1. **International Day of Older Persons: October 1**

The International Day of Older Persons is observed on October 1 each year. On December 14, 1990 the United Nations General Assembly voted to establish October 1 as the International Day of Older Persons as recorded in Resolution 45/106. The day was observed for the first time on October 1, 1991. The theme of the International Day of Older Persons 2017 is “Stepping into the Future: Tapping the Talents, Contributions and Participation of Older Persons in Society.”

2. **UAE begins collecting 'sin' taxes on tobacco, energy drinks**

The United Arab Emirates has begun collecting new "sin" taxes on tobacco products, energy drinks and soft drinks. Tobacco and energy drinks will be taxed at 100 percent and soft drinks at 50 percent. The new tax push comes as the UAE and other oil-rich Gulf nations have struggled with low global energy prices.

3. **Nirmala Sitharaman inaugurates Pratham-Shyok bridge in Leh**

Defence Minister Nirmala Sitharaman inaugurated the Pratham-Shyok bridge that will link Leh to Karakoram, providing connectivity on the strategically important Darbuk-Shyok-Daulat Beg Olde axis for military transport. The bridge is a major development on the Shyok Gong river which will enhance travel of locals as well as the Army in this strategic region. It will increase travel and communication for strategic transport, the Minister said.

4. **The third edition of 'Women of India Organic Festival'**

To celebrate and promote women entrepreneurs and farmers in the organic sector from across India, the Ministry of Women and Child Development is hosting the 3rd annual ‘Women of India Organic Festival’ from October 1st to 15th, 2017, in New Delhi. Smt. Maneka Sanjay Gandhi, Union Minister for Women and Child Development, inaugurated the festival in the presence of Shri Virendra Kumar, Minister of State, Ministry of Women and Child Development, on October 1 at Dilli Haat (INA). With the theme ‘Good for Women; Good for India; Good for You’, the Ministry intends to highlight the health and environmental advantages of organic goods, provide a platform for women engaged in it and boost the development of sustainable and easily accessible sales outlets for women producers from the remotest corners of India.
5. India opens two border crossing points with Myanmar, Bangladesh

India has opened two immigration check posts along the borders with Myanmar and Bangladesh, a reflection of its growing closeness with the two eastern neighbours. The home ministry said the central government has designated Zorinpui land check post in Lawngtlai district of Mizoram as an authorised immigration check post for entry into or exit from India with valid travel documents for all classes of passengers to or from Myanmar. In a separate notification, the ministry said the central government designated Kawrupwichhuah land check post in Lunglei district of Mizoram as an authorised immigration check post for entry into or exit from India with valid travel documents for all classes of passengers to or from Bangladesh. India shares a 1,643-km-long border with Myanmar which touches Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland, Manipur and Mizoram. India shares a 4,096-km-long border with Bangladesh which touches Assam, Tripura, Mizoram, Meghalaya and West Bengal.

6. President Kovind inaugurates Shirdi Airport

President Ram Nath Kovind inaugurated the swank new Shirdi Airport in Ahmednagar and the inaugural Alliance Air commercial flight to Mumbai. The inauguration of the airport, developed by Maharashtra Airport Development Corporation (MADC), also marks the start of the year-long centenary celebrations of Shri Sai Baba Samadhi for which over 11 million pilgrims are expected from around the world. The small town in western Maharashtra is a world-famous pilgrim spot for the ‘samadhi’ temple of a 20th century saint, known as Saibaba, who is revered by all communities.

7. President of India appoints Governors

The President has been pleased to make the following appointments:-

- Brig. (Dr.) B. D. Mishra (Retd.) as the Governor of Arunachal Pradesh
- Shri Satya Pal Malik as the Governor of Bihar
- Shri Banwarilal Purohit as the Governor of Tamil Nadu
- Prof. Jagdish Mukhi as the Governor of Assam
- Shri Ganga Prasad as the Governor of Meghalaya
- Admiral Devendra Kumar Joshi was appointed as the Lieutenant Governor for Andaman and Nicobar Islands.
1. MP CM launches 'Single Click Pension Delivery' scheme

Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan launched 'Single Click Pension Delivery' scheme, wherein the money will go directly into the account of the beneficiaries. More than 35 lakh people of the state will be benefitted from this move. Chauhan honoured the elderly who completed the age of 100 years with the "Shataayu" award.

2. MCI to give Unique Permanent Registration Number to all doctors

The Medical Council of India has written to the country’s largest body of doctors to help digitise India’s registry of doctors through a unique registration number similar to AADHAAR as part of its ongoing e-governance initiative. The move is expected to help doctors practice in different States without seeking different licences across borders.

3. Government to celebrate Swachh Bharat Diwas on 2nd October

The third anniversary of the Swachh Bharat Mission will be celebrated as "Swachh Bharat Diwas" on 2nd October. October 2 is also celebrated as the International Day of Non-Violence. On June 15, 2007, the United Nations General Assembly had voted for this.

4. Bhopal set to become first state capital to get trans toilet

Over five months after the union government asked all states to allow transgender people to use any public toilet of their choice, Bhopal is set to become the first state capital to come up with an exclusive toilet for the transgender community. It will be inaugurated by Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan. In April this year, the union ministry of drinking water and sanitation had issued guidelines to state governments to put in efforts to make people from the transgender community feel as equal citizens.

5. RCom calls off merger deal with Aircel

Reliance Communications (RCom) has called off plans to merge its wireless business with rival Aircel, citing legal and regulatory uncertainties. Had the merger gone through, it would have created India’s third-largest telecom provider with 175 million subscribers. The proposed deal with Aircel signed last September.
6. FB Group gets Swachhata Award for voluntary citizen action

Fertilizer Cooperative, KRIBHCO was conferred the Swachhata Award by the Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs on the occasion of the third anniversary of the launch of Swacch Bharat Mission(Urban) for leading in marketing of compost made from Municipal Solid Waste. The Ministry will felicitate 20 individuals and agencies in 7 categories for significant contribution towards furthering the Clean India objective in urban areas. KRIBHCO has been chosen among the Companies category for marketing the highest quantity of 22,768 tons of compost during 2016-17. Delhi based citizen group ‘My Delhi Keep It Clean’ gets the award for promoting voluntary efforts to clean public places effectively using Face Book, in the Self-Help Group category.

- Richmond Park, Gurugram, located in DLF Phase-IV and completed in 2002 has been chosen for the award for exemplary decentralized waste management initiative through waste segregation at source, in the RWAs category.
- RWA Federation of Mysuru has shown the way in Zero-waste effluent management system.
- Roseland Housing Society, Pune also gets the award for waste segregation initiative.
- ‘No Food Waste’ initiative of Coimbatore has been selected in the Innovative Practices category for end-to-end cycle to manage and reduce food waste.
- Kasturba Gandhi Balika Awasiya Vidyalaya, Ambikar gets the award in the Schools and Colleges category while Swacch Ambikapur Sahakari Samiti has been chosen in Self-Help Group category for women empowerment and livelihood generation by converting garbage into wealth.
- Pemayangste Monastery, Gyalshing, Sikkim will be felicitated in the category of religious institutions for being a Zero-waste institution.

7. Meenakshi temple wins swachh award

The Sri Meenakshi Sundareswarar Temple in Madurai has been adjudged the cleanest iconic place in the country under Swachhta Hi Seva (cleanliness is service) programme. The temple earned the top slot from among 10 iconic places selected under the Swachh Bharath Mission in the country. Dedicated to Meenakshi, an incarnation of Parvati, and her consort Sundareswar, an incarnation of Shiva, the temple was adjudged the Best Swachh Iconic Place from a formidable list of
contenders that included the Taj Mahal, Ajmer Sharif Dargah, the Golden Temple, Tirupathi temple and Sri Vaishno Devi temple.

8. Max Verstappen wins Malaysian Grand Prix

A commanding drive from Red Bull's Max Verstappen saw him soundly beat three-time world champion Lewis Hamilton to win Malaysian Grand Prix at the Sepang Circuit. Verstappen grabbed the lead from then race leader Hamilton on lap 4. Daniel Ricciardo held off Sebastian Vettel for third. Sebastian finished in fourth place.
1. 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. Conservation authorities and experts would install cameras in various locations in tiger habitats as well as in buffer zones to capture and track the movements of the tiger. The counting of tigers will begin from the second week of November.

2. Thaawarchand Gehlot Flags off “WALKATHON” for Older Persons

To mark the ‘International day of Older Persons’ on 2nd October, more than 5000 participants gathered at India Gate for a noble cause to spread the message of caring and giving respect to older persons and senior citizens. This year’s theme was “Stepping into the Future: Tapping the Talents, Contributions and Participation of Older Persons in Society. Shri Thaawarchand Gehlot Union Minister of Social Justice & Empowerment along with the Minister of State Shri Krishan Pal Gurjar, took the pledge with other dignitaries and 5000 participants. Then the “Walkathon” was flagged off by Shri Thaawarchand Gehlot & MOS Shri Krishan Pal Gurjar and they also took part in 1 km Walkathon with all the dignitaries.

3. Rajghat gets Mahatma Statue, for the first time

Rajghat, the Samadhi of the Father of the Nation in the national capital, has for the first time acquired a new feature that could appeal to the large number of visitors. Vice-President of India Shri M.Venkaiah Naidu unveiled a 1.80 metre tall bronze statue of Mahatma Gandhi on the occasion of the 148 Birth Anniversary of the champion of country’s independence. The statue, sculpted by the renowned Shri Ram Sutar is installed in the Parking Area of Rajghat Samadhi Complex at a cost of Rs.8.73 lakhs. It is mounted on a two feet high pedestal clad with granite. The famous message of Gandhi ji “Be the Change You Wish to See” is inscribed on the front side of the pedestal. Installation of the Statue is a part of a large number of improvement works at Rajghat undertaken during the last three years.

4. Fitch lowers India's growth forecast to 6.9%

Fitch Ratings has lowered India’s economic growth forecast for the current fiscal to 6.9 per cent from 7.4 per cent after the GDP growth "unexpectedly faltered" in the April-June quarter. The Asian Development Bank (ADB) had last month slashed India's GDP growth forecast for the current fiscal to 7 per cent from 7.4 per cent owing to weakness in private consumption, manufacturing output and business investment. India had posted a 7.1 per cent growth in 2016-17.
5. GIFT-IFSC ranks at 10th place in global financial centres index

India's first IFSC has been featured at the tenth place in the latest September 2017 edition of Global Financial Centres Index 22 (GFCI) - London. The Gandhinagar-based IFSC has ranked ahead of other leading financial hubs at Luxembourg, Seoul, Abu Dhabi, Toronto and Beijing. GIFT has been put in the same league as other top financial centres at New York and Hong Kong.

6. US ships first lot of crude to India

The first shipment of US crude oil to India arrived at Paradip Port in Odisha, as part of the two million barrels contracted by India. The shipment follows recent commitments to US oil purchases by Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) and Bharat Petroleum (BPCL), both of which have placed orders for over 2 million barrels from the US. US crude oil shipments to India have the potential to boost bilateral trade by up to $2 billion.

