. Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO), accusing it of “continuing Anti-Israel bias”.
- ❖ The withdrawal goes into effect at the end of 2018.
- ❖ The US earlier had once withdrawn from the UNESCO in 1984 accusing it on favoring Soviet Union and rejoined the UNESCO in 2002

UN Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)

- ❖ UNESCO is the first UN agency to have admitted Palestine as a full member in 2011.
- ❖ UNESCO is responsible for promoting peace, social justice, human rights and international security through International cooperation on educational, science and cultural programs.
- ❖ It has 195 member states and is based in Paris, France.
- ❖ It is known for its World Heritage Mission which encourages world countries to protect Natural and Cultural Heritage sites.
- ❖ It publishes Global Education Monitoring report and Gender Parity Index.
- ❖ It also leads the initiative of Man and Biosphere Programme (MAB) for protecting Biosphere reserves across the world.

HPCL-first Indian oil company to trade lubricants in Myanmar

- ❖ Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd (HPCL), a public sector oil company became first Indian oil company to trade lubricants in Myanmar.
- ❖ HPCL started operations in Myanmar’s commercial hubs of Yangon and Mandalay.

Hamas, Fatah ink deal on Palestinian reconciliation

- ❖ Rival Palestinian political parties Hamas and Fatah have signed reconciliation deal in an effort to end a decade-long rift which was brokered by Egypt in Cairo.
- ❖ The agreement states that legislative, presidential and national council elections should be conducted within one year of its signing.

- ❖ The reconciliation deal was signed to implement a unity agreement that was signed in 2011, but not put into action.

Pakistan wins UNHRC seat

- ❖ Pakistan won a seat on the United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC) by more than two thirds vote.
- ❖ Pakistan was elected for the term 2018-20. The election in the 193-member Assembly was by secret ballot, with a simple majority required.
- ❖ There were five candidates contesting for four Asia-Pacific seats on the Council.
- ❖ Apart from Pakistan, Afghanistan, Nepal and Qatar also won seats on the Council.

UNHRC

- ❖ The United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC) is a United Nations System inter-governmental body responsible for promoting and protecting human rights around the world.
- ❖ Its 47 seats are filled by member states elected for three-year terms.
- ❖ The seats are distributed among the UN's regional groups as follows:
 - ✓ 13 for Africa
 - ✓ 13 for Asia
 - ✓ 6 for Eastern Europe
 - ✓ 8 for Latin America and the Caribbean (GRULAC)
 - ✓ 7 for the Western European and Others Group (WEOG)

Indian peacekeepers in Sudan awarded UN medal

- ❖ Fifty Indian peacekeepers stationed in South Sudan have been awarded the UN Medal for their professionalism and service in protecting civilians and building durable peace in the conflict-ridden country.
- ❖ The Indian peacekeepers are part of the UN Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS). They are deployed with the Indian battalion stationed at Bor in the Jonglei region of South Sudan.
- ❖ A United Nations Medal is an international decoration awarded by the United Nations (U.N.) to the various world country's militaries for participation in joint international military and police operations such as
 - ✓ Peacekeeping
 - ✓ Humanitarian efforts
 - ✓ Disaster relief

- ❖ The United Nations awarded its first medal during the Korean War (1950-53).

Gandhi museum inaugurated in South Africa

- ❖ Gandhi museum has been inaugurated on a small piece of land once owned by Mahatma Gandhi in the coastal city of Durban, South Africa.
- ❖ This Museum is started to show the level of impact that Mahatma Gandhi's life and struggle for truth has created universally.
- ❖ An exhibition titled 'Gandhi in Durban' has been set up at the newly-constructed venue by the Durban Local History Museum in consultation with the Mahatma Gandhi Memorial Trust (MGMT).
- ❖ Gandhi bought the land in 1897 to protest public discrimination shown against Indians, who lived in South Africa.
- ❖ Natal Indian Congress was started to fight against discrimination shown by the white people on Indians.
- ❖ When Gandhi left Durban in 1914, he transferred the ownership of the premises to the Natal Indian Congress.

APEDA to promote NE products in Bangladesh and Myanmar

- ❖ The Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) has taken up a programme for promotion of north eastern products in Bangladesh and Myanmar.
- ❖ The APEDA, proposes to organise the promotion programme in Bangladesh and Myanmar in association with the High Commission of India in Dhaka and its Embassy in Yangon.

APEDA

- ❖ The APEDA is an apex statutory export promotion organisation under the Union Ministry of Commerce and Industry.
- ❖ It is directed with the responsibility of promotion and development of the export of its scheduled products which includes all agricultural products.

New Zealand's youngest PM

- ❖ Jacinda Ardern will be the youngest Prime Minister of New Zealand in more than 150 years which had been ruled by the National Party for a decade.
- ❖ Nationalist New Zealand First Party agreed to form a new government with Labour Party leader Jacinda Ardern, which had been ruled by the National Party for a decade.

WB's Identification for Development (ID4D) identity report

- ❖ The World Bank's "Identification for Development" (ID4D) programme warned that more than 1.1 billion people worldwide officially don't exist i.e. Unable to prove their identity (1 in every 7 individuals).
- ❖ This global population deprived of health and education services.
- ❖ Many of whom live primarily in Africa and Asia and more than one third are children (under the age of 18) susceptible to violence whose births have not been registered.
- ❖ This problem is particularly acute in geographical areas whose residents face poverty, discrimination, epidemics, armed conflicts.
- ❖ As per 2013 UNICEF's report these children can fall prey to violence ranging from forced labour for boys to early marriage for girls,
- ❖ These children can also fall victim to human trafficking.

OPV Suraksha

- ❖ Offshore Patrol Vessel CG 60, which the Indian Coast Guard had provided to the Sri Lanka Coast Guard (SLCG), was commissioned as SLCG Suraksha at a ceremony held at Colombo Harbour

Japan's ruling coalition retains a supermajority in snap election

- ❖ Prime Minister Shinzo Abe secured a crucial victory in Japan's parliamentary elections with his ruling bloc maintaining a supermajority that could allow it to push for a revision of the nation's pacifist constitution.
- ❖ Abe and his allies have retained the two-thirds majorities in both houses of parliament that are required to call for constitutional amendments.
- ❖ Abe has long sought to revise Article 9, which renounces war, and remove the ambiguity surrounding Japan's military, known as the "Self-Defense Forces".
- ❖ If Abe serves out a complete four-year term, he will remain at the helm during the 2020 Tokyo Olympic Games and become Japan's longest-serving prime minister.

WHO cancels Robert Mugabe goodwill ambassador role

- ❖ The World Health Organization has revoked the appointment of Zimbabwe's Robert Mugabe as a goodwill ambassador.

- ❖ Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, the Chief of World Health Organization (WHO), had announced the appointment earlier this week during a speech in Uruguay.
- ❖ Public health experts and key WHO donors like Britain, Canada and the United States swiftly denounced any prospective role for Mugabe, saying Zimbabwe's healthcare system has collapsed under his 37 years of authoritarian rule.

INS Sukanya reaches Indonesia for CORPAT joint maritime exercise

- ❖ INS Sukanya arrived at Belawan, Indonesia to participate in the 30th edition of CORPAT (Coordinated Patrol) and 3rd bilateral exercise between the Indian Navy and the Indonesian Navy.
- ❖ The bi-lateral exercise CORPAT scheduled from October 24 to November 5 is a demonstration of India's commitment to foster closer maritime ties with countries located on the rim of the Indian Ocean.
- ❖ The two navies have been carrying out CORPAT on respective sides of the International Maritime Boundary Line (IMBL) twice a year since 2002.
- ❖ The aim of the CORPAT is to enhance mutual understanding and interoperability between the navies, prosecute vessels involved in unlawful activities, conduct SAR and take measures against sea pollution.
- ❖ The Sukanya-class patrol vessels are large, offshore patrol craft in active service with the Indian Navy.
- ❖ Currently there are 3 lead ships under this class – INS Sukanya, Subhadra and Suvarna.

Global Passport Power Rank 2017

- ❖ Singapore's passport has been announced as the most powerful in the world. It is the first time that an Asian country has occupied the first place in the index.
- ❖ India's passport was ranked 75th among 94 countries in the recently released Global Passport Power Rank 2017 and has improved 3 rankings compared to last year.
- ❖ The index ranks passports worldwide based on the cross-border access a holder has.
- ❖ It was developed by Canada based global consultancy Arton Capital.
- ❖ Germany listed in second place with its citizens able to visit 158 countries.

First Meeting of BIMSTEC Task Force on Traditional Medicine

- ❖ Ministry of AYUSH, Government of India hosted First Meeting of BIMSTEC Task Force on Traditional Medicine at Pravasi Bhartiya Kendra, New Delhi.
- ❖ India being a major stake holder in the field of Traditional Medicine plays an important role in influencing the policies and strategies related to the Traditional Medicine in the BIMSTEC Forum.

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.

India, Sri Lanka ink housing project deal in Hambantota

- ❖ Sri Lanka signed an agreement with India to build 1,200 houses in a public ceremony held in the southern port city.
- ❖ Of the 1,200 houses to be built, 600 will be constructed in the Southern Province, while the remaining would be built across Sri Lanka, through one model village in each of the country's 25 districts.
- ❖ Hambantota is the main town in Hambantota District, Southern Province, Sri Lanka.
- ❖ Hambantota is right in the middle of vital energy supply lines in the Indian Ocean, connecting the Middle East and East Asia
- ❖ The signing of the MoU in Hambantota assumes significance not only in its timing, but also in taking India's housing project to the Sinhala-majority Southern Province.
- ❖ India has been taking steps to protect itself in the Indian Ocean by allying itself with the United States and Japan in a clear bid to counter growing Chinese influence.

World's oldest maritime astrolabe

- ❖ An Astrolabe found in the shipwreck off the coast of Oman is believed to be the world's oldest known type of a navigational tool.

- ❖ According to Marine archaeologists the instrument was once used by mariners to measure the altitude of the Sun during their voyages.
- ❖ It dates back to 1495 and 1500. It is believed that the Astrolabe guided Portuguese explorers on perilous voyages to India in the 16th century.
- ❖ Astrolabes have been used since ancient times and the Portuguese explorers developed the mariners' version by using the altitudes of the sun or stars to determine the latitude of a ship at sea.
- ❖ The boat was called the Esmeralda and was part of a fleet led by Portuguese explorer Vasco da Gama, the first person to sail directly from Europe to India.
- ❖ The astrolabe is made of bronze disc has two stamps on it, the first one is of the Portuguese coat of arms and the second one has the personal emblem of King Manuel I of Portugal, who came to the throne in October 1495.

Spain sacks Catalonia government after independence declaration

- ❖ The Madrid government sacked Catalonia's President and dismissed its parliament hours after the region declared itself an independent nation in Spain's gravest political crisis since the return of democracy four decades ago.
- ❖ Catalonia held an Independent referendum on Oct. 1, 2017 which was declared illegal by Madrid and marred by heavy-handed national police tactics to stop it.
- ❖ Catalonia is one of Spain's most prosperous regions and already has a high degree of autonomy. But it has a series of historic grievances, exacerbated during the 1939-1975 Franco dictatorship, when its culture and politics were suppressed.

Australian court disqualifies deputy PM for dual citizenship

- ❖ Australia's High Court disqualified deputy Prime Minister Barnaby Joyce and four senators from sitting in Parliament for holding dual citizenship.
- ❖ The constitution bans dual nationals from Parliament, a prohibition that critics have condemned as outdated in a country where almost half the people are immigrants or have an overseas-born parent.

Burundi becomes first country to leave ICC

- ❖ Burundi has become the first country to withdraw from the International Criminal Court a year after Burundi notified the United Nations secretary-general of its intention to leave the court that prosecutes the world's worst atrocities.

- ❖ Burundi is the only one of three African nations to go ahead with withdrawal after they made moves last year to leave.
- ❖ Burundi has faced deadly political turmoil since April 2015, when President Pierre Nkurunziza announced plans to seek a disputed third term that he ultimately won.

14th SAARCLAW Conference held in Sri Lanka

- ❖ The 14th South Asian Association for Regional Co-operation in Law (SAARCLAW) Conference was held in Colombo, Sri Lanka along with 11th SAARC Chief Justices Conference.
- ❖ It was established in Sri Lanka in 1991.
- ❖ The conference has provided a platform for legal professionals from South Asian region to meet and discuss issues of mutual interests pertaining to justice, legal reforms, good governance and enforcement.

The Twelfth Session of the CMS COP

- ❖ The Twelfth Session of the Conference of the Parties to the Bonn Convention (CMS COP12) was held in Manila, the Philippines.
- ❖ It is the first time that the COP has been held in Asia.
- ❖ The slogan for the Conference is “Their Future is Our Future – Sustainable Development for Wildlife & People”.
- ❖ This conference is related with the Sustainable Development Goals.
- ❖ Four Asian Vultures such as
 - Red-headed vulture,
 - White-rumped vulture,
 - Indian vulture and
 - Slender-billed vultureare set to get highest protection by the convention.
- ❖ The whale shark, which inhabits the Indian Ocean, got global protection too.
- ❖ The Caspian seal, the only marine mammal found in the world’s largest inland sea has also been identified for conservation.
- ❖ The next edition of the meeting will be held in India in 2020.

Bonn Convention

- ❖ Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS) is popularly known as Bonn convention.

- ❖ It is an environmental treaty under the aegis of United Nations Environment Programme.
- ❖ India is a party to this convention whereas China, Russia, US, Canada, Japan are not party to it.