7. President Appoints Commission to Examine Sub Categorization of OBC

The President 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 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.

8. Nobel Prizes in Physiology or Medicine

The Nobel Assembly at Karolinska Institute has decided to award the 2017 Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine jointly to Jeffrey C. Hall, Michael Rosbash and Michael W. Young for their discoveries of molecular mechanisms controlling the circadian rhythm.

- Hall was born in New York, Rosbash in Kansas City, and they both worked at Brandeis University. Michael Young was born in Miami and worked at Rockefeller University.
- The Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine, administered by the Nobel Foundation, is awarded once a year for outstanding discoveries in the fields of life sciences and medicine.
- It is one of five Nobel Prizes established in 1895 by Swedish chemist Alfred Nobel, the inventor of dynamite, in his will.
- As of 2015, 106 Nobel Prizes in Physiology or Medicine have been awarded to 198 men and 12 women.
- The first Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine was awarded in 1901 to the German physiologist Emil von Behring, for his work on serum therapy and the development of a vaccine against diphtheria.
- The first woman to receive the Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine, Gerty Cori, received it in 1947 for her role in elucidating the metabolism of glucose.
1. Global Entrepreneurship Summit 2017 to be Held in Hyderabad

A high-level delegation from the Government of India and the United States met, at NITI Aayog to plan the 2017 Global Entrepreneurship Summit, which will be held November 28-30 at the Hyderabad International Convention Centre in Hyderabad, India. The Summit will be inaugurated by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi and Advisor to the President, Ivanka Trump, who leads the U.S. delegation. The GES is the preeminent annual gathering of emerging entrepreneurs, investors, and business leaders from around the world.

2. Chandrababu Naidu launches 'Swachh Andhra Mission'

Taking the cue from Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Swachh Bharat Mission, Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu launched Swachh Andhra Mission on the occasion of Gandhi Jayanti. Ace shuttler PV Sindhu, who has been chosen as the brand ambassador of Swachh Andhra, joined Naidu on this occasion.

3. 'No helmet, no petrol' rule comes into force in Andhra Pradesh

'No helmet, no petrol' rule for two-wheeler riders to reduce road accident deaths has come into force in Andhra Pradesh. Chandrababu has sanctioned Rs 10 crore for equipment to implement this rule. He also ordered the officials to conduct a weekly check on the motorists for effective implementation of the rule. Naidu said that road safety rules must be implemented strictly to reduce the number of road accidents in the states.

4. Karnataka Government launches Mathru Poorna scheme

The Karnataka government has launched Mathru Poorna, a scheme meant to meet the nutritional needs of pregnant and lactating women in rural areas. Under the programme, pregnant and lactating poor women in rural areas will get one nutritious meal daily for 25 days in a month.

5. AIIB, ADB approves $100 mn loan for India’s power sector

China-led AIIB and multilateral funding agency ADB will co-finance a USD 100-million loan for India to improve power transmission network and expand the use of solar and wind energy. The loan, approved by the Board of Directors of the Beijing-headquartered Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB), involves co-financing of USD 50 million from the Manila-based Asian Development Bank (ADB). This was the fourth co-financing made by the AIIB and the ADB, two major multilateral development banks in Asia. India is the second largest shareholder in the AIIB. The bank has an authorised capital of USD 100 billion.
6. Yatinder Pal Singh Suri elected as PMAI Chairman

The Process Plant and Machinery Association of India (PPMAI) has elected Yatinder Pal Singh Suri as its new Chairman. Suri is currently working as the Managing Director and India head of Finland-based stainless steel major Outokumpu. PPMAI is a service organisation having members from companies serving in industries such as oil and gas processing, refineries, fertilisers, chemicals, petrochemicals, synthetic fibre, and environmental controls.

7. Nobel prize in physics awarded for discovery of gravitational waves

Three American physicists have won the Nobel prize in physics for the first observations of gravitational waves. Rainer Weiss has been awarded one half of the 9m Swedish kronor (£825,000) prize, announced by the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences in Stockholm. Kip Thorne and Barry Barish will share the other half of the prize. All three scientists have played leading roles in the Laser Interferometer Gravitational-Wave Observatory, or Ligo, experiment, which in 2015 made the first historic observation of gravitational waves.

8. Ministry of Health adjudged best for ‘Swachhta Pakhwada’, receives award

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 Swachh Bharat Mission of Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation. The Health Ministry observed the Swachhta Pakhwada from 1st February, 2017 to 15th February, 2017. The award was presented to the Ministry on 2nd October, 2017, the third anniversary of Swachh Bharat Mission. Shri C K Mishra, Secretary (HFW) received the award on behalf of the Ministry.

9. Classical singer Manik Bhide chosen for Bhimsen Joshi award

Noted vocalist Manik Bhide was chosen for the prestigious Bharatratna Pandit Bhimsen Joshi award for year 2017-18 for her contribution in the field of music. The Maharashtra government award, the highest in the category of performing arts, consist of Rs five lakh in cash, a plaque and citation.
1. Upgradation of the Women's Police Training Centre at Yamethin, Myanmar

The Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi 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 was signed on 6th September, 2017. The MoU covers upgradation of the Yamethin Women’s Police Training Centre to further augment the capabilities of the Myanmar Government to build capacities of its police force with technical and financial assistance from Government of India.

2. High Level Committee for proper management of water resources in NER

The Government has constituted a high-level committee for proper management of the water resources in the North Eastern Region (NER) under the Chairmanship of Rajiv Kumar, Vice-Chairman, Niti Aayog. This is a sequel to the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi’s visit to Guwahati in August this year to review the flood situation and relief work in the North Eastern States. The Committee would facilitate optimising benefits of appropriate water management in the form of hydro-electric power, agriculture, bio-diversity conservation, reduced flood damage erosion, inland water transport, forestry, fishery and eco-tourism. Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region (DoNER) will serve as the coordinating point. The Committee will submit its report, including Plan of Action, by June, 2018. During the review of the flood situation with the Chief Ministers of Assam, Manipur, Nagaland and Arunachal Pradesh, the Prime Minister had announced constitution of a High-Level Committee for holistic management of water resources in the NER.

3. 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 under Namami Gange programme. The project at an estimated cost of Rs 1.34 crore would include 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. This project will provide much needed platform to make the visitors aware of their place in the ecosystem, their roles and responsibilities, improve their understanding of the complexity of co-existence with the environment and help generate awareness for reducing the impact of human activities on critical natural resources.
4. Country’s first ITI for dibyangans in Dibrugarh

Foundation stone for the first ever Industrial Training Institute for the Dibyangans exclusively was laid at Dibrugarh ITI Complex at Borborua, Dibrugarh by Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal. This is a one of a kind institute in the country in order to set up a new pathway for empowerment of the differently abled youth of the state.

5. RBI keeps repo rate, reverse repo rate unchanged

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has kept the repo rate and reverse repo rate unchanged at 6 percent and 5.75 percent respectively.
- Repo Rate: Unchanged at 6%
- Revere Repo Rate: Unchanged at 5.75%
- Marginal Standing Facility (MSF) Rate: Unchanged at 6.25%
- Bank Rate: Unchanged at 6.25%
- Cash Reserve Ratio: Unchanged at 4%
- Statutory Liquidity Ratio (SLR): Changed by 50 basis points to 19.5%

6. Bangladesh Signs USD 4.5 Billion Loan Deal With India

Bangladesh signed a whopping USD 4.5 billion third line of credit (LoC) agreement with India for its infrastructure and social sector development. The agreement was signed in the presence of Finance Minister Arun Jaitley and his Bangladeshi counterpart A M A Muhith. The new Indian line of credit, worth USD 4.5 billion, will be used to fund 17 major projects in Bangladesh, which include electricity, railroads, roads, shipping and ports.

7. Rajnish Kumar as new SBI chairman

Rajnish Kumar, 59, the senior most of the managing directors at State Bank of India (SBI), will become the 25th chairman of the country’s largest lender, succeeding Arundhati Bhattacharya, who is set to retire on 6 October. The government announced his appointment for three years. Kumar currently is in charge of retail banking at SBI. Kumar’s appointment comes at a time when SBI’s profitability is under strain because of ballooning bad loans and sluggish credit growth. Kumar’s predecessor Bhattacharya was the first woman chairperson of the 200-year-old state-owned bank.

8. The Nobel Prize in Chemistry 2017

The 2017 Nobel Prize in chemistry has been awarded to three scientists for improving images made of biological molecules. Jacques Dubochet, Joachim Frank and Richard Henderson will share the nine million kronor (£831,000) prize. They developed a technique called cryo-electron microscopy (cryo-EM), which simplifies the process for looking at the machinery of life. Prof Dubochet was born in Switzerland, Joachim Frank is German and Richard Henderson is from Edinburgh, UK.
9. IIM Faculty Member Selected For Teaching Innovator Award 2016

IIM Bangalore's Prof. P C Narayan, a faculty from the Finance & Accounting area, has been selected for the 'Teaching Innovator Award-2016' by the Ministry of Human Resource Development, Government of India. The Award will be presented at a ceremony by the MHRD, soon. The teaching innovation that fetched Prof. Narayan the award was titled "Transitioning from a 'Teacher-centric' to a 'Student-centric' Classroom and Online Learning".
1. India picked as guest country at World Summit of Governments

The World Government Summit announced that India is a guest country in its upcoming gathering. The Annual Gathering is scheduled for February 11 to 13, 2018. Honorary guests from India will join the notable list of speakers synonymous with the World Government Summit to showcase the country’s emerging economic growth, highlight valuable knowledge, skills, and capabilities and elaborate on the country’s unique culture, according to the Summit.

2. World Teachers’ Day: 5 October

World Teachers' Day is celebrated yearly on October 5. World Teachers' Day is celebrated around the world since 1994. "Teaching in Freedom, Empowering Teachers" is the theme of this year's World Teachers' Day.

3. Gujarat first state to slash VAT on fuel prices

Ahead of the state assembly elections, the state government has cut value-added tax (VAT) on petrol and diesel, making it the first state to follow the Centre's directions to do so. Recently, the union government cut basic excise duty on petrol and diesel by Rs 2 a litre. Gujarat currently levies a 28.96 per cent VAT on petrol and diesel.

4. Paryatan Parv of M/O Tourism begins across the country

The Ministry of Tourism, in collaboration with other Central Ministries, State Governments and Stakeholders is organizing a “Paryatan Parv” across the country from the 5th to 25th October 2017. The programme is being organized with the objective of drawing focus on the benefits of tourism, showcasing the cultural diversity of the country and reinforcing the principle of “Tourism for All”. The Parv is being inaugurated at the Humayun’s Tomb, New Delhi by Dr. Mahesh Sharma, Minister of State (I/C) for Culture.

5. Centre launches six-year secure Himalaya project

The Centre launched a six-year project to ensure conservation of locally and globally significant biodiversity, land and forest resources in the high Himalayan ecosystem spread over four states in India. Protection of snow leopard and other endangered species and their habitats is one of the key components of the project which will also focus on securing livelihoods of the people in the region and enhancing enforcement to reduce wildlife crime. The project - called SECURE Himalaya - was launched by the Union environment minister Harsh Vardhan in association with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) on the inaugural day of the Global Wildlife Programme (GWP) conference.
6. Mukesh Ambani is India’s Wealthiest Man for the 10th straight year

Reliance Industries chief Mukesh Ambani emerged as India's wealthiest for the 10th straight year as his net worth swelled to USD 38 billion (nearly Rs 2.5 lakh crore) while the wealth of 100 richest rose by 26 per cent despite economic hiccups. Wipro's Azim Premji was the distant second with a net worth of USD 19 billion, moving up two places from last year, while Sun Pharma's Dilip Shanghvi slipped from his earlier second place to the ninth now (USD 12.1 billion) on Forbes magazine's annual 'India Rich List 2017'.

7. UP govt launches mass marriage scheme

The Uttar Pradesh government approved the Mukhyamantri Samoohik Vivaah Yojana, a mass marriage scheme, wherein Rs 35,000 will be spent on each couple, besides gifting them mobile phones and household items. Under the scheme, mass marriages will be conducted by the social welfare department. Programmes in this regard will be organised by urban local bodies like nagar panchayat, nagar palika and nagar nigam, kshetra panchayats, zila panchayats, government/semi-government organisations and NGOs, which will be authorised by district magistrates of respective districts.

8. India signs €300 million Finance Contract with European Investment Bank

Government of India and European Investment Bank (EIB) signed the Finance Contract for lending of € 300 million for Bangalore Metro Rail Project Phase II Line R6. Bangalore Metro Rail Project Phase II is to be jointly financed by the European Investment Bank (€500 million) and Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (€300 million). The first tranche of Euro 300mn was signed on October 5. The project envisages extension of East-West & North-South lines for Bangalore Metro Rail which includes a total length of 72.095 km (13.79 km underground) and 61 stations with 12 underground stations.

9. RBI forms High-level Task Force on Public Credit Registry

Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has formed a High-level Task Force on Public Credit Registry (PCR) for India. The task force has been constituted under the chairmanship of Yeshwant M. Deosthalee. It will review the current availability of information on credit, the adequacy of existing information system and identify gaps that could be filled by a PCR.

10. HDFC Life launches service bot Neo

HDFC Life Insurance Company has launched Neo — a servicing bot for Twitter that uses artificial intelligence for customer service. The insurer hopes to deploy the bot in answering policy-related queries on social media. This is the second bot put in operation by HDFC Life, after the launch of SPOK, which was an email bot to answer customer queries.
11. Mongolia ushers in new Prime Minister

The Mongolian legislature installed a new prime minister, bringing into focus the potential implications for diplomatic relations with North Korea as well as neighboring Russia and China. Khurelsukh Ukhnaa, the deputy prime minister from the ruling Mongolian People's Party, took office after a confirmation vote in the parliament. He succeeds Erdenebat Jargaltulga, who was ousted by the legislature last month in a no-confidence vote.

12. Kazuo Ishiguro wins Nobel Prize in Literature

British author Kazuo Ishiguro, best known for his novel The Remains of the Day, has won the Nobel Literature Prize on October 5. "In novels of great emotional force, has uncovered the abyss beneath our illusory sense of connection with the world," the Academy wrote in its citation. Born in Nagasaki, he moved to Britain with his family when he was five years old. Of the 114 laureates honoured since the prize was first awarded to France's Sully Prudhomme in 1901, only 14 are women.

13. Gauri Lankesh named for Anna Politkovskaya Award

Slain journalist and activist Gauri Lankesh will be posthumously awarded the Annual Anna Politkovskaya Award, an award for women human rights defenders from war and conflict zones, for her fearless journalism, it was announced on Thursday. The award has been conferred by international human rights organisation Reach All Women in WAR (RAW in WAR) to Lankesh a month after she was shot dead outside her residence here on September 5. Lankesh, the editor of Kannada tabloid “Gauri Lankesh Patrike” is the first Indian to win the award.

14. Pooja Kadian Clinches India's Maiden Gold In Wushu Worlds

Pooja Kadian created history as she bagged India's maiden gold medal at the World Wushu Championships. The three-time World Championships silver medallist struck gold in the 75 kg of the women's sanda competition. She defeated Evgeniya Stepanova of Russia in the final.

15. Former I&B Minister Purushottam Lal passes away

Former Union minister and socialist leader Purushottam Lal Kaushik died due to age-related ailments. He was 87. He had served as tourism and civil aviation minister in the then Prime Minister Morarji Desai's cabinet during 1977-1979. He headed the Information and broadcasting Ministry in the then Prime Minister Charan Singh's cabinet during July 1979-January 1980.
1. **President to Inaugurate India Water Week 2017**

President Shri Ram Nath Kovind will inaugurate India Water Week – 2017 on October 10, 2017 in New Delhi in the presence of Union Minister of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation Shri Nitin Gadkari and Union Ministers of State for Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation Shri Arjun Ram Meghwal and Shri Dr. Satya Pal Singh. About 1500 delegates from India and 13 other countries will attend the five day international event. The theme of India Water Week – 2017 is “Water and Energy for Inclusive Growth”. The 5th edition of India Water Week (IWW) will be celebrated with a multi disciplinary conference and a concurrently running exhibition enriching the theme and showcasing the technologies and solutions available for the areas under deliberation of the meet.

2. **Dr. Mahesh Sharma to inaugurate ‘Rashtriya Sanskriti Mahotsav-2017’**

The “Rashtriya Sanskriti Mahotsav (RSM)-2017” will be held from 7th to 9th October, 2017 in India’s 1st World Heritage City i.e Ahmadabad, Gujarat. Ms. Sujata Prasad, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Culture addressing the media persons Ahmadabad, Gujarat said that Rashtriya Sanskriti Mahotsav was conceived by the Ministry of Culture in the year 2015 and after the grand success of the First Rashtriya Sanskriti Mahotsav in November-2015, the Ministry of Culture decided to organize it with an intent to showcase the rich cultural heritage of the Country in all its rich and varied dimensions, viz., Handicrafts, Cuisine, Painting, Sculpture, Photography, Documentation and Performing Arts-Folk, Tribal, Classical and Contemporary- all in one place. So far, this Ministry has organised 5 RSM’s i.e 2 in Delhi, 1 each in Varanasi, Bengaluru and RSM North East in all NE State capitals. Additional Secretary informed that The Minister of State for Culture (I/C) and Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Dr. Mahesh Sharma will inaugurate the 6th edition of Rashtriya Sanskriti Mahotsav on 7th October 2017 at 7.00 pm at Sabarmati River Front Event Centre, A Block in Ahmadabad.

3. **First Edition of the ASEAN India Music Festival held in New Delhi**

Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India in collaboration with Ministry of Culture and Seher presents the first ever ASEAN-India Music Festival from October 6th-8th 2017 at Purana Quila in New Delhi. The Festival is being 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.
4. Three-day Global Medical Conference Begins In Chandigarh

A three-day international conference, aimed at engaging industry and academic leaders to discuss current unmet medical needs, began at CSIR-Institute of Microbial Technology (IMTECH) in Chandigarh. CSIR-IMTECH is a premier microbial institute under the aegis of the Union Ministry of Science and Technology. The aim of the conference ‘IMTechCon 2017’ is to engage industry and academic leaders to discuss current unmet medical needs globally.

5. ISRO to set up research centre in Guwahati

The Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) will set up a research centre in Guwahati for start ups, academicians, environmentalists and entrepreneurs. ISRO would set up the exclusive research facility in Assam to explore the possibility of using geospatial technology, which include data generated through global positioning system (GPS), geographical information systems (GIS) and satellite remote sensing for expediting the development of Assam, officials said. Remote sensing technology would be used for accurate flood warning system, prevention of soil erosion and land slides to name a few. The state government would provide land to ISRO free of cost for the research centre.

6. Axis Bank acquires Freecharge

The country’s third largest private sector lender Axis Bank said it has acquired payments wallet Freecharge for Rs 373 crore in an all-cash deal. Sangram Singh has been appointed as the CEO of Freecharge Payment Technologies Private Ltd, it said. Freecharge presently has revenue of about Rs. 80 crore.

7. Vijaya Bank inks MoU with HPCL for digital payments

Vijaya Bank has entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd (HPCL) for enabling all HPCL retail outlets with BHIM/UP1 merchant solutions. This rollout will empower all petrol pump attendants and LPG delivery personnel to accept digital payments. Customers can make payments by scanning a payment QR code, using BHIM Vijaya or any BHIM app that supports payments via UPI.

8. Pooja Kapur is next Ambassador of India to the Republic of Macedonia

Ms. Pooja Kapur, (IFS: 1996) has been concurrently accredited as the next Ambassador of India to the Republic of Macedonia, with residence in Sofia, Republic of Bulgaria. She is expected to take up the assignment shortly. She is presently Ambassador of India to the Republic of Bulgaria.

9. 2017 Nobel Prize in Peace

The 2017 Nobel Peace Prize has been awarded to International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN), a coalition of non-governmental organisations from over 100 countries around the globe. The Norwegian Nobel Committee honoured the Geneva-based group “for its work to draw attention to the catastrophic humanitarian consequences of any use of nuclear weapons and for its ground-breaking efforts to achieve a treaty-based prohibition of such weapons.”
1. UN ends 13-year military peacekeeping mission in Haiti

The UN soldiers left Haiti finishing their 13 year military peacekeeping mission in Haiti. A UN peacekeeping mission helped to maintain order in Haiti through 13 years of political turmoil and disaster. UN troops reached more than 10,000 in number after the January 2010 earthquake. The UN lowered its flag at its headquarters in Port-au-Prince.

2. India to conduct the First ‘BIMSTEC Disaster Management Exercise- 2017’

The First ‘BIMSTEC Disaster Management Exercise- 2017’ (BIMSTEC DMEx-2017) will be conducted by the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) as the lead agency from October 10-13, 2017 in Delhi and the National Capital Region (NCR). This Exercise will be a platform for sharing Best Practices on all aspects of Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR), strengthening regional response and coordination for Disaster Management among the BIMSTEC member countries. The main focus of the BIMSTEC DMEx-2017 will be on testing the region’s preparedness and resilience towards effective activation of inter-Governmental interaction/dialogue/agreements for immediate deployment of regional resources for disaster response.

3. Dialogue of Civilizations – IV being Organized from 8th – 15th October, 2017

‘4th Dialogue of Civilizations’ is being jointly organized by the Archaeological Survey of India, Ministry of Culture and National Geographic in New Delhi from 8th to 15th October, 2017. The theme of the Conference is “Technology and Civilization”. In 2013, the National Geographic Society initiated a five-year annual conference called “The Dialogue of Civilizations,” the mission of which is to encourage scholarly and public discourse about the five ancient, literate civilizations of the world (i.e., Egypt, Mesopotamia, South Asia, China, and Mesoamerica).