India tops list of new TB cases in 2016: World Health Organisation

- ❖ India topped the list of seven countries, accounting for 64 per cent of the 10.4 million new tuberculosis (TB) cases worldwide in 2016, according to a new report by the World Health Organisation.
- ❖ TB is caused by bacteria (*Mycobacterium tuberculosis*) that most often affect the lungs.
- ❖ It is curable and preventable and it spread from person to person through the air.
- ❖ India was followed by Indonesia, China, Philippines, Pakistan, Nigeria and South Africa, according to a Global TB Report 2017 released by the WHO.
- ❖ India along with China and the Russia accounted for almost of half of the 490,000, multidrug-resistant TB (MDR-TB) cases registered in 2016.
- ❖ Multi-drug-resistant tuberculosis (MDR-TB) is a form of tuberculosis (TB) infection caused by bacteria that are resistant to treatment with at least two of the most powerful first-line anti-TB medications (drugs), isoniazid and rifampin.

Tesla to build wholly-owned Shanghai plant

- ❖ Tesla has reached an agreement with Shanghai authorities that would make it the first foreign automaker to build its own plant in China, taking control of the world's biggest electric-vehicle market.
- ❖ The Silicon Valley electric carmaker's wholly-owned manufacturing facility would be built in Shanghai's free-trade zone.
- ❖ China's electric-vehicle market is already the world's largest and is planning to ban fossil-fuel burning cars following decisions by France and Britain to outlaw the sale of such vehicles from 2040 to limit emissions.

19th National Congress of the Communist Party of China

- ❖ The 19th National Congress of the Communist Party of China opened in Beijing, China on 18 October 2017.
- ❖ China is holding a once-every-five-years meeting
- ❖ The Party Congress will close on October 24 this year, after which the new leadership will be announced.

- ❖ In short, it's a meeting to vote on the leadership of the Communist Party of China.
- ❖ About 370 full and alternate members of the party's elite Central Committee will be elected at the Congress. Full members have voting rights and they all come from a pre-selected pool of candidates.
- ❖ They are chosen by 2,287 delegates from diverse backgrounds and groups. Among them are farmers, professionals and academics.
- ❖ Those participants have been pre-screened and are deemed to have "unshakable belief," "correct political stance" and "good moral quality," among others
- ❖ The Chinese Communist Party boasts a membership of 89 million.
- ❖ The bodies that sit atop the Communist Party organization will see their makeup change significantly. These include the 25-member Politburo, the 7-member Politburo Standing Committee, and the Central Commission for Discipline Inspection, the internal discipline organ that has come to the political foreground since 2012.
- ❖ The Politburo will then choose members of its Standing Committee, China's top leaders.
- ❖ The group — now headed by President Xi Jinping, who is general secretary of the Communist Party — will be unveiled after the meeting was over
- ❖ The Congress is more about ideology than policy, but it still charts the future direction for China and offers a glimpse into its opaque politics.
- ❖ At the 12th Congress in 1982, "Paramount Leader" Deng Xiaoping heralded in the age of China's socialist market economy
- ❖ At the 17th Party Congress in 2007, Xi was appointed to the Politburo Standing Committee, which signalled to the world that he was primed to take the top spot in the country's leadership.
- ❖ Five years later, Xi took office as the general secretary of the Communist Party. He became president of China in 2013.

2017 Meeting

- ❖ China's ruling Communist Party endorsed a second five-year term for President Xi Jinping and amended its Constitution to add his name and ideology, elevating him on par with party founder Mao Zedong and his successor Deng Xiaoping.
- ❖ Xi's concept of "socialism with Chinese characteristics for a new era" was added to the party's Constitution.
- ❖ The amendment to the CPC's Constitution was approved making 64-year-old Xi's ideology as a new component of the party's guide for action, according to a resolution of the 19th CPC National Congress.
- ❖ The CPC elected a new Central Committee to lead the party for the coming five years.

- ❖ The 19th CPC Central Committee will in turn to elect the Politburo, the country's top ruling council, the Politburo Standing Committee, and the General Secretary at its first plenary session.

11 Agreements between India and Myanmar

- ❖ The Prime Minister, who has gone to Myanmar, has signed so many agreements to strength the bilateral relations with that country.
- ❖ 11 agreements have been signed between India and Myanmar in the matters which include, Providing cooperation in the Maritime Security, Sharing the details about the ships carrying goods within their maritime limits, arranging cultural exchange programs till 2020 between the two, An agreement between Indian and Myanmar election authorities for obtaining technical cooperation in the election matters, agreement between Indian and Myanmar press council, agreement related with the development of Women Police training centre at Yamethin in Myanmar, cooperation in the medical field.

Space Kidz – India Russia joint satellite mission

- ❖ The director of the Russia's embassy Michael Corboda said that India – Russia joint satellite mission will be implemented with the science organization "Space Kids India".
- ❖ The Russian aircraft company, Moscow United Aircraft production is at the front stage in the field of space technology. Both Space Kidz India and Moscow United Aircraft Production are in the plan of making space research as commercial matters.
- ❖ The joint satellite mission will be implemented to commemorate the 70th anniversary of relationship between India and Russia. This Joint satellite will be in the International Space station for the two months time period. Later it will be positioned at the space. Through the communication of satellite, when it is in the International Space Station, various competitions will be organized for the Higher secondary and University students. Moreover, there have been plans formulated to play the national anthems of the two countries.

ECONOMY

33rd India Economic Summit

- ❖ World Economic Forum's 33rd India Economic Summit is organised in partnership with Industry body the Confederation of Indian Industry.
- ❖ The theme of the conference is 'Creating Indian Narratives on Global Challenges'.
- ❖ The summit will host leaders from 35 countries, discussing issues such as climate change, infrastructure, gender parity, tourism, education and skills, besides demonetisation and the GST.

IMF's growth projection

- ❖ The International Monetary Fund (IMF) in its October World Economic Outlook (WEO) has lowered India's economic growth forecast at 6.7% in 2017 and 7.4 % in 2018.
- ❖ It is slower than 0.5 and 0.3 percentage points projected earlier by IMF; at this rate, India will lose the tag of the fastest-growing major economy. China is projected to grow by 6.8 per cent in 2017.

IIP Data-August 2017

- ❖ According to data released by Central Statistics Office (CSO), factory output measured in terms of Index of Industrial Production (IIP) has grown nine-month high to 4.3% in August 2017.
- ❖ This was mainly due to a robust performance of the mining and power sectors coupled with higher capital goods output

Index of industrial production

- ❖ The Index of Industrial Production (IIP) is an index for India which details out the growth of various sectors in an economy such as mineral mining, electricity and manufacturing.
- ❖ The all India IIP is a composite indicator that measures the short-term changes in the volume of production of a basket of industrial products during a given period with respect to that in a chosen base period.
- ❖ It is compiled and published monthly by the Central Statistical Organisation (CSO) six weeks after the reference month ends.

RBI- interoperability of wallets

- ❖ The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has directed the banks and non-bank entities should make their wallets, or prepaid payment instruments,

interoperable through the Unified Payments Interface (UPI) within six months with a view to making electronic payments seamless.

- ❖ In the first phase, all Know Your Customer (KYC)-compliant PPIs should be made interoperable amongst themselves through UPI.
- ❖ In next phase, interoperability shall be enabled between wallets and bank accounts through UPI.

IWAI's Fund Raising

- ❖ The Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI) has raised Rs. 660 crores as "Government of India Fully Serviced Bonds".
- ❖ The proceeds from these bonds will be utilized by IWAI exclusively for capital expenditure for development of National Waterways (NWS).

Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI)

- ❖ IWAI is the statutory body in charge of the waterways in India. Its headquarters is located in Noida, UP.

Norms on appointing Independent Directors

- ❖ Kotak Committee on corporate governance constituted by the SEBI, has recently proposed a fresh set of norms for appointing directors.
- ❖ Independent directors, who are supposed to represent ordinary shareholders, are chosen not by shareholders but largely by the management, i.e. the promoter.
- ❖ This committee asks for more directors and independent directors and dwells on the eligibility criteria for independent directors, and their induction.
- ❖ It lays down requirements for the minimum number of board meetings and attendance requirements.
- ❖ It specifies a minimum compensation for independent directors.

CORP GOVERNANCE BOOST	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Sebi has mandated that an independent director can have a maximum of two consecutive terms of five years each with any company 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> hold at least one meeting in a year, without the attendance of non-independent directors and members of the management
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > The market regulator has said all independent directors of a company should 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Sebi notified these changes to the clause 49 of the listing agreement subsequent to the notification of the Companies Act, 2013

IBSA Trust Fund agreement

- ❖ India, Brazil and South Africa signed the IBSA Trust Fund Agreement that seeks to fight poverty in developing countries.
- ❖ The agreement was signed by at the 8th IBSA Trilateral Ministerial Commission Meeting in Durban.
- ❖ Each country contributes 1 million USD annually to this fund which is managed by the UN Development Programmer's (UNDP) Special Unit for South-South Cooperation.

IBSA

- ❖ The IBSA Dialogue Forum is an international tripartite grouping for promoting international cooperation among India, Brazil, and South Africa.
- ❖ It was formalized through the adoption of the "Brasilia Declaration" in 2003.

Government permits banks to sell more small savings schemes

- ❖ The union government has allowed all public sector banks, including top three private sector lenders, to accept deposits under various small savings schemes.
- ❖ This is done mainly in order to encourage savings through schemes like National Savings Certificate (NSC), recurring deposits and monthly income plan.
- ❖ Until now, most of the small savings schemes were sold through post offices.
- ❖ So far, these banks were allowed to receive subscription under Public Provident Fund, Kisan Vikas Patra-2014, Sukanya Samriddhi Account, Senior Citizen Savings Scheme-2004.
- ❖ Increased outlets for selling small savings scheme would result in higher mobilisation under the scheme.
- ❖ On the basis of the decision of the government, interest rates for small savings schemes are to be notified on a quarterly basis since April 1, 2016.

Linking Aadhaar number to bank accounts is mandatory: RBI

- ❖ RBI clarifies that linking bank accounts to Aadhaar is mandatory under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act.
- ❖ The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) said that the anti-money laundering rules which were amended in June 1, 2017 have statutory force and banks have to implement them without awaiting further instructions.

- ❖ The government had notified under PMLA that every bank account should be linked to Aadhaar by 31 December, failing which the accounts will become inoperative.

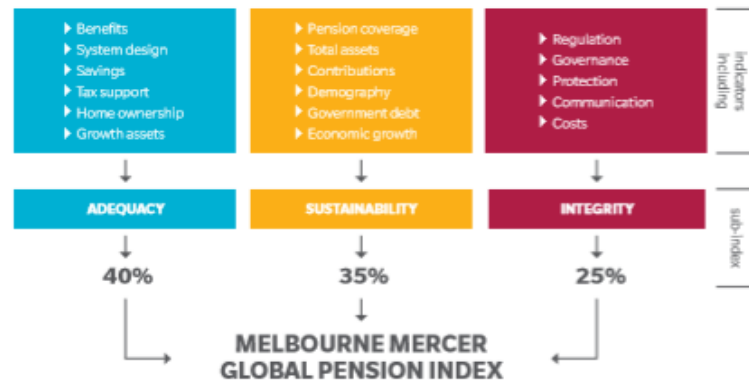
Original IDs Mandatory

- ❖ The Department of Revenue (DoR), Finance Ministry has made it mandatory for banks and financial institutions to check original identification documents of individuals dealing in cash above 50000 to weed out use of forged or fake copies.
- ❖ DoR has amended to Prevention of Money-laundering (Maintenance of Records) Rules.
- ❖ The Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) and its rules impose obligation on reporting entities like banks, financial institutions and intermediaries to verify identity of clients, maintain records and furnish information to Financial Intelligence Unit of India (FIU-IND).

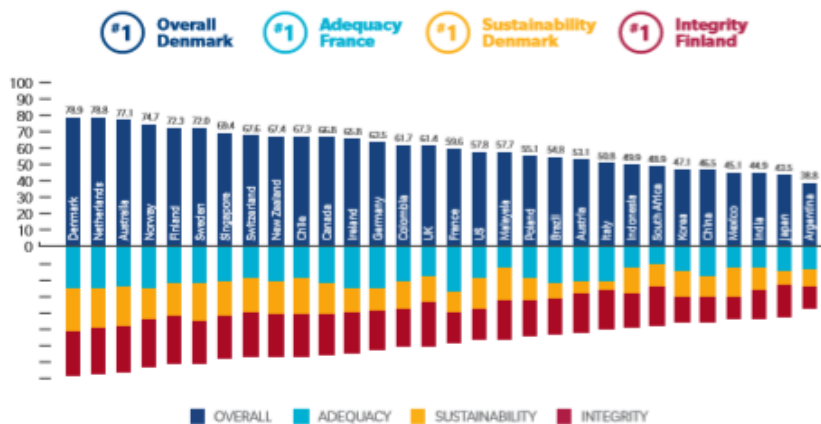
Melbourne Mercer Global Pension Index 2017

- ❖ India has been ranked 28 out of the 30 countries under review in the Melbourne Mercer Global Pension Index 2017, which was topped by Denmark for the sixth straight year.
- ❖ India's overall index value increased from 43.4 in 2016 to 44.9 in 2017 and its pension system is found more sustainable than Poland, Germany, France, Japan, Italy, Austria, Brazil, China and Argentina.
- ❖ The Melbourne Mercer Global Pension Index (MMGPI) compares retirement income systems around the world based on their,
 - ✓ Adequacy
 - ✓ Sustainability
 - ✓ Integrity
- ❖ The Index objectively assesses the retirement income systems of 27 countries across the Americas, Europe and Asia-Pacific Includes Colombia, New Zealand and Norway as 2017 additions.

CALCULATING THE MELBOURNE MERCER GLOBAL PENSION INDEX



2017 RESULTS



RBI sets up task force for India public credit registry

- ❖ RBI has constituted a High Level Task Force on Public Credit Registry (PCR) that can provide a roadmap for developing a powerful credit information system.
- ❖ PCR is an extensive central database of bank loans (credit information) that is accessible to all stakeholders.
- ❖ It captures credit data on all kinds of loans which will be helpful in improving assessment of credit risk by the banks, early detection of non-performing assets (NPAs), and to improve recovery of loans.
- ❖ It certifies the details of collaterals, can enable the writing of contracts that prevent over-pledging of collateral by a borrower.