4. 9th Annual ‘World Dental Show 2017’ opens in Mumbai

The 3-day international exhibition -9th Annual ‘World Dental Show 2017’ has opened Bandra- Kurla Complex in Mumbai. It is an integral part of Asia’s biggest dental event. The exhibition was hosted by the Indian Dental Association (IDA). It is showcasing the evolving global technologies and techniques in dentistry.

5. SC appoints amicus on a plea seeking reprobe of Gandhi murder

The Supreme Court put some searching questions on a plea seeking reopening of the investigation into the assassination of Mahatma Gandhi. After a brief hearing, a bench comprising Justices S A Bobde and L Nageswara Rao appointed senior advocate and former additional solicitor general Amrinder Sharan as amicus curiae to assist the court in the matter. Gandhi was shot dead in New Delhi on January 30, 1948 by Nathuram Vinayak Godse, a right-wing advocate of Hindu nationalism.
6. Dharmendra Pradhan inaugurates Saudi Aramco India Office

Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas & Skill Development & Entrepreneurship Shri Dharmendra Pradhan, inaugurated Saudi Aramco’s ARAMCO ASIA INDIA office in Gurugram jointly with Mr Amin H Al-Nasser, President and CEO of Saudi Aramco. The office is located at Two Horizon Tower, Gurugram. Saudi Aramco through its subsidiary ARAMCO Asia India (AAI) established its formal business presence in India in 2016. AAI would now formally engage in crude oil and LPG marketing, engineering & technical services, and other business development activities.

7. RBI imposes restrictions banking business on Oriental Bank of Commerce

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has imposed certain restriction on banking activities of government-owned Oriental Bank of Commerce which has suffered huge losses due to sharp rise in bad loan. This will be the seventh bank among the 21 PSU banks to be placed under restrictions since March this calendar year. RBI has earlier placed restrictions on six banks which include Dena Bank, Central Bank of India, IDBI Bank, Indian Overseas Bank, Bank of Maharashtra and UCO Bank.

8. Filmmaker Kundan Shah passes away

Veteran director Kundan Shah, best known for the dark comedy Jaane Bhi Do Yaaro, passed away at his home. He was 69. He had studied direction at the Film and Television Institute of India in Pune and made his feature film debut in 1983 with the cult classic Jaane Bhi Do Yaaro (1983). He made his directorial debut on television in 1986 with the popular series Nukkad and went on to direct sitcom, Wagle Ki Duniya, based on cartoonist R.K. Laxman’s character, the common man.
PDF 9th Oct. 2017

1. India drops a rank, is eighth most valuable nation brand

India is ranked the eighth most valuable nation brand while the United States retained its top position and China took the second spot in the league of nations according to Brand Finance’s Nation Brands 2017. India went down one spot over the previous year, the report said, because the economy grew at its slowest pace. China, the fastest growing nation brand in 2017, saw valuation grow 44 per cent.

2. Prez launches Rs 100 crore clean water initiative

President Ram Nath Kovind launched Mata Amritanandamayi Math's Rs 100 crore clean water initiative for rural India at the math headquarters in Kerala. Kovind, who is on his maiden visit to the southern state after assuming office, inaugurated the 'Jivamritam' filtration system, envisaged to provide clean drinking water to 10 million villagers across the nation. The programme was organised as part of the 64th birthday celebrations of spiritual leader Mata Amritanandamayi Devi, popularly known as 'Amma' among her devotees.

3. Prime Minister launches Intensified Mission Indradhanush (IMI)

"Let no child suffer from any vaccine-preventable disease". This was stated by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi as he launched the Intensified Mission Indradhanush (IMI) at Vadnagar in Gujarat. Through this programme, Government of India aims to reach each and every child under two years of age and all those pregnant women who have been left uncovered under the routine immunisation programme. The special drive will focus on improving immunization coverage in select districts and cities to ensure full immunization to more than 90% by December 2018. The achievement of full immunisation under Mission Indradhanush to at least 90% coverage was to be achieved by 2020 earlier. With the launch of IMI, achievement of the target has now been advanced.

4. PM lays foundation stone for Bhadbhut barrage project

Prime Minister Narendra Modi laid the foundation stone for the Rs 4,337-crore Bhadbhut Barrage project which aims to stop the ingress of salinity along the Narmada river. Modi, on the second day of his two-day visit to poll-bound Gujarat, also flagged off a new train between Udhna in Surat and Jaynagar in Bihar. The prime minister also inaugurated various neem-related projects of the Gujarat Narmada Valley Fertilisers Company Limited (GNFC), and said the idea of 100 per cent neem-coated urea, conceived by his government, has stopped its pilferage and helped in addressing the problem of urea shortage faced by farmers.
5. RBI to launch financial literacy drive in 9 states

The Reserve Bank will soon launch a financial literacy drive in 80 blocks in nine states on pilot basis to educate people on e-transactions, formal sector borrowings and insurance purchases. Six NGOs registered with the Depositor Education and Awareness Fund -- CRISIL Foundation, Dhan Foundation, Swadhaar Fin Access, Indian School of Micro Finance for Women (ISMW), Samarpit and the PACE Foundation -- have been selected to execute the pilot project in collaboration with banks. The total cost of the pilot project over a period of three years is Rs 18.40 crore. The aim of the CFL is to inculcate the habit of making a household budget and recording financial transactions, encourage transactions in savings accounts, and active saving by depositing in banks through fixed deposits and recurring deposits.

6. India's Anupama wins inaugural snooker meet

Anupama Ramachandran of India and Dylan Emery of Wales have claimed the World Open Under-16 Snooker Championship titles in the girls and boys category, respectively, in St. Petersburg Russia. Federation of Billiards Sports of Russia hosted this first ever World Open championships for Under-16 boys and girls, which was a success with total participation of 73 cueists from across the world.

7. Sandhu wins first Asian Tour title at Yeangder TPC

Indian golfer Ajeetesh Sandhu fired a superb two-under 70 to clinch his maiden Asian Tour title at the USD 500,000 Yeangder Tournament Players Championship (TPC) in Taipei. The 28-year-old sunk three birdies against a lone bogey to return with a winning total of 12-under 276 to defeat USA's Johannes Veerman (71) by one-shot at the Linkou International Golf and Country Club.

8. Hamilton roars to Japan win

Lewis Hamilton romped to victory at the Japanese Grand Prix to close in on a fourth world title after Sebastian Vettel retired with engine failure on lap four. Max Verstappen finished second and Daniel Ricciardo secured third spot. Valtteri Bottas finished fourth and Kimi Raikkonen's Ferrari finished fifth.
1. Vice President to inaugurate the third International Conference on Yoga

Vice President, Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu will inaugurate the two-day ‘International Conference on Yoga for Wellness’ at Pravasi Bharatiya Kendra, Chanakyapuri, New Delhi. The conference is being organized by Ministry of AYUSH as a part of commemorating the celebration of 21st June as International Day of Yoga declared by the United Nations. Yoga focused deliberations of the conference will be organized in six technical sessions followed by Panel Discussion among 16 interdisciplinary experts from prominent scientific institutions. The thematic areas of deliberations include Yoga research in non-communicable diseases and scope of Yoga in Integrated Medicine, Control of Cancer, Depression, Gynecological disorders and Pain Management. 25 national and international experts will be the speakers and 11 highly reckoned resource persons of Yoga and Medical field as Chairpersons and Co-chairpersons of the technical sessions. The theme of this year’s conference will be ‘Yoga for Wellness’.

2. NMCG Approves Eight Projects worth over Rs 700 Crore

National Mission for Clean Ganga has approved eight projects worth Rs. 700 crore, out of which four pertain to sewage management in Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and West Bengal, three are related to treatment of drains through bio-remediation and one of inventorization and surveillance of river Ganga. On sewage management front, a project for pollution abatement in river Ganga at Bally in West Bengal has been approved at an estimated cost of Rs 200.07 crore that would include construction of a 40 MLD STP under Hybrid Annuity based PPP model among other works. Similarly, construction of a 65 MLD STP under Hybrid Annuity model has been approved for Bhagalpur in Bihar at an estimated project cost of Rs 268.49 crore. In Uttar Pradesh, sewage treatment related works at an estimated cost of Rs 213.62 crore have also been approved that includes construction of two STPs (28 MLD + 05 MLD) in Farrukhabad and one 2 MLD STP at Bargadiya drain in Fatehpur. Pollution abatement works for river Ganga like interception, diversion and treatment of sewage in Bithoor have also been approved at an estimated cost of Rs 13.40 crore. Three projects of treatment of drains using bio-remediation technology have also been given a green signal at an estimated cost of Rs 4.29 crore. These are for Rajapur drain and Digha drain in Patna and Laksar drain in Haridwar. One project for pollution inventorization, assessment and surveillance on river Ganga has also been approved at an estimated cost of Rs 42.9 crore. Continuation of an ongoing exercise, the project aims to strengthen environmental regulation and water quality monitoring vis-à-vis river Ganga.
3. SBI to fund Maharashtra govt’s affordable housing schemes

The State Bank of India (SBI) will soon ink an MoU with the Maharashtra government-owned PSU Shivshahi Purnarvasan Prakalp (SPPL) for financing affordable housing under the State’s slum rehabilitation schemes. The SBI will make available funds for the construction of affordable housing tenements under the slum rehabilitation schemes, including the Dharavi Redevelopment Project, of the Maharashtra government. According to sources in SBI and SPPL, the MoU is expected to promote private sector participation in construction of affordable housing under the slum rehabilitation schemes in Mumbai. The SBI will promote its home loan business with special offers under the SBI Hamara Loan scheme.

4. Govt raises stake in IDBI Bank to 77.79%

IDBI Bank said its promoter, the government of India, has increased its stake in the company to 77.79% by acquiring 3.81% shares through preferential allotment. The government earlier had 73.98% stake in IDBI Bank. The government of India has acquired 3.81% shares carrying voting rights in the company due to preferential allotment of equity shares.

5. ICICI Bank commits Rs 10 crore for welfare of armed forces

Country's largest private sector lender ICICI Bank committed a financial assistance of Rs 10 crore to the Indian Armed Forces. The fund will be utilised towards welfare activities and betterment of the families of ex-servicemen who have lost their lives guarding the nation. The contribution would be made in two equal tranches by the bank as part of its Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiative. A cheque worth Rs 5 crore was handed over to Defence Minister Nirmala Sitharaman as part of the initiative.

6. Centre appoints 9 EDs in public sector banks

The Centre has elevated as many as nine General Managers to Executive Directors in various Public Sector Banks (PSBs). Bajrang Singh Shekhawat has been appointed as Executive Director of Central Bank of India. Govind N Dongre has been appointed as Executive Director at Punjab & Sind Bank. Ajay Kumar Srivastava has been appointed as an Executive Director at Indian Overseas Bank. Matam Venkata Rao has been elevated as an Executive Director at Canara Bank. Kulbhushan Jain has been elevated as an Executive Director at Andhra Bank. Rajesh Kumar Yaduvanshi has been elevated as an Executive Director at Dena Bank. Chaitanya Gayatri Chinthapalli, has been elevated as an Executive Director at Bank of India. S. Krishnan has been elevated as an Executive Director at Syndicate Bank. Lingam Venkata Prabhakar has been elevated as an Executive Director at Punjab National Bank.
7. Nisha Biswal to head US-India Business Council

Nisha Biswal, a former state department official, will head the US-India Business Council, a powerful advocacy group of US companies with business interest in India. USIBC is a part of the US Chamber of Commerce, the largest lobbying organisation in the country that wields real political power in Washington. Biswal, who was assistant secretary of state for South and Central Asia in the Obama administration, is expected to join on November 1 in her new position.

8. Economics Nobel goes to Richard H. Thaler

The Sveriges Riksbank Prize in Economic Sciences in Memory of Alfred Nobel 2017 was awarded to US professor Richard H. Thaler "for his contributions to behavioural economics."

Dr. Thaler (72) has incorporated psychologically realistic assumptions into analyses of economic decision-making. Dr. Thaler’s contributions have built a bridge between the economic and psychological analyses of individual decision-making.

9. Student from Belarus becomes first-ever Miss Wheelchair World

A psychology student from Belarus, Aleksandra Chichikova, was chosen Miss Wheelchair World in the first-ever edition of the beauty pageant held in Warsaw. The pageant was organised by the Poland-based Only One Foundation. India’s Rajalakshmi won the ‘Miss Popularity award’ at pageant. This is three years after she won Miss Wheelchair India in 2014.

10. T D Radhakrishnan selected for Vayalar award

Noted Novelist T D Radhakrishnan’s ‘Sugandhi Enna Andal Devanayaki’ has been selected for this year’s prestigious Vayalar award. The award, carrying a cash prize of Rs one lakh, citation and a statuette, will be presented to him on October 27, the death anniversary of poet and lyricist Vayalar Ramavarma. The award, given for the best literary work in Malayalam, was instituted in 1977 by the Vayalar Ramavarma Memorial Trust in memory of Vayalar.
1. President of India inaugurates India water Week-2017

The President of India, Shri Ram Nath Kovind, inaugurated India Water Week-2017 on October 10, 2017 in New Delhi. Speaking on the occasion, the President said that water is essential to life. It is fundamental to the economy and to ecology – and to human equity. The issue of water is becoming still more critical in view of climate change and related environmental concerns. Better and more efficient use of water is a challenge for Indian agriculture and industry alike. It requires us to set new benchmarks in both our villages and in the cities we build.

2. Germany to help Indian Railways to increase speed

German Railways will assist Indian Railways to make country's existing rail corridors semi high speed. The semi high speed trains will run at 200 km per hour. A joint declaration of Intent was signed between Ministry of Railways and Germany in Rail Bhavan regarding carrying out of feasibility study on existing 643 km Chennai-Kazipet corridor of Indian Railways by German Railways for increasing the speed of passenger trains to 200 kmp on 50.50 percent cost sharing basis. German Railways is likely to undertake more such projects for Indian Railways.

3. Kempegowda Airport will be India's first Aadhaar-enabled airport

Bengaluru's Kempegowda International Airport (KIA) is all set to become country's first Aadhaar-enabled airport by 2018. After a two-month pilot project in February, Bangalore International Airport Limited (BIAL) has decided to make KIA fully compliant with Aadhaar-enabled entry and biometric boarding system.

4. World Bank reduces India GDP growth forecast to 7%

In its South Asia Economic Focus (Fall 2017), the World Bank reduced India’s GDP growth forecast to 7% for 2017-18 from 7.2% estimated earlier. After remaining the world’s fastest-growing region for eight consecutive quarters, South Asia has slipped to the third position behind East Asia and the Pacific regions, as India’s economy slowed to its lowest level in 13 quarters, the World Bank said.
5. IMF cuts India’s 2017 growth forecast

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) pared its growth forecast for India by half a percentage point to 6.7% for 2017. In its latest World Economic Outlook, IMF said the world economy is going through a cyclical upswing that began midway through 2016. It raised the global growth estimate marginally for 2017 to 3.6% while flagging downside risks.

6. House panel to look into China-India relations

A parliamentary committee has decided to examine the whole gamut of Sino-Indian relations, including the border situation. The Standing Committee on External Affairs, which will examine the relations between the two Asian powers, is headed by Shashi Tharoor, Congress member of the Lok Sabha. The move comes days after Congress vice-president Rahul Gandhi had demanded that Prime Minister Narendra Modi explain the resumed road-construction by the Chinese near the Doklam plateau. The committee will examine in detail the issue of “cooperation” between India and China in international organisations.

7. President of India Presents 18th Lal Bahadur Shastri National Award

The President of India, Shri Ram Nath Kovind, presented the Lal Bahadur Shastri National Award for Excellence in Public Administration, Academics and Management for the year 2017 to Dr. Bindeshwar Pathak at Rashtrapati Bhavan. He said that Dr. Bindeshwar Pathak was the most deserving person for an award named after Shri Shastri as he has contributed immensely in the direction of getting rid of the practice of manual scavenging. The Mayor of New York had declared April 14, 2016 as the ‘Dr. Bindeshwar Pathak International Day’ keeping in mind this contribution made by Dr. Pathak. He also received the Padma Bhushan in 1991.
8. Amul named best FMCG co by IAA

India’s largest food products marketing organisation, Gujarat Cooperative Milk Marketing Federation Ltd (GCMMF), which markets the Amul brand of milk and milk products, has been recognised as the country's best Fast Moving Consumer Goods (FMCG) company in the food sector by the International Advertising Association (IAA). Amul was presented the Fifth IAA Leadership Award for this recognition at Mumbai. The prestigious awards instituted by the IAA’s India Chapter recognise excellence towards contribution in marketing, advertising and media sectors as well as celebrate outstanding achievements of individuals and teams.

9. Boxing coach Sandhu gets Nat'l award for senior citizens

Long-serving Indian boxing coach Gurbax Singh Sandhu has been honoured with the National Awards for senior citizens by President Ramnath Kovind. Sandhu, who has the distinction of coaching both the men and women boxers, was bestowed the honour at a function. Sandhu was India's longest-serving men's national coach, occupying the position for two decades. Sandhu was the chief coach when India won its maiden Olympic medal in boxing through Vijender Singh in 2008.

10. Madhu Valli from USA crowned Miss India Worldwide

Madhu Valli, an emerging hip hop artist and a student of criminal law at George Mason University in Virginia, has been crowned as Miss India Worldwide 2017. Stephanie Madavane from France was declared runner up at the 26th edition of the beauty pageant held in New Jersey. The beauty pageant attracts people of Indian origin from across the world. Sarita Pattnaik from Texas was declared Mrs India Worldwide. Organised by New York-based India Festival Committee, Miss India Worldwide is the only international Indian pageant with affiliates in over 35 countries and considered among the top ethnic pageants in the world.
1. **International Day of the Girl Child: 11 October**

   International Day of the Girl Child is an international observance day declared by the United Nations; it is also called the Day of the Girl and the International Day of the Girl.
   - October 11, 2012, was the first Day of the Girl.
   - The theme for the year 2017 is ‘EmPOWER Girls: Before, during and after crises’.

2. **MoC between India and Japan on the "Technical Intern Training Program"**

   The Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has approved the signing of "Memorandum of Cooperation (MoC)" between India and Japan on the "Technical Intern Training Program (TITP)". This MoC is expected to be signed during the forthcoming visit of Hon'ble Minister for Skill Development & Entrepreneurship during October, 16-18, 2017 at Tokyo. The Technical Intern Training Program (TITP) is an ambitious program to send Indian technical interns to Japan for on the job training for a period of three to five years. It is expected that the MoC will pave the way for bilateral cooperation between the two countries in the area of skill development.

3. **IALA to change its status to Inter-Governmental Organization**

   The Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi has given its approval for International Association of Marine Aids to Navigation and Lighthouse Authorities (IALA) to change its status from Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) to Inter-Governmental Organization (IGO). The move will facilitate “to foster the safe, economic and efficient movement of vessels”. It will bring IALA at par with International Maritime Organisation (IMO) and International Hydrographic Organisation (IHO).

4. **Cabinet approves SANKALP & STRIVE Schemes to boost Skill India Mission**

   The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, has approved two new World Bank supported schemes of Rs. 6,655 crore - Skills Acquisition and Knowledge Awareness for Livelihood Promotion (SANKALP) and Skill Strengthening for Industrial Value Enhancement (STRIVE).

   SANKALP is Rs 4,455 crore Centrally sponsored scheme including Rs. 3,300 crore loan support from World Bank whereas STRIVE is a Rs. 2,200 crore - central sector scheme, with half of the scheme outlay as World bank loan assistance. SANKALP and STRIVE are outcome focused schemes marking shift in government's implementation strategy in vocational education and training from inputs to results.
5. Canara Bank launches first digital branch in Bengaluru

Canara Bank, which has set an ambitious target of moving to ‘paperless’ futuristic banking, launched its first ‘Digital Banking Branch’ at Spencer Towers in MG Road, Bengaluru. Titled ‘CANDI’, the branch will provide an end-to-end digital experience to customers. The bank, as part of the run-up to its digital foray, has introduced customer-friendly mobile apps which help customers get most of the information related to their accounts from the app without the need to visit the branch.

6. SBI to set up country's largest innovation centre at Mumbai

The nation's largest lender State Bank of India is creating a 15,000-sqft innovation centre in Navi Mumbai investing around Rs 100 crore. The centre, to be built at its Global IT Centre in Belapur in Navi Mumbai, will be the largest innovation centre by any financial services company in the country. The innovation centre is part of a Rs 200-crore allocation that the bank has earmarked for innovation last year.

7. Anupam Kher appointed as Chairman FTII

Shri Anupam Kher, veteran cine star, has been appointed as Chairman of Film and Television Institute of India (FTII), Pune. Shri Kher succeeds Shri Gajendra Chauhan. Shri Kher who has appeared in over 500 films is a recipient of the Padma Shri in 2004 and the Padma Bhushan in 2016 for his contribution in the field of cinema and arts. The veteran star has won many national and international awards including the ‘Filmfare Award for Best Performance in a Comic Role’ five times. He has appeared in acclaimed international films such as the 2002 Golden Globe nominated Bend It Like Beckham, 2007 Golden Lion award-winning Lust, Caution and 2013 Oscar- winning Silver Linings Playbook. He has appeared in more than 100 plays and has also authored the book ‘The Best Thing about You Is You’. Earlier he served as the Chairman of the Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC) and was the Director of National School of Drama from 2001 to 2004. He is also an alumnus of National School of Drama (1978 batch).