- ❖ It will also help to prevent multiple financing against the same property.
- ❖ Initially, PCR will cover banks' customers which can then be expanded to cover other financial institutions (NBFCs).
- ❖ It will be managed by a public authority like the central bank.
- ❖ It would help in enhancing efficiency of the credit market, increase financial inclusion, and improve ease of doing business and help control delinquencies.

SBI ties up with Escorts Ltd to finance tractors purchase

- ❖ The State Bank of India (SBI), the country's largest public sector lender, has signed an agreement with Escorts Ltd to finance farmers for purchase of Escorts tractors.
- ❖ The aim of the tie-up with Escorts is to promote market and make accessible, organised finance facility, with superior features, at competitive interest rates to farmers across the country, who wish to purchase Powertrac and Farmtrac tractors manufactured by Escorts.
- ❖ Escorts is a leading tractor and construction equipment manufacturer at Faridabad in Haryana.

Government announces Bank Recapitalisation Plan

- ❖ The Union government unveiled an ambitious plan to infuse ₹2.11 lakh crore capital over the next two years into public sector banks (PSBs) prioritised financing support for MSMEs in 50 clusters.
- ❖ The nature of recapitalisation bonds will be decided in coming months and the capital infusion will be accompanied by a series of banking sector reforms.
- ❖ It will increase lending capacity of PSBs which will in turn boost economy and improve private sector investment.

India slaps anti-dumping duty on stainless steel imports

- ❖ India imposed anti-dumping duty on some cold-rolled flat products of stainless steel from China, the US, South Korea and the European Union to curb the influx of cheaper imports and help local producers.
- ❖ The duty, which will be in effect until 10 December 2020, exempts certain grades of stainless steel.
- ❖ Last month, the government imposed an additional 18.95% countervailing duty on some hot-rolled and cold-rolled stainless steel flat products, a first such levy on a steel product.

Countervailing duty

- ❖ Countervailing duty is an additional import duty imposed on imported products (by the importing country) when such products enjoy benefits like export subsidies and tax concessions in the country of their origin (ie., where it is produced and exported).

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.

Public Finance Management System to Help Monitor Welfare Funds

- ❖ Finance Minister Arun Jaitley said that the mandatory use of Public Finance Management System (PFMS) will help monitor the flow of funds to beneficiaries of different government welfare schemes.
- ❖ PFMS, with the capability of providing real time information on
 - ✓ Resource availability
 - ✓ flows and actual utilization
- ❖ It has tremendous potential to improve programme/financial management, reduce the float in the financial systems by enabling 'just in time' releases and also the Government borrowings with direct impact on interest costs to the Government.
- ❖ PFMS will progress towards a Government wide Integrated Financial Management System (GIFMIS) – as a comprehensive Payment, Receipt and Accounting System.

Niti Aayog suggests strategic disinvestment of 34 PSUs

- ❖ The government think-tank Niti Aayog has recommended strategic disinvestment of 34 sick public sector units
- ❖ The Prime Minister's Office (PMO) had asked the think- tank to look into the viability of sick state-run companies.

Ministers' panel clears launch of new PSU fund

- ❖ A ministerial panel headed by finance minister Arun Jaitley cleared the deck for launch of a new exchange-traded fund (ETF), comprising 22 public sector stocks along with those of Axis Bank, ITC and L&T.
- ❖ ETFs are like mutual funds and comprise a basket of shares.
- ❖ Bharat 22 is the latest ETF from the government and is part of a disinvestment programme.

Logistics Data Bank (LDB) Services

- ❖ The Logistics Data Bank's (LDB) services will soon be extended to all major ports in India.
- ❖ The LDB project's objective is to ensure greater efficiency in the country's logistics sector through the use of information technology.
- ❖ The IPA (Indian Ports Association) is the apex body for India's major ports under the shipping ministry's supervisory control. Until now, the LDB project covered only the country's western logistics corridor.
- ❖ As part of the LDB project, each container is attached to a Radio Frequency Identification Tag (RFID) tag and tracked through RFID readers. This, in turn, helps importers and exporters to track their goods in transit.
- ❖ The LDB project was unveiled in July 2016 as an important 'ease of doing business' initiative to boost the country's foreign trade and bring about greater transparency. It helps reduce the overall lead time of container movement, besides bringing down transaction costs that consignees and shippers incur.
- ❖ The project is implemented through a Special Purpose Vehicle called Delhi Mumbai Industrial Corridor Development Corporation Logistics Data Services Ltd. (DLDSL) — jointly owned by the Delhi Mumbai Industrial Corridor (DMIC) Trust and Japanese IT services major NEC Corporation.
- ❖ The LDB project covers "the entire movement through rail or road till the Inland Container Depot and Container Freight Station."

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

"Piperazine" – A New drug for Chikungunya

- ❖ Researchers from IIT Roorkee used an existing anti-viral drug Piperazine for the cure of chikungunya.
- ❖ Currently, there is no cure for the disease.

- ❖ Piperazine is used for the treatment of worm infections.
- ❖ The anti-viral activity of Piperazine molecule inhibits virus replication.
- ❖ The drug binds to the target, the protein's interaction with the enveloped protein of virus is inhibited and hence the virus release from infected cell is affected.

First upper arm double hand transplant

- ❖ Asia's first upper arm double hand transplant was conducted at the Amrita Institute of Medical Science (AIMS), Kochi.
- ❖ Upper arm transplants are more challenging than those at the wrist or forearm level due to the complexity involved in accurately identifying and connecting various nerves, muscles, tendons and arteries. Only nine such cases have been reported the world
- ❖ This is the first time in the world a male donor's hand has been transplanted on a female recipient

Five black hole pairs found

- ❖ Astronomers including one of the Indian-origin have identified five pairs of supermassive black holes, each containing millions of times the mass of the Sun, in the centres of galaxies.
- ❖ This could help astronomers better understand how giant black holes grow and how they may produce the strongest gravitational wave signals in the universe.
- ❖ These black hole couples formed when two galaxies collided and merged with each other, forcing their supermassive black holes to comes closer to each other.
- ❖ The black hole pairs were discovered by combining data from a suite of different observatories including
 - NASA's Chandra X-ray Observatory,
 - The Wide-Field Infrared Sky Explorer Survey (WISE)
 - The ground-based Large Binocular Telescope in Arizona.

India's First Online Property Bidding Platform

- ❖ Magicbricks announced the launch of India's first online bidding platform for residential and commercial properties and tied-up with developer M3M.
- ❖ It has been recently awarded the Standardisation, Testing and Quality Certification (STQC) by the Ministry of Communications and Information

Technology, making it the country's only real estate portal eligible for a bidding platform for properties.

IIT Madras gets world's largest combustion research centre

- ❖ National Centre for Combustion Research and Development (NCCRD), the world's largest combustion research centre was inaugurated at the Indian Institute of Technology, Madras.
- ❖ The infrastructure facilities are also the largest for any combustion research centre in an academic setting globally.

National Centre for Combustion Research and Development -NCCRD

- ❖ NCCRD's research interests will cover automotive, thermal power and aerospace propulsion, besides fire research and microgravity combustion to minor extent
- ❖ The establishment of the centre will impart a major boost to the Indian scientific community and will provide an impetus to research in 'Alternative Energy and Environmental Protection'.
- ❖ NCCRD is supported by the state-run Science and Engineering Research Board of Department of Science and Technology (DST)

IIT teams use plant extract, heat to kill skin cancer cells

- ❖ Nanoparticle formulation of a chlorophyll-rich biomolecular extract of an Indian medicinal plant *Anthocephalus cadamba* (Kadamba Tree) combined with a near-infrared dye has been found to selectively kill skin cancer cells.
- ❖ The plant extract is toxic to cancer cells as there is enhanced generation of reactive oxygen species (ROS) while the dye aids in the destruction of cancer cells through Photo Thermal Therapy.
- ❖ On being irradiated with near-infrared light, the dye gets heated up and facilitates the release of the extract from polymer membrane. After 4-5 minutes of irradiation, about 80% of cancer cells were killed
- ❖ Two teams from Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Hyderabad and IIT Bombay working together have achieved promising results using skin cancer

Photo Thermal Therapy (PTT)


- ❖ Photothermal therapy (PTT) refers to efforts to use electromagnetic radiation for the treatment of various medical conditions, including cancer.

Removing Fluoride contamination in Water

- ❖ Researchers at the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Hyderabad have used activated jamun seed powder to bring the fluoride content in drinking water to less than the WHO limit of 1.5 mg per litre.
- ❖ The activated jamun seed acquires a positive charge at low pH and the positive charge attracts the fluoride ions while the negative charge in an alkaline medium repulses the fluoride ions.
- ❖ The fluoride ion removal increases with a decrease in pH, with maximum adsorption found at pH 3.
- ❖ They tested it using groundwater taken from Nalgonda village, which is one of the worst fluoride-affected villages in India.
- ❖ The fluoride content was successfully reduced to 1.5 mg per litre in the groundwater.

Scientists link new virus to kala-azar

- ❖ Scientists have recently identified an unknown virus Lepsey NLV1 that may be responsible for the persistence of kala-azar.
- ❖ However, scientists are still not clear how the parasites cause the infection and how they manage to hide within the body.
- ❖ Visceral leishmaniasis (VL), also known as kala-azar, is caused by the protozoan Leishmania parasites.
- ❖ It is transmitted to humans through infected 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.
- ❖ It is endemic to the Indian subcontinent in 119 districts in four countries (Bangladesh, Bhutan, India and Nepal).
- ❖ India itself accounts for half the global burden of the disease.

WHAT IS KALA-AZAR	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ A slow progressing indigenous disease 	Signs & Symptoms <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➔ Recurrent fever ➔ Loss of appetite ➔ Weakness ➔ Spleen enlargement ➔ Anaemia
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Caused by protozoan parasite of genus <i>Leishmania</i> 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ In India, <i>Leishmania donovani</i> is the only parasite causing the disease 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The parasite primarily infects reticuloendothelial system 	
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

Narrow rings of comets spotted

- ❖ Scientists using NASA telescopes have spotted narrow dense rings of comets coming together to form massive planets on the outskirts of at least three distant solar systems.
- ❖ Its mass is estimated based on the amount of light they reflect and it shows that each of these developing planets is at least the size of a few Earths.
- ❖ The bright outer rings composed of comet like bodies at 75 to 200 astronomical units from their parent stars which is about 2 to 7 times the distance of Pluto from our own Sun.
- ❖ The composition of the material in these rings varies from ice - rich to ice-depleted but carbon rich.
- ❖ The scientists are especially intrigued by the red dust ring surrounding the planet “HR 4796A”, which shows unusually tight form for an infant solar system.

New tool to diagnose Malaria - IISc Scientists

- ❖ Scientists at the Indian Institute of Science, Bengaluru, (IISc) have developed a new diagnostic tool for early detection of malaria.
- ❖ Currently, visual microscopic identification of the malarial parasite Plasmodium inside red blood cells (RBCs) is used, but the new tool can detect the disease even in RBCs that do not themselves host the parasite but lie near the infected ones. RBCs that lie close to the infected ones appear rigid much like the affected ones and this helps in easy diagnosis.
- ❖ The Brownian motion (random movement of particles) of the normal RBC was found to be different from the infected ones.

Astrosat, Chandra and Hubble jointly detected massive cosmic explosion

- ❖ Three space-based observatories Astrosat, Chandra, Hubble Space Telescope and a ground-based observatory HARPS have simultaneously detected a massive coronal explosion on the nearest planet-hosting star 'Proxima Centauri'
- ❖ 'Proxima Centauri' group of stars which hosts an Earth-like habitable planet orbiting within (Proxima Centauri) its habitable zone
- ❖ The exercise to investigate the fate of this Earth-like planet orbiting the 'Proxima Centauri', around 4.25 light years away from the Sun, involved a team of scientists from India, the US, Chile, France and Germany.
- ❖ 'Proxima Centauri' is a well-known flaring star where a large amount of energy is released as a result of magnetic reconnection and such stars (like Proxima Centauri) are known to flare on timescales of a few minutes to hours.
- ❖ Astrosat is a multi-wavelength astronomy mission built by a consortium of institutes across India led by ISRO Satellite Centre (ISAC, Bengaluru); Tata Institute of Fundamental Research (TIFR), Mumbai; Indian Institute of Astrophysics (IIA), Bengaluru; Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre (VSSC, Thiruvananthapuram); Inter-University Centre for Astronomy and Astrophysics (IUCAA, Pune); and Space Applications Centre (SAC, Ahmedabad) in collaboration with University of Leicester (UK) and the Canadian Space Agency.
- ❖ The Chandra programme is managed by NASA's Marshall Space Flight Center, Alabama (USA).

CRISPR

- ❖ For the first time, scientists in the US have successfully used gene-editing tools on human embryos to correct defective DNA that cause inherited diseases.
- ❖ The effort involved changing the DNA of a large number of one-cell embryos with gene-editing technique CRISPR.
- ❖ CRISPR stands for Clustered Regularly Interspaced Short Palindromic Repeats.
- ❖ CRISPR - Cas9 is a most prominent genome editing technique by targeting specific stretches of genetic code to edit DNA at precise locations.
- ❖ CRISPR is a collection of DNA sequences that direct Cas9 where to cut and paste. Cas9 is an enzyme that can edit DNA, allowing the alteration of genetic patterns by genome modification.
- ❖ The technique allows researchers to permanently modify genes in living cells and organisms and to correct mutations at precise locations in the human genome to treat genetic causes of disease.
- ❖ It can be used to target multiple genes simultaneously and can also activate gene expression instead of cutting the DNA.
- ❖ CRISPR-Cas9 technology has the potential to revolutionise the treatment of blood diseases, tumours and other genetic diseases.

ENVIRONMENT

Nepal, India to conduct first joint tiger count

- ❖ For the first time, Nepal and India will undertake a joint tiger census next month in their national parks, forests and protected areas adjoining the two countries using a globally-recognised method.
- ❖ Tiger range countries (TRCs) are those where the big cat roams freely. The 13 tiger range countries include Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, China, India, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Nepal, Russia, Thailand, and Vietnam.
- ❖ Tiger is an endangered animal listed in the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES).
- ❖ According to the World Wildlife Fund (WWF), tigers have lost 93% of their historical range. Human and wildlife conflict, climate change and poaching and illegal wildlife trade are among the major reasons that has pushed the feline into the endangered category — facing risk of extinction in the wild — over the years.

- ❖ The Chitwan National Park in Chitwan and Parsa Wildlife Reserve of Nepal are adjacent to the Balmiki Tiger Reserve in Bihar. Likewise, Nepal's Bardiya National Park adjoins India's Katarniaghat Wildlife Sanctuary while the Shuklaphant National Park in Nepal adjoins India's Dudhwa Tiger Reserve.

Turtle Sanctuary to be set up in Allahabad

- ❖ In order to protect the rich aquatic biodiversity of river Ganga from escalating anthropogenic pressures, development of a Turtle sanctuary in Allahabad along with a River Biodiversity Park at Sangam have been approved Ministry of Water Resources under Namami Gange programme.
- ❖ It Includes development of River Biodiversity Park at Sangam (confluence of Ganga, Yamuna and mythical Sarasvati), establishment of a Turtle Rearing Centre (Permanent nursery at Triveni Pushp and makeshift annual hatcheries) and awareness about the importance of river Ganga and imperativeness of its conservation has been approved.

Melting ice making Greenland Sea less saline

- ❖ For the first time, ocean data from Northeast Greenland reveals the long-term impact of the melting of the Greenland ice sheet.
- ❖ The increased melting of Greenland ice causes coastal waters to become less saline.
- ❖ The less saline water is expected to affect marine life as well as global ocean currents that keep Europe warm.
- ❖ The 'Greenland Ecosystem Monitoring Program' shows that the fresh water from the ice sheet accumulates in the surface layer of the surrounding sea and flows into the Greenland fjords.
- ❖ Meltdown of the Greenland ice sheet has more than doubled compared with the period 1983-2003.
- ❖ Fjords are a long, narrow, deep inlet of the sea between high cliffs typically formed by submergence of a glaciated valley.

Sawfish more threatened than tigers- Scientists

- ❖ A statement issued by the Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI-Kochi) said the sawfish may be the most endangered fish species in India.
- ❖ The first sawfish day was observed on October 17 across worldwide.
- ❖ Marine scientists have reported that sawfish appears to be more threatened than tigers and elephants.

- ❖ Sawfish is included in the Schedule I of the Indian Wildlife (Protection) Act 1972.
- ❖ Skeleton of sawfish is made of cartilage, instead of bone. Thus they belong to Elasmobranchs.
- ❖ They are closely related to sharks and have shark-shaped bodies and, hence, are also called flat sharks.
- ❖ There are only five species of the sawfish ever identified — dwarf sawfish, knife tooth sawfish, small tooth sawfish, large tooth sawfish and green sawfish.

World's deepest lake in peril

- ❖ Lake Baikal, holding one-fifth of the world's unfrozen fresh water is undergoing its gravest crisis in recent history.
- ❖ Baikal in Russia's Siberia is a natural wonder of "exceptional value to evolutionary science" meriting its listing as a World Heritage Site by UNESCO.
- ❖ Baikal lake is the deepest lake in the world.
- ❖ Explosion of rotten algal blooms which is unnatural to Baikal, and commercial fishing has led to decline of Omul, a species of Salmon family found exclusively in Baikal lake. Since the population declining consequence is irreversible government introduced a ban on all commercial fishing of Omul.

New species of large gecko discovered from Eastern Ghats

- ❖ Researchers have discovered new species of gecko at Chhattisgarh's Kanger Ghati National Park in Eastern Ghats.
- ❖ It's common name is the Kanger valley rock gecko and scientific name is *Hemidactylus kangerensis*.
- ❖ It is also found in Jagdalpur and Sukma districts in Chhattisgarh and in Khamman in Telangana, which are part of Eastern Ghats.

Butterfly Region

- ❖ According to the recent study by Zoological Survey of India, Singur in West Bengal's Hoogly district is home to at least 69 species of Butterflies.
- ❖ Five of the species found in Singur are rare and to be protected under the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.
- ❖ The 5 species are,

- i. The Tree Flitter
 - ii. Striped Albatross
 - iii. Pea Blue
 - iv. Common Indian Crow
 - v. Danaid Eggfly
- ❖ Singur is not only rich in butterfly diversity but also in the diversity of frogs and birds.
 - ❖ It has no forested land and the area is known for rice, potato and vegetable cultivation.

First Jurassic-era 'fish lizard' fossil found in India

- ❖ For the first time in the fossil history of India, the remains of a 150 million-year-old fossil of Ichthyosaur, an extinct marine reptile were discovered in Kutch in Gujarat by a team of Indian and German scientists.
- ❖ The 5.5-metre-long fossil of Ichthyosaur, is thought to belong to the Ophthalmosauridae family, which likely lived between around 165 and 90 million years ago.
- ❖ The fossil was found inside rocks from the Mesozoic Era, which ran between 252 and 66 million years ago, in the Kutch desert and its tooth wear patterns suggests that it was top-tier predator in its ecosystem and ate animals.
- ❖ It is the first Jurassic ichthyosaur found in India. It has been found in Americas, Australia and Europe and it's the second significant fossil discovery in India this year.
- ❖ The oldest plant fossil in India, red algae from the Chitrakoot region in Madhya Pradesh, believed to be 1.6 billion years old was discovered earlier.

Arctic sea ice waning faster than predicted

- ❖ According to the research undertaken by the Cryosphere Climate Research Group, Arctic sea ice could be dwindling faster than predicted.
- ❖ Arctic sea ice is a key indicator of climate change.
- ❖ Dwindling ice cover led to reduction in the amount of solar radiation reflected back in to space and increases its absorption.
- ❖ Thereby it hastens the warming of oceans which has an impact on weather phenomena like the El Nino that influences the Asian Monsoon.
- ❖ The thinning ice would make it difficult for animals like polar bears and seals and organisms like phytoplankton to survive.

- ❖ The researchers have found that satellite measurements over the years have overestimated the thickness of Arctic sea ice by as much as 25% because of the presence of salty snow.
- ❖ This is because of salty snow does not allow radar waves from satellites to penetrate, leading to skewed measurements.

STATE

Kolkata to host international puppet festival

- ❖ Kolkata is all set to host an international Puppet festival from October 26.
- ❖ Artists from the UK, Germany, Peru, Portugal, Italy, Lithuania, Brazil, Singapore and India would be participating in the festival.
- ❖ Kolkata will host such a festival for the first time and the six-day long festival will end on October 31, officials said.
- ❖ The puppet festival is aimed at regenerating the emotions attached to puppetry and it will be held at Mohorkunj in Kolkatta.

Mukhyamantri Samoohik Vivaah Yojana

- ❖ Uttar Pradesh government has launched 'Mukhya mantri SamoohikVivaah Yojana', a mass marriage scheme.
- ❖ UP's state social welfare department will conduct the mass marriages.
- ❖ The parents of beneficiary brides under the scheme must be residents of Uttar Pradesh and must belong to Below Poverty Line (BPL).

Chhattisgarh bans use of PVC

- ❖ Chhattisgarh Government has banned use of chlorinated plastic and Polyvinyl Chloride (PVC).
- ❖ The state government also has banned manufacture, storage, import, sale, transport, advertising and use of such plastic-borne goods
- ❖ It is done with an objective to conserve and improve the environment.

Uttarakhand government has launched "Solar Briefcase"

- ❖ The Uttarakhand Government and a charitable funding agency, Swan Cultural Center and Foundation, launched 'Solar Briefcase' in Kedarnath Dham at Uttarakhand.

- ❖ The initiative was taken to provide electricity to far flung areas in the hill state.

Skill development programme in higher education

- ❖ Rajasthan has become the India's first state to incorporate skill development programme in higher education curriculum.
- ❖ In collaboration with IGNOU, entrepreneurship and skill development courses were incorporated.

Jagdish Mukhi sworn in as new Governor of Assam

- ❖ Jagdish Mukhi sworn in as new Governor of Assam. He was administered oath of office by Gauhati High Court Chief Justice Ajit Singh.
- ❖ Mr. Mukhi succeeded Banwarilal Purohit who has been appointed as the Governor of Tamil Nadu.

Puducherry included in the 15th Finance Commission

- ❖ The Centre has included Puducherry under the terms and reference of the 15th Finance Commission on the devolution of tax revenue between the Union and the States.
- ❖ The Union Territories were kept out of the ambit of the Finance Commission so far but now the Centre has decided to treat Puducherry on par with other States for devolution of funds.
- ❖ This inclusion would help the Union Territory get 42% of the budgetary allocation.

Bihar cabinet approves reservation for 'Divyangs' in govt jobs

- ❖ The Bihar cabinet has approved reservations for persons with disabilities in government jobs and educational institutions.
- ❖ The provision has been brought in accordance with the Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016.
- ❖ The cabinet also approved establishment of a state advisory board for the empowerment of 'Divyang Jan' as envisaged in the Act.

'Bhavantar Bhugtan Yojna' by Madhya Pradesh government.

- ❖ The Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh, has launched the ambitious 'Bhavantar Bhugtan Yojna' for the farmers of the state.

- ❖ The scheme has launched as a guarantee to ensure reasonable prices to the farmers for their agriculture produces.
- ❖ The Price Deficit Financing Scheme to hedge price risks in agriculture wherein farmers will be compensated for distress sales at prices below Union government-announced minimum support prices (MSP).
- ❖ Under this scheme, the difference between market value and support price will be paid by the government to the farmers.

60th anniversary of Vidhana Soudha

- ❖ The President of India graced the ‘Vajra mahothsava’ – Diamond Jubilee Celebrations on completion of 60 years of Vidhana Soudha, and addressed the members of both Houses of the Karnataka Legislature at Bengaluru.
- ❖ The Vidhana Soudha in Bengaluru, the seat of power in the state has played host to personages like Queen Elizabeth II, and international leaders who congregated at the Legislative Assembly chamber for the 1986 SAARC Summit.

Golden Peacock Award to AP CM Chandrababu Naidu

- ❖ Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu has received the Golden Peacock Award under the category - Global Leadership in Public Service and Economic Transformation at the 17th London Global Convention in London.
- ❖ The Golden Peacock Award, instituted by the Institute of Directors (IOD), India in 1991, are claimed to be regarded as a benchmark of corporate excellence worldwide.
- ❖ Chandrababu Naidus wife and managing director of the Heritage Foods Nara Bhuvanewari also received the award under the category - Corporate Governance and Sustainability.

PERSONALITIES, AWARDS AND EVENTS

Swachh Iconic Place - Madurai’s Meenakshi Temple

- ❖ On the occasion of the third anniversary of Swachh Mission (October 2) under Swachhta Hi-Seva (Cleanliness is service), the Meenakshi Sundareswarar Temple of Madurai was awarded the best ‘Swachh Iconic Place’ (Cleanest Iconic Place) in India.
- ❖ Meenakshi Temple has been honoured with this award for the swift cleaning process carried out.

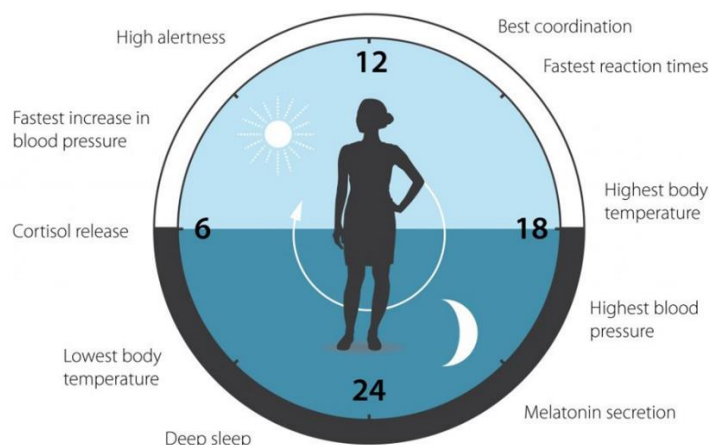
- ❖ The Swachh Iconic Places is an initiative under the Swachh Bharat Mission's Swachhta Hi-Seva.
- ❖ It is a special clean-up initiative focused on select iconic heritage, spiritual and cultural places in the country.
- ❖ The initiative is being coordinated by the Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation in association with the Ministry of Urban Development, Ministry of Culture, Ministry of Tourism and the concerned State governments.

Nobel Prize for Physiology or Medicine, 2017

- ❖ Scientists Jeffrey Hall, Michael Rosbash and Michael Young won the 2017 Nobel Prize for Physiology or Medicine for their discoveries of molecular mechanisms controlling human biological clocks.
- ❖ The team's work revealed the role of genes in setting the "circadian clock" which regulates sleep and eating patterns, hormones and body temperature. It also regulates sleep, which is critical for normal brain function.
- ❖ Their discoveries explain how plants, animals and humans adapt their biological rhythm so that it is synchronised with the Earth's revolutions.



- ❖ Using the fruit fly as a model organism, these laureates isolated a gene that controls the daily biological rhythm, called the period gene.
- ❖ Scientists have long known that living organisms, including humans, have an internal timekeeper that helps them anticipate and adapt to the rhythm of the day.