Points to Remember
- FTII is an autonomous body under the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting and is regarded as a center of excellence across the world.
- Films made by FTII’s students have enjoyed excellent receptions in festivals in India and abroad and have won National and International awards.
8. Ashish Nehra set to retire from International cricket on November 1

Veteran speedster Ashish Nehra has decided to retire from competitive cricket after the first T20 International against New Zealand at his home ground, Feroz Shah Kotla, on November 1. Making his India debut back in 1999 under Mohammed Azharuddin, Nehra has so far played 17 Tests, 120 ODIs and 26 T20 Internationals for the country. He has picked 44 Test wickets, besides 157 ODI and 34 T20 scalps.

9. FIFA suspends Pakistan from international football

Pakistan has been suspended from international football because of what global soccer body FIFA described as undue third-party interference in the country’s football federation (PFF). FIFA said in a statement that the suspension would prevent Pakistani teams, including the national side, from playing in international competition and the PFF from benefiting from FIFA development and training programmes.
PDF 13th Oct. 2017

1. US, Israel withdraws from UNESCO

The US and its ally Israel have announced they will withdraw from the United Nations Scientific and Cultural Organization, accusing the body of "anti-Israel bias". Heather Nauert, US state department spokesperson, said the US would establish an "observer mission" to replace its representation at the Paris-based agency. The US was angered in 2011 when UNESCO members granted Palestine full membership of the body, despite opposition from its ally Israel.

Points to Remember

- UNESCO's headquarters is in Paris.
- This organization of the United Nations has been working since 1946.
- It is known for marking world heritage.
- Irina Bokova is the secretary General of UNESCO.

2. China Overtakes US As World's Largest Ice Cream Producer

China has overtaken the US as the world's largest ice cream producer, according to figures published at an industry expo in north China's Tianjin City. In 2016, China's major frozen drink producers yielded over 3.3 million tonnes of frozen drinks, ringing up nearly $6.6 billion in sales.

3. India 100th on global hunger index

India has a “serious” hunger problem and ranks 100th out of 119 countries on the global hunger index with a GHI score of 31.4, behind North Korea, Bangladesh and Iraq but ahead of Pakistan, according to a report. The country’s serious hunger level is driven by high child malnutrition and underlines need for stronger commitment to the social sector, the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) said in its report. India stood at 97th position in last year’s rankings. Central African Republic ranked last. Chile, Cuba and Turkey have a GHI score of less than 5 and have ranked as the best nations on the index.

4. Suresh Prabhu kick-starts “Make in India: Sweden 2017”

Make in India: Sweden 2017, organized by the Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion in Stockholm, from October 12-13 aims to enhance Indo-Swedish cooperation and explore new areas of partnership. Several run-up events and high level meetings took place a day before the commencement of Make in India: Sweden 2017. The Indian delegation led by the Minister of Commerce & Industry, Shri Suresh Prabhu held a bilateral meeting with the Prime Minister of Sweden, Mr. Stefan Löfven. The meeting reiterated the dedication to further strengthening of the Indo-Swedish economic relationship and exploring new avenues of collaboration.
5. Launch of Mobile Health App `MedWatch' By the Indian Air Force

On the occasion of its 85th anniversary, the Indian Air Force has launched an innovative mobile health App named `MedWatch' in keeping with the Prime Minister's vision of 'Digital India'. ‘MedWatch’, available on the IAF's AFCEL network, comprises a host of features that will provide authentic health information to all IAF personnel. A Reminder Tool to enable timely immunization for the children of all Air Warriors is an important component of the App. This will directly enable 'Mission Indradhanush' of the Govt of India. ‘MedWatch’, the first mobile health app in the three Armed Services, was launched by Air Chief Marshal BS Dhanoa, Chief of the Air Staff, during the Air Force Commanders' Conference at New Delhi on 11 Oct 17.

6. Union Textiles Minister inaugurates IHGF - Delhi Fair Autumn 2017

The Union Textiles Minister Smt. Smriti Zubin Irani has urged the exporting fraternity to take care of the welfare of artisans who are the backbone of the sector. The Minister said that design and product development play a crucial role in value realisation and in turn in the benefit that the artisans and producers are able to reap from their products. The Minister said this after inaugurating IHGF - Delhi Fair Autumn 2017, world's largest handicrafts and gifts fair. The fair is being held at India Expo Centre & Mart, Greater Noida, during October 12 - 16, 2017. Delivering the inaugural address, the Minister applauded the role of Export Promotion Council for Handicrafts in promoting exports of handicrafts. She noted that handicraft exports have witnessed a year-on-year growth of 13.15% in 2016-17 and has touched Rs. 24,392 crores. The Minister appreciated the launch of schemes by EPCH under their CSR programme, for education of children of artisans. The scheme provides full support to education of children of artisans through open schools. 75% of the expenditure will be borne by EPCH and 25% by member exporters. Smt. Irani added that it is the dream of the Hon’ble Prime Minister that no child in the country should be left illiterate.

7. Bharti Airtel acquires telecom business of Tatas

Bharti Airtel and Tata announced that they have entered into an understanding to merge Consumer Mobile Businesses (CMB) of Tata Teleservices Limited (TTSL) and Tata Teleservices Maharashtra Limited (TTML) into Bharti Airtel. The acquisition is subject to requisite regulatory approvals. The merger is being done on a debt-free cash-free basis. As part of the agreement, Bharti Airtel will absorb Consumer Mobile Businesses (CMB) of TTSL and TTML across the country in 19 circles (17 under TTSL and two under TTML).

8. Yuvraj named Laureus ambassador

Mercedes-Benz and Laureus Sport has named Cricketer Yuvraj Singh as their first brand ambassador in India. The global auto manufacturer said it had appointed the cricketer to “to bring the change and uplift the society through the power of sports.
9. Gautam Bambawale India's next ambassador to China

Seasoned diplomat Gautam Bambawale, India's high commissioner to Pakistan, was appointed as the country's next envoy to China. This was announced by the external affairs ministry. A 1984 India Foreign Service (IFS) officer, Bambawale will replace Vijay Gokhale.

10. Bengaluru to host World Sudoku, Puzzle Championships

Bengaluru will host the 12th World Sudoku Championship and the 26th World Puzzle Championship from October 15 to 21, which will witness the participation of over 33 countries. After the 2008 World Sudoku Championship that was held in Goa, this is the second time that India will host the top events of the puzzle world from October 15 to 21. Logic Masters India, the Indian representative body of the World Puzzle Federation, has been conducting national championships since 2008 for the selection of Indian team for the world championships.
1. International Day for Disaster Reduction: October 13

International Day for Disaster Reduction is being observed on every 13 October every year all over the world. The International Day for Disaster Reduction was started in 1989. ‘Home Safe Home: Reducing Exposure, Reducing Displacement’ is the slogan for International Day for Disaster Reduction 2017.

2. G-20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors Meeting

The Union Minister for Finance and Corporate Affairs, Shri Arun Jaitley participated in the G-20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors (FMCBG) Meeting in Washington D.C. The discussion focused on the agenda items pertaining to Global Economy and Framework for Growth, Compact with Africa and International Financial Architecture. The Finance Minister Shri Jaitley is presently on a one week visit to USA mainly to participate in Annual Meetings of the World Bank and IMF among others.

3. Tokyo is world’s safest city, Delhi is 43rd

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 index, produced by The Economist Intelligence Unit, was based on 49 indicators covering digital, health, infrastructure and personal security. Of the 10 cities at the bottom of the index, two are in South Asia (Dhaka and Karachi), three in South-east Asia (Manila, Ho Chi Minh City and Jakarta) and two in the Middle East and Africa (Cairo and Tehran).

4. DoP launches Sampoorna Bima Gram Yojana

The Minister for Communications Shri Manoj Sinha today launched the Sampoorna Bima Gram (SBG) Yojana and an initiative for expansion of clientele base of Postal Life Insurance. He said that all villages under the Saansad Adarsh Gram Yojana will be brought under its ambit. The Minister said, under Sampoorna Bima Gram (SBG) Yojana, at least one village (having a minimum of 100 households) will be identified in each of the revenue districts of the country, wherein endeavour will be made to cover all households of that identified village with a minimum of one RPLI (Rural Postal Life Insurance) policy each. Coverage of all households in the identified Sampoorna Bima Gram village is the primary objective of this scheme. Shri Sinha said, under the scheme expansion of clientele base of PLI, it has now been decided that benefits of PLI will no more be confined to Government and semi-Government employees, but will also be available to professionals such as Doctors, Engineers, Management Consultants, Charted Accountants, Architects, Lawyers, Bankers etc. and to employees of listed companies of NSE (National Stock Exchange) and BSE (Bombay Stock Exchange).
5. **Dr Mahesh Sharma Inaugurates ‘Deep Dharohar’**

Dr. Mahesh Sharma, Minister of State (Independent charge) for Culture inaugurated “Deep Dharohar” organized by the Ministry of Culture. The festival was inaugurated by the lighting of 1000 diyas by the participating artists and artisans and children from organisations like the CCRT, SAPNA Prayas and Kailash Satyarthi’s foundation.

6. **India to hold Dubai’s 1st-ever AYUSH conference in Nov**

India will hold Dubai’s first-ever AYUSH conference next month to spread awareness about the prevention and management of lifestyle diseases through Yoga and Ayurveda. ‘International AYUSH Conference and Exhibition 2017’ with the theme of ‘Lifestyle diseases: Prevention and management through AYUSH’ will be organised from November 9-11 by Science India Forum, with the support of Ministry of AYUSH.

7. **India Sri Lanka Joint Military exercise Mitra Shakti 2017 begins**

The fifth India-Sri Lanka Joint Training Exercise MITRA SHAKTI 2017 started with a grand Opening Ceremony conducted at Aundh Military Station, Pune. The exercise is based on Counter Terrorist Operations and an Infantry company from both the countries is participating in the same. The India - Sri Lanka joint training exercise MITRA SHAKTI 2017 in its fifth edition will send a strong signal to the world that both India and Sri Lanka understand the emerging threat of terrorism and stand shoulder to shoulder in countering this menace.

8. **M K Sanu chosen for Mathrubhumi Literary 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. The award carries a cash prize of Rs 2 lakh, a citation and a statuette. A jury headed by eminent poet Vishnu Narayanan Namboothiri selected Sanu for the award.

9. **The Coalition Years: Autobiography of Pranab Mukherjee**

Former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, Congress President Sonia Gandhi and some others leaders were present at the launch of the third volume of former president Pranab Mukherjee’s autobiography ‘The Coalition Years: 1996-2012.’ The book being published by Rupa Publications tracks Mukherjee’s journey from 1996 and explores the highs and lows that characterized 16 years of “one of the most tumultuous periods in the nation’s political history”.
World Standards Day: October 14

World Standards Day is observed on 14th October every year all over the world. 14th October was chosen to mark the date, in 1946, when delegates from 25 countries first gathered in London to create an international organization focused on facilitating standardization. The first World Standards Day was celebrated on 14th October, 1970. World Standards Day theme for 2017 is “Standards make cities smarter”.

World Students' Day: 15 October

World Students' Day is celebrated on 15 October every year on the occasion of birth anniversary of A. P. J. Abdul Kalam. The most loved President of India, APJ Abdul Kalam was a scientist who made India proud with his missile defense programme. But his favourite job was teaching and that’s how he wanted the world to remember him. Due to his love for students and focus on promoting education, the United Nations declared his birthday (October 15) as ‘World Student’s Day’ in 2010.