- ❖ Circadian dysfunction has been linked to depression, bipolar disorder, cognitive function, memory formation and some neurological diseases

Winner of 2017 SASTRA Ramanujan Prize - Maryna Viazovska

- ❖ Maryna Viazovska of Swiss Federal Institute of Technology, Lausanne, Switzerland, will receive 2017 SASTRA Ramanujan Prize for her contribution to number theory.

SASTRA Ramanujan Prize

- ❖ SASTRA Ramanujan Prize was established in 2005 and is awarded annually for outstanding contributions by young mathematicians to areas influenced by Srinivasa Ramanujan. The age limit for the prize has been set at 32 because Ramanujan achieved so much in his brief life of 32 years.

Maryna Viazovska

- ❖ Ms. Viazovska is a mathematician who has made contributions to several fundamental problems in number theory. She was born in Kiev in Ukraine on November 2, 1984.

The 2017 Nobel Physics Prize

- ❖ The 2017 Nobel Physics Prize has been awarded to awarded “for decisive contributions to the LIGO detector and the observation of gravitational waves” to Rainer Weiss, Barry C. Barish and Kip S. Thorne of the Laser Interferometer Gravitational-wave Observatory.
- ❖ Predicted by Albert Einstein a century ago as part of his theory of general relativity but only first detected in 2015, gravitational waves are “ripples” in the

fabric of space-time caused by violent processes in the Universe, such as colliding black holes or the collapse of stellar cores.

- ❖ Triggered when super-dense black holes merge, the waves were detected using laser beams at the Laser Interferometer Gravitational-Wave Observatory (LIGO). “The signal was extremely weak when it reached the Earth.
- ❖ The waves detected by the laureates came from the collision of two black holes some 1.3 billion light years away. A light year is about 9.5 trillion km.
- ❖ The waves came from a collision between two black holes.
- ❖ Einstein was convinced that gravitational waves could never be measured. The laureates used laser devices “to measure a change thousands of times smaller than an atomic nucleus,”
- ❖ Dr. Weiss designed a laser-based device that would overcome background noise that would disturb measurements of gravitational waves

Soumya Swaminathan becomes WHO’s Deputy Director General

- ❖ India’s Soumya Swaminathan becomes WHO’s Deputy Director General
- ❖ Dr Soumya Swaminathan, director general of the Indian Council of Medical Research, has been appointed the Deputy Director General, Programmes, of the World Health Organisation.
- ❖ She was earlier the director of the National Institute for Research in Tuberculosis, Chennai.
- ❖ Swaminathan has been responsible for increasing the focus on tuberculosis research and created a consortium for tuberculosis research in India called “India TB Research and Development Corporation”. The body aimed at bringing together all major national and international stakeholders to develop new tools to combat TB including drugs, diagnostics and vaccines.
- ❖ Swaminathan’s father, MS Swaminathan, is considered the pioneer of Green Revolution in the country.

Gauri Lankesh honoured

- ❖ Prominent journalist and activist Gauri Lankesh has been posthumously awarded the 2017 Anna Politkovskaya Award.
- ❖ The award is given by a London-based non-governmental organisation “Reach All Women in War (RAW in War)”
- ❖ Gauri Lankesh has become the first Indian to win this award.

Anna Politkovskaya Award

- ❖ Anna was a Russian journalist and human rights activist who got international reputation by uncovering state corruption and rights abuses from Chechnya during the second Chechen war (1999-2005).

- ❖ The award by RAW in WAR was established to mark the anniversary of Anna Politkovskaya's murder.

Noble for Literature

- ❖ Kazuo Ishiguro, British writer of Japanese origin was awarded the Nobel Prize for Literature.
- ❖ He is awarded Noble for his novel named "The Burried Giant"
- ❖ It is notable that Ishiguro is best known for his novel "The Remains of the Day", which secured him the Booker Prize for Fiction in 1989.
- ❖ His other important novels are
 - ✓ A Pale View of Hills
 - ✓ An Artist of the Floating World

Man Booker prize

- ❖ The Man Booker Prize for Fiction is a highest literary prize awarded each year for the best original novel, written in the English language and published in the UK.


Nobel Peace Prize 2017

- ❖ The 2017 Nobel Peace Prize was awarded to Geneva-based on the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN)
- ❖ ICAN is a coalition of non-governmental organisations from around 100 different countries across the globe, which advocates prohibition of nuclear weapons under international law.

Big push to disarmament

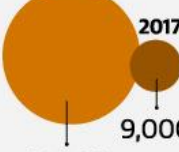
The Nobel Peace Prize 2017 has been awarded to the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN) for its work to draw attention to the catastrophic humanitarian consequences of any use of nuclear weapons

- 1** ICAN focusses on the threat to humanity posed by nuclear arms
- 2** Works on building global support for the abolition of nuclear weapons
- 3** Founded in Vienna in 2007, ICAN has the support of more than 400 NGOs across the world
- 4** It was a key player in the adoption of a historic nuclear weapons ban treaty, signed by 122 countries on July 7, 2017




Globally, nuclear weapon stockpiles have plummeted

1986



64,000


2017



9,000

Source: Bulletin of Atomic Scientists

Now, more than ever, we need a world without nuclear weapons



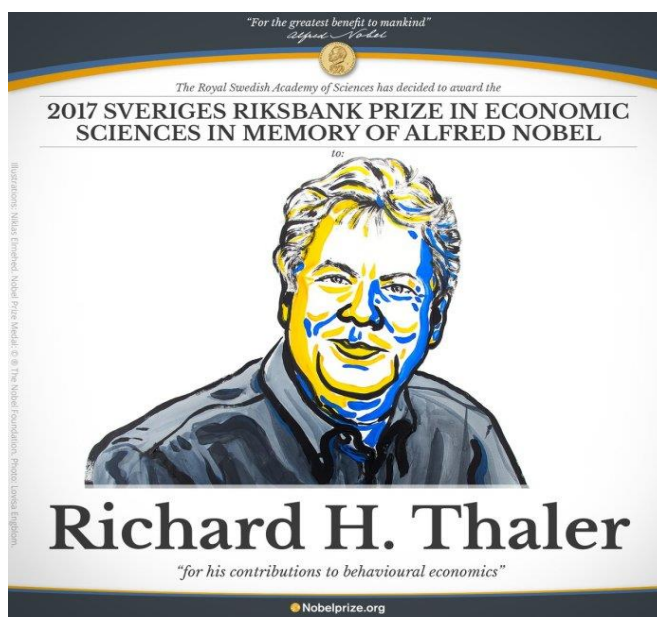
ANTONIO GUTERRES

UN Secretary General

- ❖ The Nobel Peace Prize is awarded not by a Swedish organisation but by the Norwegian Nobel Committee.
- ❖ Nobel Prize may not be shared among more than three people, although the Nobel Peace Prize can be awarded to organizations of more than three people.

Nobel Prize in Economic Sciences-2017

- ❖ American economist Richard H. Thaler has won 2017 Nobel Prize in Economic Sciences for his contributions to Behavioural economics.
- ❖ Behavioural economics deals with decision-making that lies in the space between economics and relates to the impacts of psychology, social cognition, emotion factors in the decision making process in economics.
- ❖ Professor Thaler has been awarded the Nobel Prize for his decisive contribution in “Behavioural Economics”-work on integrating economics with psychology.
- ❖ Professor Thaler has incorporated psychologically realistic assumptions into analyses of economic decision-making.
- ❖ Mr.Thaler has explored the consequences of limited rationality, social preferences, self control in decision making and has shown how these human traits systematically affect individual decisions as well as market outcomes.
- ❖ He is co-author (with Cass R. Sunstein) of global best seller Nudge (2008) in which concepts of behavioral economics are used to tackle many of society’s major problems.



Uniqueness of economic noble prize

- ❖ The economics prize, officially called the Sveriges Riksbank Prize in Economic Sciences in Memory of Alfred Nobel, was established in 1968.
- ❖ It was not part of the original group of awards set out in dynamite tycoon Nobel's 1895 will.

2017 Vayoshreshtha Samman

- ❖ The President of India presented the Vayoshreshtha Samman – a scheme of National Awards for senior citizens at a function held in New Delhi.

Vayoshreshtha Samman

- ❖ They are National Awards for Senior Citizens and Institutions in recognition of their service towards the cause of elderly persons, especially indigent senior citizens.
- ❖ Vayoshreshtha Samman is instituted by the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment initially in 2005 and was upgraded to the status of National Awards in 2013.
- ❖ The awards are presented on 1st of October (International Day for Older Persons) every year pursuant to the adoption of a resolution by the UN General Assembly to observe the year 1999 as the International Year of Older Persons.

IAA Leadership Awards 2017

- ❖ The International Advertising Association established of the IAA Leadership Awards to honor individuals in the fields of Marketing, Advertising and Media, who have made enormous professional contributions and delivered business success to their companies.
- ❖ The award winners for the year are,
 - ✓ Mukesh Ambani – IAA Business leader of the Year
 - ✓ Rajan Anandhan – IAA Media Leader Award
 - ✓ Vikram Sakhuja – Media Agency Leader Accolate

Lal Bahadur Shastri National Award

- ❖ The President of India presented the 18th Lal Bahadur Shastri National Award for Excellence in Public Administration, Academics and Management for the year 2017 to Dr. Bindeshwar Pathak.

- ❖ Dr. Bindeshwar Pathak is the founder of Sulabh International, a Social Service Organization He has developed and implemented, on a pan India scale, a low cost and appropriate toilet technology popularly known as the Sulabh Shauchalaya system.
- ❖ The Mayor of New York had declared April 14, 2016 as the ‘Dr. Bindeshwar Pathak International Day’ in recognition of his contribution immensely in the direction of getting rid of the practice of manual scavenging.
- ❖ He also received the Padma Bhushan in 1991.

World Mental Health Day 2017

- ❖ World Mental Health Day is observed on October 10 every year and intends to raise awareness about mental health issues around the world and mobilize efforts to support mental health.
- ❖ It was first initiated by the World Federation for Mental Health.
- ❖ “Mental health in the workplace” is the theme of World Mental Health Day 2017.

International Conference on Dialogue of Civilizations – IV

- ❖ The International conference on “Dialogue of Civilizations – IV” was organized by the Ministry of Culture in New Delhi.
- ❖ It has been organised by the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI), under Union Ministry of Culture in collaboration with National Geographic Society (NGS) It will be held from October 8 –15, 2017 at Delhi, Gandhinagar and Dholavira.
- ❖ This conference is fourth in this series of ‘dialogues’ initiated by National Geographic Society in 2013 with an objective to encourage scholarly and public discourse about the five ancient, literate civilizations of the world namely,
 - ✓ Egypt
 - ✓ Mesopotamia
 - ✓ South Asia
 - ✓ China
 - ✓ Mesoamerica

Nisha Biswal appointed as President of USIBC

- ❖ Former US Assistant Secretary of State for South and Central Asia Nisha Desai Biswal was appointed as President of US-India Business Council (USIBC).

US-India Business Council

- ❖ US-India Business Council is premier business advocacy organization dedicated to strengthening the economic and commercial relationship between US and India.

Anupam Kher appointed as Chairman of FTII

- ❖ Versatile actor Anupam Kher has been appointed as Chairman of Film and Television Institute of India (FTII) in Pune and will succeed Gajendra Chauhan.
- ❖ Previously, he had held the post of chairman of the Censor Board and the National School of Drama.

Film and Television Institute of India (FTII)

- ❖ The Film and Television Institute of India (FTII) is an autonomous institute under the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting of the Government of India
- ❖ It is registered under Societies' Registration Act of 1860.
- ❖ It is a member of the International Liaison Centre of Schools of Cinema and Television (CILECT)-(world's leading schools of film and television.

New Chief for UNESCO

- ❖ UNESCO's executive board chose former French Cultural Minister Audrey Azoulay to be the new chief of UNESCO
- ❖ Azoulay succeeds outgoing Director-General Irina Bokova of Bulgaria.
- ❖ Azoulay will be the second French leader of the organization since Rene Maheu.

India's new ambassador to People Republic of China

- ❖ Gautam H Bambawale has been officially appointed as India's new ambassador to the People's Republic of China.

- ❖ Bambawale, an Indian foreign service officer of the 1984 batch is currently India's high commissioner to Pakistan.
- ❖ Bambawale was previously India's ambassador to Bhutan.
- ❖ Bambawale's appointment clears the way for India's ambassador to Poland, Ajay Bisaria, to be named India's high commissioner to Pakistan.

Mathrubhumi award

- ❖ Eminent critic, biographer and orator M K Sanu has been chosen for the Mathrubhumi Literary Award for 2016 in recognition of his rich contribution to the Malayalam literature.

Chennai Students Create Guinness World Record with World's Largest Biology Class

- ❖ Day two of the India International Science Festival (IISF) in Anna University campus at Chennai saw the making of a new Guinness World Record for the Largest Biology Lesson.
- ❖ One thousand forty-nine (1049) students participated in this "Largest Biology Lesson" which is about Cell Biology, followed by a demonstration of the process of isolation of DNA from papaya fruits.

Singer T M Krishna gets Indira Gandhi National Integration Award

- ❖ Carnatic vocalist T.M. Krishna will be conferred with the Indira Gandhi Award for National Integration for 2015-16.
- ❖ The singer, who won the Ramon Magsaysay award for bringing "social inclusiveness in culture" in 2016, will be presented with the honour on October 31 which is Indira Gandhi's death anniversary.
- ❖ The 30th Indira Gandhi Award for National Integration for the year 2015 and 2016 has been awarded to T.M. Krishna, for his services in promoting and preserving national integration in the country.