Rs 10,000-crore package to transform 20 Indian varsities world class

Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced a corpus of Rs 10,000-crore to be given to top 20 Indian universities for their development, in order to ensure that the top ranking institutions are counted among the best in the world. Addressing a function on the centenary celebrations of the Patna University in Bihar, PM Modi said that his government has undertaken “a step forward” towards making 10 private and 10 government universities world class. Modi said, we will provide an assistance of Rs 10,000 crore to 10 private universities and an equal number of government ones for a period of five years. All these universities have to do is to demonstrate their potential to become world class,” he said. The top 20 universities will be selected through a challenge which will be judged by a third party.

' Rajasthan assembly first in India to call motions online'

The Rajasthan assembly has become the first in India to call attention and adjournment motions and proposals online from legislators to send them to the state government. Speaker Kailash Meghwal inaugurated the new system by sending a call for an attention motion to the state government with a click of a mouse. The system is expected to save time, labour and use of paper in the functioning of the assembly, and also help legislators in bringing attention to urgent public issues.

IndusInd Bank to take over micro finance company Bharat Financial

The Board of Directors of IndusInd Bank Ltd and Bharat Financial Inclusion Ltd approved the merger of two companies through a composite scheme of arrangement. As per the merger terms, the shareholders of Bharat Financial will receive 639 shares of IndusInd for every 1,000 shares of Bharat Financial. The Board of Directors of the two companies approved the scheme at their respective meetings.
Odisha government department signs MOU with SBI

The Odisha government's Directorate of Treasuries and Inspection and the State Bank of India have signed an MOU for integration of SBI e-Pay with cyber treasury. The MoU is a landmark initiative by the state government to facilitate revenue collection from citizens through digital banking platform, an official said. The SBI e-Pay is the payment aggregator service wing of the bank which will facilitate online payment of government dues by the customers of any public/private sector banks by using the payment gateway of SBI.

France's Audrey Azoulay to be next UNESCO chief

UNESCO's executive board has chosen former French Culture Minister Audrey Azoulay to be the UN cultural agency's next leader over a Qatari candidate. The US announcement this week that it's quitting UNESCO rocked the multi-day election and heightened concerns about the agency's funding and future direction. Azoulay succeeds outgoing Director-General Irina Bokova of Bulgaria, whose eight-year term was marred by financial woes and criticism over Palestine's inclusion as a member. Recently, the US and Israel said they plan to pull out of the Paris-based organisation over its perceived anti-Israel bias.

8. Namita Gokhale bags Centenary National Award for Literature

Eminent writer Namita Gokhale has been nominated for the first Centenary National Award for Literature. The award is to be conferred by one of the most prestigious literary bodies in India - the Asam Sahitya Sabha - for her outstanding literary contributions as well as her service to the nation in supporting and showcasing literary talent. This is also the first time that the Sabha will be honouring an English-language author. The Sabha has instituted the national award as part of its centenary celebrations.

Jnangarima Manad Alankaran for writer E Sonamani

The Jnanpith Jury Board, at a meeting, unanimously decided to confer the Jnanarima Manad Alankaran 2017 to Elangbam Sonamani Singh, noted Manipuri litterateur. Sonamani has enriched Manipuri language with his adept multifaceted creations through novels, short stories, poetry, translation and Khand Kavyas. Sonamani has authored more than forty books and is a doyen of the Manipuri literary and socio-cultural fraternity.
1. World Food Day: 16 October

October 16 is observed as the World Food Day in honour of the founding of the Food & Agriculture Organization of the UN in 1945. The theme for this year is “Change the future of migration. Invest in food security and rural development”.

2. World's largest combustion research centre at IIT Madras

The world's largest combustion research centre which will impart a major boost to the Indian scientific community was inaugurated at the Indian Institute of Technology, Madras. The National Centre for Combustion Research and Development (NCCRD) was inaugurated by NITI Aayog member V K Saraswat. This is the world's largest combustion research centre.

3. Union Bank launches bilingual Android app

Union Bank of India has launched an Android app, Union Sahyog, as part of its drive to digitise customer-facing banking services. The Union Sahyog app is bilingual — offering both English and Hindi language — and packs in all mobile-based banking applications, missed call/SMS-based services, Internet banking login and self-user creation, deposit and loan product information, online account opening, online loan application, online complaints and even RTI. It also offers extras such as branch locator, EMI calculator, social media links and digital banking information.

4. Singer T M Krishna to get 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 by Congress president Sonia Gandhi on October 31, Indira Gandhi’s death anniversary. The award consists of a citation and a cash prize of 10 lakh. The Indira Gandhi Award for National Integration was instituted in 1985 by the Congress in its centenary year.
5. Maria Sharapova wins Tianjin Open title

Former world number one Maria Sharapova won her first title since May 2015, beating Aryna Sabalenka 7-5 7-6 (10-8) in the Tianjin Open final. The 30-year-old Russian was playing her seventh event since she returned to the tour in April from a 15-month drug ban. It is the five-time Grand Slam winner's 36th WTA tournament victory.

6. Mohun Bagan lift Governor's Gold Cup for 10th time

Maidan heavyweights Mohun Bagan won the 37th All India Governor's Gold Cup football tournament for the 10th time by defeating Partha Chakra by a narrow 1-0 margin. In the final match played at Paljor Stadium, Mohun Bagan's striker GA Kramah scored the lone goal in the seventh minute. Chief Minister Pawan Kumar Chamling attended the final and gave away trophies and cash prize to winners and the runner-up.

7. Federer brushes aside Nadal to win Shanghai Masters

Roger Federer got one over his old rival Rafael Nadal to win the Shanghai Masters 6-4, 6-3 in a showdown between the two best players on the planet. It was a 94th title for the Swiss legend, drawing him level with the great Ivan Lendl, and was a fifth victory in a row against world number one Nadal.

8. Actor and filmmaker Lekh Tandon passes away

Veteran filmmaker and actor Lekh Tandon passed away at his house in Powai, Mumbai. Lekh Tandon directed numerous Bollywood movies and acted in films like Swades, Rang De Basanti, Chennai Express and Chaar futiya Chhokare. He also shared the 1978 Filmfare Best Screenplay Award for his movie Dulhan Wahi Jo Piya Man Bhaye with Vrajendra Gaur and Madhusudan Kalekar. His directorial Amrapali which starred Vyjayanthimala and Sunil Dutt, was India’s submission to the 39th Academy Awards for the Best Foreign Language Film.
1. **“Exercise INDRA - 2017: Indo-Russia Joint Exercise”**

Exercise INDRA-2017, the first ever Tri Services Joint Exercise between Indian and Russian Armed Forces will be conducted in the Eastern Military District of Russia from 19 to 29 Oct 2017. Exercise INDRA in its previous nine avatars has been conducted as a single service exercise alternately between the two countries. The year 2017 marks a major milestone as this Exercise has been upgraded to involve all the three Services of the Armed Forces (Army, Navy & Air Force), which further accentuates the importance of Joint Services in the present world environment. Exercise INDRA-2017 will be conducted at the 249th Combined Army Range Sergeevisky and in the Sea of Japan near Vladivostok.

2. **Defence Minister Sitharaman commissions INS Kiltan**

Defence Minister Nirmala Sitharaman commissioned the indigenously-built anti-submarine warfare stealth corvette INS Kiltan at the Eastern Naval Command. Kiltan is the latest indigenous warship after Shivalik class, Kolkata class and sister ships INS Kamorta and INS Kadmatt to have joined the Indian Navy’s arsenal wherein a plethora of weapons and sensors have been integrated to provide a Common Operational Picture (COP). It 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, it said. In the future, it would also be installed with short range SAM system and carry an integral ASW helicopter. 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.

3. **Italian banks most exposed to ECB’s new bad loan proposal: S&P**

Italian banks are the most exposed to new bad loan rules proposed by the European Central Bank and may lend less to companies in response to them, credit ratings agency Standard & Poor’s. “We see Italian banks becoming increasingly less keen to lend to domestic corporations,” S&P said in a report looking at the ECB’s proposal that require bank to provision against loan losses at regular intervals.

4. **SEBI revamps expert panel on Market Infrastructure Institutions**

SEBI reorganised its committee on Market Infrastructure Institutions (MII) that advises it on reviewing norms related to stock exchanges, clearing corporations and depository participants. The five member expert committee on MII is now chaired by R Gandhi, former Deputy Governor at Reserve Bank of India (RBI). One of the major responsibilities of this committee is overall assessment of the existing MIIs’ framework.
5. Mahindra launches 'Prerna' project for women farmers

Mahindra & Mahindra said it has launched a programme, Prerna, to empower women working in the agriculture sector by promoting efficient and ergonomic farm tools and equipment. The project will be initially launched in the state of Odisha, with the intention to positively impact the lives of over 1,500 families across 30-plus villages. The company, which is part of the USD 19 billion Mahindra Group, yesterday celebrated the 'Mahila Kisan Diwas' with the launch of this programme.

6. Indian peacekeepers in Sudan awarded UN medal

As many as 50 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. They were presented with the award recently by UNMISS Force Commander General Frank Mushyo Kamanzi.

7. Prabha Varma chosen for Padma Prabha Puraskaram

A jury headed by ace novelist M Mukundan chose Varma for the prestigious Padma Prabha Puraskaram award, considering his contribution to Malayalam literature. The award was instituted by Kalpetta-based Padma Prabha Memorial Trust in memory of M K Padmaprabha, a leading socialista and one of the founders of modern Wayanad. Varma is the winner of Kendriya Sahitya Academi, Kerala Sahitya Academi and Vayalar awards, Mahakavi Puraskaram, Mahakavi Pandalam Keralavartha Kavitha Puraskaram and Vallothol award, besides many other recognitions.

8. Swraj Paul honoured for contributions to manufacturing, education

Prominent NRI industrialist Lord Swraj Paul has been conferred with the Life Time Achievement Award here for his outstanding contributions in the fields of manufacturing industry, education and philanthropy. The 2nd British Asian Achievers Awards, organised by Jagatwani, a Hindi weekly, was held at the Grosvenor Hotel in Lonon. He was awarded the Padma Bhushan by the Government of India in 1983.
9. Gurmehar Kaur named Next Generation leader by Time magazine

Time Magazine has included Delhi University student Gurmehar Kaur in its list of Next Generation Leaders for 2017. Gurmehar, the only Indian in the list, is the daughter of an Indian Army captain who was martyred while fighting terrorists in the troubled region of Jammu and Kashmir.