About the award

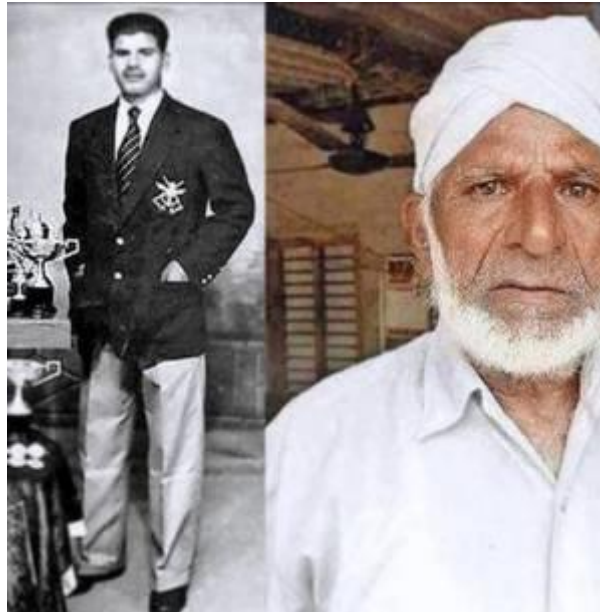
- ❖ The Indira Gandhi Award for National Integration was instituted in 1985 by the Congress in its centenary year.
- ❖ The award is conferred on October 31 for promoting national integration, understanding and fellowship among different communities and cultures of India.

Eminent poet Prabha Varma chosen for Padma Prabha Puraskaram

- ❖ Eminent poet, lyricist and journalist Prabha Varma has been selected for the Padma Prabha Puraskaram for the year 2017.

India's first Olympic swimmer, Shamsher Khan passed away

- ❖ Shamsher Khan the country's first swimmer who had participated in the 1956 Summer Olympics has passed away.



- ❖ He won a place in the Indian Olympics contingent that had visited Australia in 1956. He, however, secured fourth place in the competition.

Women of India Organic Festival 2017

- ❖ The Women of India Organic Festival organized by the Ministry of Women & Child Development came to a successful close on 15th October, 2017.
- ❖ The festival was organized at Dilli Haaat, INA, New Delhi as the largest festival of organic products by women farmers and producers.
- ❖ The Women of India Organic Festival has now become an annual event and exhibits/offers for sale most varied range of organic products including food, kitchen products, spices, pure fabric to wellness, personal care among others.
- ❖ The main aim of the Festival was to support and encourage women and women-led groups that promote organic farming, thus supporting their local community's economy, creating jobs and keeping farmers thriving, in addition to spreading proper awareness about the benefits of organic products.

- ❖ The participants of Women of India Organic Festival 2017 also enrolled themselves in Mahila E-Haat, another initiative of the Ministry of Women & Child Development to meet the aspirations and needs of women entrepreneurs. This unique e-platform exponentially strengthens the socio-economic empowerment of women beyond the Festival.

2017 Man Booker prize

- ❖ US author George Saunders won the 2017 Man Booker Prize, a high-profile literary award for his first full-length novel “Lincoln in the Bardo”.
- ❖ It is the second year in a row an American has won the prize. Last year Paul Beatty won the prize for his novel “The Sellout”.
- ❖ The rules were changed in 2014 and allowed authors of any book written in English and published in UK to compete for this prize.

The Man Booker Prize

- ❖ ‘The Man Booker Prize’, which was launched in 1969, aims to promote the finest in fiction by rewarding the best novel of the year written in English and published in the United Kingdom.
- ❖ Similarly, ‘The Man Booker International Prize’ was established in 2005, biennially rewarding an author for a body of work originally written in any language as long as it was widely available in English. Both novels and collections of short stories are eligible for this prize.
- ❖ From its inception, only Commonwealth, Irish, and South African (and later Zimbabwean) citizens were eligible to receive the prize.
- ❖ In 2016, the award was significantly reconfigured, and is now given annually to a single book in English translation, with a £50,000 prize for the winning title, shared equally between author and translator.
- ❖ The prize was won by writers Paul Beatty (2016) and George Saunders (2017) from the United States of America.

Google honours astrophysicist Chandrasekhar

- ❖ Google made a special doodle to mark the 107th birth anniversary of India-born scientist Subrahmanyan Chandrasekhar
- ❖ He was the first astrophysicist to win the Nobel Prize for his studies on the evolution of stars along with Willaim A. Fowler in 1983.
- ❖ Chandrasekhar also contributed to the study of the theory of colliding gravitational waves.
- ❖ NASA honoured him by naming its top X-ray observatory as the 'Chandra X-ray Observatory'.

4th World Tamils Economic Conference in Durban, South Africa

- ❖ The 4th World Tamils Economic conference is scheduled on 16th to 20th of November, 2017, Durban, South Africa.
- ❖ It will provide a unique platform to discuss business and investment opportunities, professional network, knowledge sharing and present economic situation of the world.
- ❖ The speakers at the conference will include top ranking personalities in Government, business and other fields, from India and other countries.
- ❖ The meet is organised by the World Tamils Economic Federation and the Madras Development Society.

Tamil boy nominated for International Children's Peace Prize

- ❖ Twelve-year-old Sakthi from Tamil Nadu has been nominated for the International Children's Peace Prize 2017.
- ❖ The boy has taken forward the importance of education among his Narikuravar community and inspired many to send their children to schools.
- ❖ The prize is awarded annually to a child who has made a significant contribution to advocating children's rights and improving the situation of vulnerable children.
- ❖ The prize is an initiative of the KidsRights Foundation, an international children's aid organization in Amsterdam.
- ❖ The first Children's peace prize was launched in 2005 during the World Summit of Nobel Peace Laureates in Rome.

Best FIFA Men's Player 2017

- ❖ Cristiano Ronaldo has been awarded Best FIFA Men's Player 2017, for the second consecutive year.
- ❖ The selection criteria for the players of the year are sporting performance, as well as general conduct on and off the pitch.

Veteran classical singer Girija Devi passed away

- ❖ Eminent classical singer and Padma Vibhushan awardee Girija Devi passed away.
- ❖ A legendary singer of the "Benaras gharana" and fondly called Appa ji had received Padma Shri in 1972, Padma Bhushan in 1989 and the Padma Vibhushan in 2016 and she Considered as the queen of Thumri.

Thumri

- It is a musical form like dhrupad, khayal in Hindustani Classical Music.
- Thumri is common genre of semi-classical Indian music originated in eastern part of Uttar Pradesh.
- Musical grammar is not strictly adhered to and is based on less-weighty or mixed ragas.
- This musical form exists in both its vocal and instrumental forms.
- The themes are predominantly romantic, particularly focussing on the separation of lovers and the pranks of Lord Krishna as a playful lover.

Students bag social entrepreneurship award

- ❖ Three students, Gobinath P., Shreeram R. and Santosh G. V. from the Indian Institute of Technology-Madras won the first prize at the National Social Enterprise Idea Challenge competition organised by the Azim Premji University, Bengaluru for designing a temporary shelter that could be used to rehabilitate disaster-affected victims.
- ❖ The modular house built is inexpensive, portable and quick to set up. It also addresses issues of safety, privacy and insulation, which conventional methods could not offer.
- ❖ The second place went to Ranjith Kumar and Akhil Krishna of Kumaraguru College of Technology, Coimbatore, for developing reinforced acoustic tiles using agro waste and straw.

Indian-origin South African couple receives top US award

- ❖ A South African couple of Indian origin, Prof. Quarraisha Abdool Karim and Prof. Salim Abdool Karim, received a prominent lifetime achievement award from Institute of Human Virology, US, in recognition of their exceptional contributions to the field of HIV/AIDS.
- ❖ Both the epidemiologists were felicitated by the Institute of Human Virology (IHV) in Baltimore in the US during the 19th annual international meeting of top medical virus researchers.
- ❖ The honourable Lifetime Achievement Award for Public Service was presented to them by Robert Gallo - the man who discovered HIV as the cause of AIDS.
- ❖ They were the first to demonstrate that Antiretrovirals (drug medication for the treatment of HIV) could prevent sexual transmission of HIV in 2010 - when they shared the results of the CAPRISA 004 Tenofovir Gel trial.

- ❖ This gel is widely used in the treatment of HIV too. This landmark study of 2010 was recognised as one of the top 10 scientific breakthroughs of the year
- ❖ The couple also discovered that the Tenofovir Gel prevents Genital Herpes. It was the first drug proven to be effective against this disease

Javed Akhtar receives the Hridaynath Mangeshkar Award

- ❖ Veteran writer-lyricist Javed Akhtar has been honoured with the Hridaynath Mangeshkar Award.
- ❖ Mr. Akhtar received the honour at an event, marking the 28th anniversary of Hridayesh Arts and the 80th birthday of veteran music composer Hridaynath Mangeshkar, in Mumbai.

Hridaynath Mangeshkar Award

- ❖ The award was established in 2011 by Mumbai-based socio-cultural organisation 'Hridayesh Art' in honour of music composer and singer Hridaynath Mangeshkar.
- ❖ It felicitates and recognises successful individuals across country from various walks of life. It carries monetary award of Rs 2 lakh and a memento.

Writer Melanmai Ponnusamy passed away

- ❖ Sahitya Academi Award winner, writer melanmai ponnusamy passed away due to ill-health in chennai.
- ❖ He was born in Melanmarainadu in Virudhunagar district. joined himself in Communist Party of India Marxist (CPI-M), participated in many protests and went to prison.
- ❖ He has written 35 books including 6 Novellas, 22 short stories 6 novels including 'Uyirnilam' and an essay collection. He was awarded 2007-Sahitya Academi Award for his short story collection titled 'Minsarapoo'.
- ❖ He Functioned as the president of the TamilNadu Progressive writers Association.
- ❖ He also won Ilakkiya Chinthani award, Adithanar Award and Tamil Nadu State Government's award.

Historian Satish Chandra passes away

- ❖ Veteran historian of medieval India and noted educational administrator Satish Chandra passed away at his 95 years of age.
- ❖ He was the author of the NCERT's medieval India textbook that was in circulation from some time in the 1970s till the early 2000s and was

considered the most comprehensive textbook of the era, loaded with information.

- ❖ His information-rich work on medieval India was known to uphold India's composite culture and showed the medieval state as broadly “secular” in orientation.
- ❖ He was Chairman of the University Grants Commission from 1976 to 1981, and Vice-Chairman of the body from 1973 to 1976.
- ❖ Chandra was Professor of History at Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) in New Delhi. He earlier taught at Allahabad University, Aligarh Muslim University, Delhi University, and Rajasthan University and was the Smuts' Visiting Professor at Cambridge in 1971.
- ❖ Chandra was the secretary and president of the Indian History Congress in 1973.
- ❖ Along with S. Gopal, Bipan Chandra, and Romila Thapar, he also founded the Centre for Historical Studies at the School of Social Sciences in JNU.

Literary Symposium on Gopala Krishna Iyer

- ❖ A literary symposium on M.Gopala Krishna Iyer was held in Madras University organized by Sahitya Akademi. The symposium was held to commemorate the valuable contributions of Ma.Ko for the growth of Tamil language.

M. Gopala Krishna Iyer

- ❖ M. Gopala Krishna Iyer , familiarly known as Ma.Ko was a multifaceted scholar who was a poet, translator, essayist, dramatist, editor of literary journals.
- ❖ He has served as professor in Tamil department of Madura College for 10 years. He later became the Head of Tamil Department in National College, Trichy.
- ❖ He founded the “Madurai Manavar Sendhamizh Sangam” in 1901 to promote interest in Tamil language among students. Ma.Ko has also served as a Member and Examiner in Madurai Tamil Sangam.
- ❖ He used his vocation as teacher and journalist to instil patriotism and love for mother tongue among youth population.
- ❖ In 1915, compilation of his essays were published by Madurai Tamil Sangam under the title “Arumporuttirattu”. He was actively writing till his death in 1927.
- ❖ He started two journals Vivekodayam and Nachinarkkinian and served as it's Editor.

- ❖ His book “Thanipadalgal” includes his poems about great scholars like Rabindranath Tagore, U.Ve. Saminatha Iyer, Parithimal Kalaigner, and philanthropist Pandithurai Thevar.

SPORTS

First time female assistant referees in men’s game

- ❖ FIFA has decided to employ female assistant referees in the upcoming U-17 FIFA world cup which is going to be held in India.
- ❖ This is the first time that female is employed as assistant referees in Men’s football match.

International Weightlifting Federation suspended 9 countries

- ❖ The International Weightlifting Federation has suspended 9 countries from participating in Weightlifting competitions for a period of one year, followed by the positive results from retesting of anti-doping samples taken during the 2008 and 2012 Olympics.
- ❖ The countries are Russia, China, Kazakhstan, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Moldova, Turkey, and Ukraine.
- ❖ Owing to this ban, these 9 countries have lost their chance to participate in upcoming World Weightlifting Championship to be held at California.
- ❖ China has lost its chance to participate on 2018 Asian Weightlifting Competition. It is notable that Russia has already been banned from Weightlifting category in 2016 Rio Olympics.

Boss GP Championship

- ❖ Mahaveer Raghunathan of Chennai became the first Indian to win a European racing championship in the Boss GP championship (Formula Class)

Maiden Gold

- ❖ Pooja Kadian bagged gold in the World Wushu Championship under 75kg category.
- ❖ The Indian Wushu team secured its first ever gold medal in the World Wushu Championship.

Junior National Aquatic Championship

- ❖ Karnataka clinched the overall championship in the 44th junior national aquatic championship which concluded in Pune.
- ❖ Srihari Natraj from Karnataka walked away with the best swimmer in the boys Group I category and also set a National record in the men's 50m backstroke
- ❖ Swadesh Mondal from West Bengal walked away with the best swimmer in the boys Group II category
- ❖ Rayna Saldanha and Kenisha Gupta, took home the individual titles in the girls section.

Japanese Grand Prix

- ❖ Lewis Hamilton romped to victory at the Japanese Grand Prix to close in on a fourth World title.
- ❖ The race was the sixteenth round of the 2017 FIA Formula One World Championship and marked the forty-third running of the Japanese Grand Prix.
- ❖ The Japanese Grand Prix is a race in the calendar of the FIA Formula One World Championship has been the venue for many title-deciding races, with 13 World Champions being crowned over the 30 World Championship Japanese Grands Prix that have been hosted.

World Open Under-16 Snooker Championship

- ❖ Anupama Ramachandran of India won the World Open Under-16 Snooker Championship title in the girl's category held at St. Petersburg Russia.
- ❖ Federation of Billiards Sports of Russia hosted this first ever World Open championships for Under-16 boys and girls at St. Petersburg.

U-15 Asian Junior Championship

- ❖ Indian shuttler Samiya Imad Farooqui clinched the gold medal at the Under-15 women's singles competition at the Asian Junior Championship.
- ❖ She is second Indian to win this championship after P V Sindhu who had won gold medal in U-19 Asia Junior championship in 2012 at Gimcheon, South Korea

Gymnastics world championships

- ❖ American Morgan Hurd (16) won all-around title at gymnastics world championships in Montreal, Canada.
- ❖ Hurd became youngest Olympic or world all-around champion since Aliya Mustafina in 2010.

China Open

- ❖ Rafael Nadal won the China Open final to win his sixth ATP title of the year.
- ❖ France player Caroline Garcia won her China open title in the women's event.

World Youth Archery Championship

- ❖ In the World Youth Archery Championship Indian Team comprising Ankita Bhakat and N. Jemson Singh won gold medal in Junior Recurve Mixed Team event at Rosario, Argentina.
- ❖ The team comprising N. Jemson Singh, Atul Verma and Sukhmani Gajanan Babrekar won Silver Medal in Junior Men Recurve Team.
- ❖ Cadet Compound Girls Team comprising Khushboo Dhyala, Sanchita Tiwary and Divya Dhayal won Bronze medal.
- ❖ India stood 7th in the overall medal tally at the Championship held at Rosario, Argentina.

India's first ever goal in FIFA World Cup

- ❖ Jeakson Singh Thounaojam became India's first World Cup goal scorer by scoring a goal in the second FIFA Under-17 World Cup match at the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium at New Delhi.
- ❖ The goal was recorded in the match against Colombia during 82nd minute of the game. India lost the game with 1-2 score.
- ❖ Jeakson Singh hails from Manipur.

Tianjin Open Tennis – Maria Sharapova wins title

- ❖ Five-time Grand Slam winner Maria Sharapova has won the Tianjin Open title at Tianjin.
- ❖ The Russian tennis star defeated Belarusian Aryna Sabalenka, winning her first title since her 15-month doping ban.

India's first woman WWE wrestler

- ❖ Kavita Devi, became the first Indian woman to sign with the world's largest wrestling company, World Wrestling Entertainment (WWE).
- ❖ WWE also recruited Shadia Bseiso from Jordan, WWE's first ever Arab woman from the Middle East.

Sub-Junior basketball

- ❖ Tamil Nadu girls defeated defending champions Chhattisgarh 88-81 in a thrilling final to win the 44th sub-junior national basketball championship held in Rajasthan.

China secure maiden Hockey World Cup qualifications

- ❖ China will be competing in the Hockey World Cup for the first time ever, While South Korean team will not be part of the World Cup for the first time since 1998.
- ❖ In semi-final's of World Hockey League which was held in London, china and South korea ranked 8th and 9th respectively. Following this, there was strong competition between China and South korea for entry into the World Cup Hockey.
- ❖ Winning the Hero Asia Cup 2017 which was held at Bangladesh was Korea's final chance to achieve World Cup qualification. On that match against Malaysia, the scores were tied and South Korea lost its chance to qualify for the World Cup Hockey. This confirmed China's entry into World Cup Hockey.
- ❖ Under FIH (International Hockey Federation) regulations, the team that wins its continental qualifier automatically qualifies for the World Cup.
- ❖ The 16 Countries participating Hockey Men's World Cup will be held in Kalinga stadium in Bhubaneswar from November 24 to December 16, in the year 2018.

India won Asia Cup hockey

- ❖ India won the Asia Cup Hockey 2017 by defeating Malaysia by 2- 1 in a final match held at Dhaka,Bangladesh. It was India's overall third Asia Cup title and earlier it had won it in 2003 and 2007.
- ❖ Pakistan secured 3rd place by defeating South Korea with 6-3 in the Play-Off round.

Asia Cup Hockey

- ❖ The ASHF Asia Cup is an international men's and women's field hockey tournament governed by the Asian Hockey Federation (ASHF).
- ❖ It was introduced in 1982 for men's competition and the women's competition was added a year later as non-official championship until the official tournament held in 1985.
- ❖ South Korea has been the most successful team with 4 titles in Men's and 3 titles in Women's competition.

ISSF World Cup shooting

- ❖ Heena Sidhu and Jeetu Rai won Gold in the 10m Mixed Team Air Pistol segment at the ISSF (International Shooting Sport Federation) World Cup finals.
- ❖ India is hosting the tournament for the first time in its history.
- ❖ Rai, a Commonwealth and Asian Games gold-medallist, and Sidhu, also a former Commonwealth Games gold-winner, picked up their third gold together in the mixed team event, being held officially for the first time at an ISSF World Cup.
- ❖ The mixed team competitions were organised as test events in the World Cups held earlier this year and will be making their Olympic debut in the Tokyo 2020 Games.

ISSF Shooting World Cup

- ❖ Indian shooter Sangram Dahiya won a silver medal in the final round of the men's double trap at the ISSF (International Shooting Sport Federation) Shooting World Cup Final in Delhi.
- ❖ India's Amanpreet Singh also won a bronze medal in 50m pistol category to push India's medal tally to three in the tournament.
- ❖ Alessia Iezzi of Italy beat Fatima Galvez of Spain and clinched the women's trap gold.

Denmark Open Super Series Premier 2017

- ❖ Indian Badminton Player Kidambi Srikanth, won Denmark Open Super Series Premier 2017 by defeating South Korea's Lee Hyun II. This is his third super series title for the year. He had previously won Singapore Super Series 2017(Second Place) and Indonesia Super Series 2017(Premier).

European Open-2017

- ❖ Divij Sharan won his first title of the 2017 season on the ATP World Tour, and third overall. He clinched the European Open trophy with American partner Scott Lipsky in Antwerp, Belgium.

Balkan International Boxing Championship

- ❖ India claimed eight medals, including four gold, in the Balkan International Boxing Championship held at Sofia, Bulgaria to emerge as the most successful country in the fray.



Tamil Nadu State 6-red snooker championship

- ❖ Defending champion J. Varun Kumar edged over Pranit Ramchandani and claimed the Tamil Nadu State 6-red snooker championship, held in Chennai.

FIBA U-16 Women's Asian Championship

- ❖ India quelled Malaysia's challenge to secure the Division-B title at the FIBA U-16 Women's Asian Championship in Bengaluru.
- ❖ The 2017 FIBA Asia Under-16 Championship for Women was the qualifying tournament for FIBA Asia at the 2018 FIBA Under-17 World Championship for Women.

FIFA Under-17 World Cup

- ❖ England won its maiden FIFA Under-17 World Cup crown defeating old rival Spain in the final at Kolkata.
- ❖ This India edition has become the highest scoring tournament with 179 goals from 52 matches.
- ❖ The 2017 edition in India will be the most attended FIFA U-17 World Cup ever.

Pro Kabaddi 2017

- ❖ Patna Pirates beat Gujarat Fortune giants to clinch its third straight title in the Pro Kabaddi league finals at Nehru Stadium in Chennai.

French Open Super Series

- ❖ India's Kidambi Srikanth beat the Japan's Kenta Nishimoto in straight games to win the French Open Super Series men's singles title, in Paris.
- ❖ Having already completed a hat-trick of Super Series titles, Srikanth won his fourth title of the season.
- ❖ Srikanth, thus, became only fourth men's singles player to win four or more Super Series titles in a calendar year.

Bhullar won Macao Open

- ❖ Gaganjeet Bhullar got a victory at the Macao Open to bag his eighth Asian Tour title held at Macao in China.
- ❖ As a result, Bhullar etched his name on the Macao Open trophy for the second time having previously won in 2012.
- ❖ Bhullar had last tasted international success just about a year back at the Asian Tour's Bank BRI-JCB Indonesia Open 2016.

Men's National Boxing Championship 2017

- ❖ Railway Sports Promotion Board (RSPB) emerged overall champion in the second Elite men's national boxing championship at the Swarna Bharathi Indoor Stadium
- ❖ Services Sports Control Board (SSCB) Manish Kaushik won the 56kg category gold in the Men's National Boxing Championship
- ❖ Manoj Kumar and Mandeep Jangra won the gold in categories of 69 kg , 75 kg respectively.

- ❖ Special prizes were given to Manoj Kumar of RSPB (best boxer), Manoj Kaushik (most promising boxer) and NT Lalbiakkima of Mizoram (best challenger).

Formula 1 Car Race: Lewis Hamilton champion for the Fourth Time.

- ❖ Mercedes driver Lewis Hamilton won the championship for the fourth time in the F1 Race 2017 season.
- ❖ Thus, Lewis Hamilton has become the first England player to win four titles in Formula 1 history.
- ❖ The Formula 1 car race of the 2017 season has 20 rounds in total. Its 18th round was held in Mexico City under the name Mexico Grand Prix.
- ❖ On winning the fourth title, Hamilton shared the 3rd place with vetted, Alain prost on the list with most number of titles in the history of Formula 1.
- ❖ The Seven titles won by Michael Schumacher has been the achievement till date. Next to him, Argentina's Juan Manvel Fangio has won 5 titles.

Swiss Indoor – 8th Title for Roger Federer

- ❖ Roger Federer of Switzerland beat Argentina's Juan Martin del potro to win the championship title for the 8th time, held at Basel in Switzerland.
- ❖ Roger Federer, who won his 95th ATP title, Mot the 2nd place in the more number of ATP title winners list.
- ❖ Jimmy Connors is in the first place with 109 titles. Juan lentils is in the third place with 94 titles.

IMPORTANT DAYS

World Habitat Day- October 2

- ❖ World Habitat Day is observed every year on the first Monday of October throughout the world.
- ❖ In 1986 it was officially designated by the United Nations.
- ❖ The purpose of the day is to reflect on the state of our cities and towns and the basic human right to adequate shelter. It also aims to remind the world of its collective responsibility for the habitat of future generations.
- ❖ The theme for World Habitat Day 2017 is 'Housing Policies: Affordable Homes'

Habitat Scroll of Honour

- ❖ Habitat Scroll of Honour awards have been given out by the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UNHSP) on the World Habitat Day. The award acknowledges initiatives that make remarkable contributions to fields related to human habitats.
- ❖ It is the most prestigious human settlements award in the world.

World Teachers Day-October 5

- ❖ World Teachers Day held annually on 5 October, is a UNESCO initiative, a day devoted to appreciating, assessing, and improving the educators of the world.
- ❖ UNESCO announced 5 October to be World Teachers Day, when a special intergovernmental conference convened by UNESCO in Paris adopted the UNESCO and ILO (International Labour Organisation) Recommendation concerning the Status of Teachers, in cooperation with the ILO.
- ❖ This year world Teachers Day Theme is – “Teaching in Freedom, Empowering Teachers”.

Indian Air Force Day- October 8

- ❖ The Indian Air Force (IAF), also known as the “Bhartiya Vayu Sena” is the air arm of the Indian Armed Forces celebrated its 85th anniversary.
- ❖ It was officially established on October 8, 1932 and has a primary responsibility of securing the Indian airspace as well as to carry out the aerial warfare during any clash.
- ❖ It ranks as the fourth largest air force in the world.
- ❖ The Indian Air Force has involved in the following:
 - ✓ World War II (1939-1945)
 - ✓ Indo-Pakistani War of 1947
 - ✓ Operation Vijay (1961-Annexation of Goa)
 - ✓ Sino-Indian War (1962)
 - ✓ Indo-Pakistan War of 1965
 - ✓ Operation Cactus (1988 in Maldives)
 - ✓ Kargil War (1999)

World Post Day- October 9

- ❖ World Post Day is celebrated each year on 9 October, the anniversary of the establishment of the Universal Postal Union in 1874 in the Swiss Capital, Bern.

- ❖ It was declared World Post Day by the UPU Congress held in Tokyo, Japan in 1969.
- ❖ The purpose of World Post Day is to create awareness of the role of the postal sector in people's and businesses' everyday lives and its contribution to the social and economic development of countries.

68th Raising Day of Territorial Army

- ❖ Territorial Army is celebrating its 68th Raising Day on 09 October. As a lead up to the occasion, Territorial Army Symphony Band performed at the iconic India Gate on 08 October 2017.
- ❖ The event was organised to showcase the strength Territorial Army, motivate the citizens of the country and inculcate a spirit of National integration
- ❖ Band draws its strength from troops pooled in from various Territorial Army Units Consisting of 40 musicians it was raised as symbolic representation of 'Unity in Diversity' which is the essence of 'Territorial Army' also popularly known as the Citizen's Army.

National Postal Week

- ❖ On marking world post day India Post is celebrating National Postal Week from 9th to 15th October, 2014.
- ❖ The purpose of World Post Day is to create awareness about the role of the postal sector in the lives of people and business and its contribution to the social and economic development of the country.
- ❖ As a part of National Postal Week, the Postal Department is celebrating Savings Bank day, Mail Day, Philately Day, Business Development Day and PLI(Postal Life Insurance) Day to focus on various services provided.
- ❖ Department of Posts has been providing 'My Stamp' service to public at large. 'My Stamp' is the brand name for the personalized sheets of Postage Stamps of India Post.

World Sight Day 2017

- ❖ World Sight Day (WSD) is an annual day of awareness held on the second Thursday of October, to focus global attention on blindness and vision impairment.
- ❖ The theme for the World Sight Day 2017 is "Make Vision Count".
- ❖ This day was initiated by WHO in collaboration with International Agency for the Prevention of Blindness (IAPB).

International Day for Disaster Reduction-October 13

- ❖ The International Day for Disaster Reduction (IDDR) is observed every year on October 13 since 1989, to promote a global culture of risk-awareness and disaster reduction.
- ❖ The theme of IDDR 2017 is “Home Safe Home: Reducing Exposure, Reducing Displacement”.
- ❖ The 2017 campaign seeks to raise global awareness about effective actions, policies and practices taken to reduce exposure to disaster risk at the community level.
- ❖ The "Sendai Seven" campaign which centred on the seven targets of the Sendai Framework was launched last year.
- ❖ The first of the seven targets is reducing disaster mortality.
- ❖ United Nation Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR) acts as the designated agency for the coordination of disaster reduction strategies.

World Egg Day 2017

- ❖ World Egg Day is observed on the second Friday of the October month every year.
- ❖ World Egg Day was established at the International Egg Commission's 1996 Vienna conference when it was decided to celebrate World Egg Day to raise awareness about its importance in everyday life and its health benefits.

International Day of Rural Women-October 15

- ❖ The International Day of Rural Women is observed every year on October 15 to recognize the crucial role and contribution of rural women.
- ❖ The 2017 theme of the day is “Challenges and opportunities in climate-resilient agriculture for gender equality and the empowerment of rural women and girls”.
- ❖ The International Day of Rural Women was instituted by the UN General Assembly and it was first observed on 15 October 2008.
- ❖ According to UN, empowerment of rural women is pre-requisite for fulfilling vision of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) which aims at ending poverty and hunger, achieve food security and empower all women and girls.

World Food Day-16 October

- ❖ The World Food Day is observed globally on 16 October to mark foundation of Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) of the United Nations in 1945.

- ❖ The theme for the year 2017 is “Change the future of migration. Invest in food security and rural development.”
- ❖ The World Food Day was instituted in November 1979 by FAO’s Member Countries at its 20th General Conference of to raise awareness of issues behind poverty and hunger.

Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO)

- ❖ FAO is specialised agency of the United Nations that leads international efforts to defeat hunger and improving nutrition and standards of living by increasing agricultural productivity.
 - Established on -16 October 1945
 - Headquarters - Rome, Italy.
 - Motto is “Let there be bread”.
 - Members- 194 member states, along with the European Union
- ❖ Its parent organization is UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)

The International Day for the Eradication of Poverty - October 17

- ❖ The International Day for the Eradication of Poverty (IDEP) is observed every year on October 17 to raise people’s awareness of the need to eradicate poverty and destitution worldwide, particularly in developing countries.
- ❖ The theme of the year 2017 is ‘Answering the Call of October 17 to end poverty: A path toward peaceful and inclusive societies’.
- ❖ This year’s celebration also marks 25th anniversary of declaration of IDEP by UN’s United Nation Development Programme (UNDP).
- ❖ The International Day for the Eradication of Poverty (IDEP) was instituted by UN General Assembly and it was observed for the first time in 1993.

Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam birth Anniversary-October 15

- ❖ On the occasion of the birth anniversary of Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam, Children arrived at Rashtrapati Bhavan from Rameswaram by the bus ‘Dr Kalam Sandesh Vahini Vision 2020’ visited the President of India at Rashtrapati Bhavan.
- ❖ The Kalam Sandesh Vahini was launched by House of Kalam and Chinmaya University. The Vahini depicts various incidents from Dr. Kalam’s life as well as key highlights of India’s scientific achievements, with an aim to educate and inspire the masses.

World Osteoporosis Day

- ❖ World Osteoporosis Day is observed annually on October 20th, and launches a year-long campaign dedicated to raising global awareness of the prevention, diagnosis and treatment of osteoporosis and metabolic bone disease.
- ❖ The Theme of WOD 2017 is 'Love Your Bones: Protect Your Future'
- ❖ World Osteoporosis Day was launched 1996 by the UK's National Osteoporosis Society and supported by the European Commission. Since 1997, the awareness day has been organised by the International Osteoporosis Foundation.

World Statistics Day

- ❖ World Statistics Day is observed annually on October 20, seeks to highlight the importance of reliable and timely data for informed decision-making by governments and individuals.

National Solidarity Day

- ❖ In the wake of the humiliating military defeat at the hands of China, India had begun observing National Solidarity Day on October 20 every year—the date on which China started the attacks in 1962.

NSG Raising Day

- ❖ The 33rd Raising Day Celebrations of the National Security Guard (NSG), was celebrated in Manesar, Haryana on 16th October.
- ❖ It was raised in 1984, following Operation Blue Star and the assassination of Indira Gandhi, "for combating terrorist activities with a view to protect states against internal disturbances".
- ❖ The NSG personnel are often referred to in the media as Black Cats because of the black dress and black cat insignia worn on their uniform.
- ❖ NSG is a specially-trained, highly skilled and hugely motivated force, tasked with multifarious responsibilities.
- ❖ The country will always remember the defining role NSG played in Akshardham, Mumbai and Pathankot attacks.

World Mother-in-Law's Day

- ❖ World Mother-in-Law's Day - Fourth Sunday in October
- ❖ Mother-in-Law's Day was first celebrated on March 5, 1934, in Texas, USA, where it was initiated by the editor of the local newspaper. The observance was later moved to the fourth Sunday in October. It is a day for those men and women to show their love towards their mother-in-law.
- ❖ It is an annual celebration commemorated on October 22nd of this (2017) year.

United Nations Day

- ❖ The United Nations is an international organization founded in 1945 after the World War II.
- ❖ Its charter was signed in San Francisco on June 26, 1945 and came into existence on October 24, 1945 after 51 countries have signed the charter.
- ❖ With the ratification of the founding document by the majority of its signatories, including the five permanent members of the Security Council, the United Nations officially came into being.
- ❖ UN Day marks the anniversary of the entry into force in 1945 of the UN Charter.
- ❖ Since 1948, 24th October has been celebrated as United Nations Day.
- ❖ It is headquartered in New York.
- ❖ It has 193 members and latest member joined was South Sudan.
- ❖ The Official Languages are Arabic, English, French, Chinese, Spanish, and Russian.
- ❖ The organs of UN are General Assembly, Security Council, Economic and Social Council, International court of Justice and Secretariat.

World Polio Day - 24 October

- ❖ The World Polio Day is observed annually across world on 24 October to create awareness about the hazards of the crippling Polio disease.
- ❖ World Polio Day was established by Rotary International over a decade ago to commemorate the birth of Jonas Salk, who developed first successful vaccine against poliomyelitis.
- ❖ India received polio-free certification along with the entire South-East Asia Region of WHO on 27th March 2014 by WHO.
- ❖ Global Polio Eradication Initiative (GPEI) launched in 1988 has played pivotal role in eradication of wild poliovirus. When it was launched wild

poliovirus existed in 125 countries. Now, it exists in three countries Pakistan and Afghanistan.

- ❖ Poliomyelitis (polio) is a highly infectious viral disease, which mainly affects young children (under 5 years of age). The virus is transmitted by person-to-person spread mainly through the faecal-oral route or, less frequently, by a common vehicle (e.g. contaminated water or food) and multiplies in the intestine, from where it can enter the nervous system and can cause paralysis.

Symptoms

- ❖ Initial symptoms are fever, fatigue, headache, vomiting, stiffness of the neck and pain in the limbs. 1 in 200 infections leads to irreversible paralysis (usually in the legs).
- ❖ Among those paralysed, 5% to 10% die when their breathing muscles become nonfunctional.

Prevention

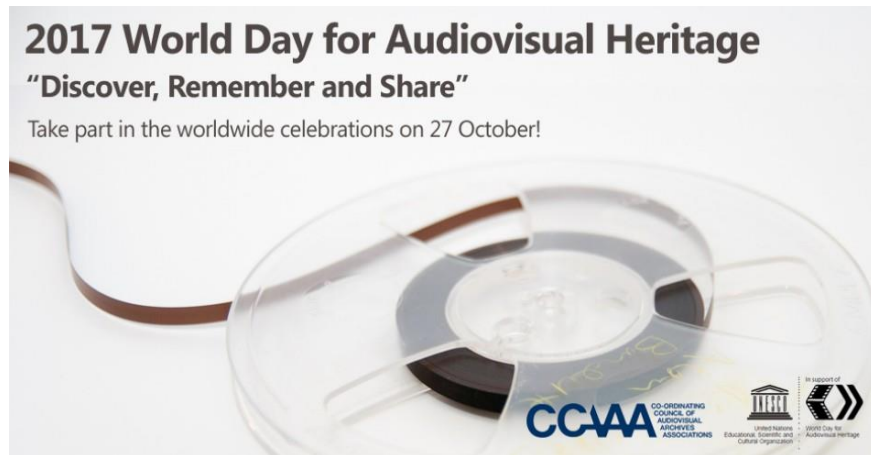
- ❖ There is no cure, but safe and effective vaccines are there. Polio can be prevented through immunization.
- ❖ There are two types of vaccine to prevent infection.
 1. OPV (Oral Polio Vaccine)
 2. Injectable Polio Vaccine (IPV)

World Development Information Day-24 October

- ❖ The World Development Information Day (WDID) is observed every year on October 24 to draw attention of world to development problems and necessity of strengthening international cooperation to solve them.
- ❖ The day was further recognized as the date on which the International Development Strategy for the Second Nations Development Decade was adopted in 1970.
- ❖ Many of these are aimed at journalists working for a range of media, including television, radio, newspapers, magazines and Internet sites.

World Day for Audiovisual Heritage-October 27

- ❖ The World Day for Audiovisual Heritage is observed every year on 27th October.



- ❖ This commemorative day was chosen by UNESCO (the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization) in 2005 to raise awareness about the significance and preservation risks of recorded sound and audio-visual documents (films, sound and video recordings, radio and television programmes).
- ❖ " Discover, remember and share " is the theme of this year's celebration of the World Day for Audiovisual Heritage.

Infantry Day-27 October

- ❖ The Infantry Day is observed every year in India on 27 October to commemorate supreme sacrifices made by Indian Army's infantry against Pakistan in Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) in 1947.
- ❖ It was first infantry action by Indian Army after independence.

International Internet Day-October 29

- ❖ International Internet Day is celebrated worldwide, every year on 29th of October.
- ❖ Since the year 2005 the International Internet Day has been famously celebrated to commemorate a momentous day in the history of telecommunications and technology.
- ❖ This was the event of the sending of the first message, first electronic message which was transferred from one computer to another in 1969.

World Vegetarian Day

- ❖ World Vegetarian Day is observed annually around the planet on October 1.
- ❖ It brings awareness to the ethical, environmental, health, and humanitarian benefits of a vegetarian lifestyle.

International Day of Older Persons

- ❖ The International Day of Older Persons is observed on October 1 each year.
- ❖ The day is celebrated by raising awareness about issues affecting the elderly, such as senescence. It is also a day to appreciate the contributions that older people make to society.

MISCELLANEOUS

Report on Modern Slavery

- ❖ A study on “Global Estimates of Modern Slavery” was conducted by a Walk Free Foundation (WFF), An Australia based Human Rights Group.
- ❖ The report was published on behalf of the global body- International Labour Organisation (ILO).
- ❖ It reveals that globally there are 40.3 million people are victims of modern slavery in 2016.
- ❖ Global Slavery Index is computed by WFF every year.
 - ✓ In 2016 Index, India has been ranked 4th out of 167 countries.
 - ✓ In 2016, it was deemed to have some 18.3 million people trapped in slavery in India.

Valuable Nation Brand List 2017

- ❖ According to the recently released Nation Brands 2017 report, India was ranked 8th out of 100 countries on a list of most valuable nation brands.
- ❖ India slipped by one spot compared to 2016 report and ceded its previous spot to Canada.

Valuable Nation Brand List

- ❖ World’s most valuable nation list released as part of Nation Brands report by Brand Finance measures strength and value of nation brands of 100 leading countries
- ❖ The valuation is based on 5 year forecasts of sales of all brands in each nation and follows a complex process in which Gross domestic product (GDP) is used as a proxy for total revenues.

Safe Cities Index 2017

- ❖ Tokyo has once again topped the list of The Economist's Safe Cities Index 2017 while Delhi and Mumbai ranked 43rd and 45th respectively.
- ❖ The Safe Cities Index 2017 is a report from The Economist Intelligence Unit sponsored by NEC, a Multinational Japan Company.
- ❖ The indicators are digital security, health security, infrastructure security and personal security.

Times Higher Education Rankings

- ❖ The Indian Institute of Science (IISc) in Bangalore and Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Bombay were ranked among world's top 200 institutions for engineering and computer science in Times Higher Education subject-wise rankings.
- ❖ IISc was placed at the 89th spot, while IIT Bombay was placed in the 126-150 category, globally.
- ❖ In this edition, Stanford University from US was ranked number one, followed by California institute of Technology, Oxford University, Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) and Cambridge University.

Auction of Mona Lisa Painting

- ❖ One of Marcel Duchamp's reproductions of Leonardo Da Vinci's Mona Lisa has sold for 6,32,500 euros (\$7,50,000) in Paris
- ❖ He pencilled this with a beard and moustache.
- ❖ American – French Artist Duchamp is called as father of conceptual art.
- ❖ The newer version was created in 1964 from the original readymade piece which was drawn on 1919.