10. Kavita Devi becomes first Indian woman wrestler to sign with WWE

Kavita Devi has made history by becoming the first ever woman wrestler from India to be awarded a WWE developmental contract. Devi is an accomplished power-lifter who won gold at the 2016 South Asian Games, representing India. The announcement was made by WWE Champion Jinder Mahal during his visit to the nation's capital. Devi also has the distinction of being the first Indian woman to compete in a WWE ring, during her participation in the Mae Young Classic.
1. International Day for the Eradication of Poverty: October 17

International Day for the Eradication of Poverty is observed on 17th October every year all over the world. This day was chosen because on 17th October 1987, over a hundred thousand people gathered at the Trocadero in Paris, where the Universal Declaration of Human Rights was signed in 1948. Theme for International Day for the Eradication of Poverty 2017 is: ‘Answering the Call of October 17 to end poverty: A path toward peaceful and inclusive societies’.

2. The first ever All India Institute of Ayurveda dedicated to the Nation

The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi, dedicated the All India Institute of Ayurveda, in New Delhi, to the Nation. The first ever All India Institute of Ayurveda (AIIA) is set up along the lines of AIIMS. As an apex institute under the Ministry of AYUSH, the AIIA will bring synergy between the traditional wisdom of Ayurveda and modern diagnostic tools and technology. Speaking on this occasion, the Prime Minister congratulated the gathering on the celebration of Dhanvantari Jayanti as Ayurveda Divas.

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

In an attempt to end Gender bias in women against women, the Ministry of Women and Child Development is undertaking online campaign #IamThatWoman. Through the campaign, the Ministry seeks to highlight the various aspects of women standing ‘by’ and ‘for’ women. Ministry of WCD has urged people to shun stereotypes associated with women harming other 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.

4. Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister launches Bhavantar Bhugtan Yojana

Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan launched the ambitious ‘Bhavantar Bhugtan Yojana’ in the presence of the farmers at the Krishi Upaj Mandi in Khurai, Sagar district of Madhya Pradesh. The objective of this scheme is to ensure reasonable prices to the farmers for their agriculture produces and thereby protecting them from losses suffered on account of distress sale.
5. Delhi among the world’s worst cities for women

A survey by Thomson Reuters Foundation ranked Delhi among the world’s worst megacities when it comes to women safety. Delhi has been placed at fourth position after Cairo, Karachi and Kinshasa (Congo). The survey was conducted in 19 of the world’s megacities, based on UN’s ranking, between June and July this year.

6. Haryana records 39 percent of all cancer cases in India

Cancer is strengthening its grip across India, and reportedly, Haryana has a major share, with over 39% of cases recorded in the state. Approximately 17.3 lakh new cancer cases are being estimated by the year 2020 in India, therefore with the present trends Haryana might have around 6.5 lakh cancer cases by then. Breast cancer has a majority share of cancer cases and is the leading cause for deaths in women suffering with non-communicable disease. According to an Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) report, breast cancer shares 10% of all cases.

7. IIT Bombay top ranked Indian institute in QS Asia University Rankings

The Indian Institute of Technology Bombay (IIT Bombay) has emerged as the only Indian institute to better its performance among the top 100 universities in the latest Quacquarelli Symonds (QS) Asia University Rankings 2018. The top-ranked Indian institute in the QS Asia University Rankings, IIT Bombay saw its best position at 34th rank in the last three years. Other Indian institutes like IIT Delhi ranked at 41, IIT Madras (48), Indian Institute of Science (IISc) Bangalore (51), IIT Kanpur (59), IIT Kharagpur (62), University of Delhi (72), IIT Roorkee (93) and IIT Guwahati (98) showed a decline in their respective rankings as against last year.

8. Google Viewed as Most Authentic Brand in India: Survey

Indian consumers regard Google as the most authentic brand, even though Amazon.com tops the list globally, reveal results of a new survey. In India, Google is followed by Microsoft, Amazon.com, Maruti Suzuki and Apple. Globally, Apple takes the second spot after Amazon in the authenticity race, according to the results revealed by Cohn & Wolfe.

9. Hema Malini's Biography: Beyond The Dream Girl

Deepika Padukone launched the biography of veteran actress Hema Malini in Mumbai. The biography, titled ‘Beyond The Dream Girl’, is written by Ram Kamal Mukherjee, and was unveiled on Hema Malini's 69th birthday (October 16). The biography's foreword has been written by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.
current affairs 19-10-2017

Assam govt rolls out new Tourism policy
On October 19, 2017, Assam State Government rolled out ‘Tourism Policy of Assam 2017’ with an aim to increase tourist inflow in the state by at least two to three times within next five years.

i. ‘Tourism Policy of Assam 2017’ will be effective from January 2018 to December 2022.

ii. To channelize resources in making this policy a success story, tourism sector in Assam has been accorded the ‘Industry’ status

Arunachal Assembly approves Kamle as 23rd district
On October 18, 2017, Arunachal Pradesh State Assembly passed Arunachal Pradesh (Re- Orgaisation of Districts) Amendment Bill 2017 to create a new district named ‘Kamle’. The bill was introduced on October 14, 2017 by Arunachal Pradesh Chief Minister Prema Khandu.

About Arunachal Pradesh’s Kamle District:

i. Kamle is the 23rd district of Arunachal Pradesh. It has been created by bifurcating the present Upper and Lower Subansiri districts.

ii. It has six administrative units (three each from Upper Subansiri and Lower Subansiri).

iii. Kamle has a population of 22,256 homogeneous people.

iv. Amid rising concerns that this decision would encourage creation of more districts in future and will thereby affect state’s exchequer, Chief Minister Prema Khandu stated that government is planning to re-visit the district creation policy of 1983.

Quick Facts about Arunachal Pradesh:

♦ Capital – Itanagar
♦ Current Chief Minister – Prema Khandu
♦ Current Governor – B D Mishra

Indian Army organises Jashn-e-Kokernag to strengthen jawan-awam relationship
With the slogan of “Jawan aur Awaam Amun Hai Muqam” (Army and Locals together, peace will prevail), 19 batch Rashtriya Rifles of the Indian Army on 19th October 2017 organised ‘Jashn-e- Breng’ festival in Kokernag village of the Anantnag district to promote peace and brotherhood between security forces and the local population.
i. The soldiers arranged free medical assistance and several cultural programmes for the Kokernag public.

ii. GOC P.S Raju, Commander RR, DC Anantnag and several other District officers were present for the event.

iii. The camp had several stalls which included agriculture, horticulture, and Veterinary.

iv. Free check-ups and medicines were given to the visitors by the Specialised doctors from Army and government hospitals.

v. They even provided wheelchairs to specially abled people and ear machines to deaf persons.

vi. Medical experts from the field of gynecology, veterinary, diabetology, and various other backgrounds are available at the camp. They also arranged local music to connect to the community and their efforts are receiving appreciation from the public.

**INDIAN ARMY**

♦ Founded – 1st apr 1895
♦ Headquarters – NewDelhi
♦ Anniversary – 15th Jan Army Day

---

**Two day “AYUSH Festival of Stamps 2017” held at Panaji, Goa**

On 17th and 18th October 2017, the “AYUSH Festival of Stamps 2017” was held at Panaji, Goa.

**AYUSH Festival of Stamps 2017:**

i. The “AYUSH Festival of Stamps 2017” was inaugurated by Rajya Sabha MP Vinay Tendulkar at Maquinez Palace in Panaji, Goa.

ii. The two-day exhibition event is jointly organised by the Goa Postal Region, Indian postal department and the Ministry of AYUSH.

iii. This festival is the first of its kind. Its objective is to promote healthy hobbies such as stamp collection among students and healthy lifestyle habits.

iv. Stamps related to ayurveda, yoga and related traditional practices from India and abroad were displayed at the event. About 150 schools and 5,000 students participated in the festival.

**About Goa:**

♦ Capital – Panaji
♦ Governor – Mridula Sinha
 Maharashatra government releases Rs 4,000 crore in phase 1 of loan waiver scheme

On October 18, 2017, Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadanvis announced that the State Government has released a sum of Rs 4,000 crore under the first phase of the farm loan waiver scheme.

Details about First Phase of Farm Loan Waiver Scheme in Maharashtra:

i. Out of Rs 4000 crore which has been released under Phase I, Rs 3200 crore is for writing off the loans of 4.62 lakh farmers and Rs 800 crore will be distributed as incentive for 3.78 lakh farmers who are paying their loans on time.

ii. It is to be noted that total farm loan waiver (announced in June 2017) which will be provided to the farmers has been estimated at Rs. 34000 crore.

iii. Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis has mentioned that amount under Farm Loan Waiver scheme will be released in phased manner and by November 15, 2017, 75-80% disbursement will be completed.

iv. Maharashta State Government believes that farm loan waiver is not a temporary solution for farmers’ problems. Along with it, continuous investment in agriculture for next five years will ensure sustainable development.

Centre constitutes SOPs to regulate deployment of CAPF in states, UT

In order to meet emergent and unforeseen needs for security measures in States and Union Territories, Central Government has formulated Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for deployment of Central Armed Police Forces (CAPF) when such requests are made. Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) formulated by Central Government for deployment of CAPF:

i. While processing the requests for deployment of CAPF in States/UTs, Chief Secretaries and Director General of Police (DGP) of respective States/UTs and Director Generals of CAPFs will have to follow the SOPs.

ii. State Governments have been asked to constitute a state level committee under chairmanship of Additional Director General of Police (Law and Order) of the state which may examine and scrutinize requirements of Central Armed Police Forces.
iii. The scrutiny of such requests is to be done by keeping in view internal security, previous scale of deployment, optimal utilization of state resources, intelligence inputs, and the availability of CAPF in nearby locations.

iv. These committees will in turn recommend the Central Government for CAPF deployment indicating the specific quantum of force required, anticipated duration and necessary justifications for the same.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Canada chosen as partner country for 2017 Technology Summit, New Delhi

Canada has been chosen as the partner country for the 23rd edition of Technology Summit which is scheduled to be held from 14th – 15th November, 2017 in New Delhi.

More Details about Technology Summit 2017:

i. This event is India’s largest knowledge and technology conference and exhibition.

ii. It is jointly organised by the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) and the Indian Department of Science and Technology (DST).

iii. This edition of the Technology Summit will highlight range of research and innovations areas where India and Canada are world leaders.

iv. The theme of this summit will be ‘Advanced Manufacturing’ focusing on advances in various sectors including aerospace, Aviation, Artificial Intelligence and Life Sciences.

v. Role of women in science and business as well as promoting the start-up and incubator communities in India and Canada will also be highlighted at the summit.

Quick Facts about Canada:

♦ Capital – Ottawa
♦ Currency – Canadian Dollar
♦ Current Prime Minister – Justin Trudeau

INDRA - 2017: Indo-Russia’s first-ever tri-service joint exercise begins in Vladivostok, Russia

Exercise INDRA-2017, the first ever Tri Services Joint Exercise between Indian and

About INDRA-2017
i. The previous editions of INDRA Exercise between India and Russia were single service bilateral exercise. ‘INDRA-2017’ marks the first bilateral exercise in which all the three Services of the Armed Forces viz. Army, Navy & Air Force of India and Russia will participate.
ii. Indian contingent comprising of 350 personnel from Army, 80 from Air Force, two IL 76 aircraft and one Frigate and Corvette each from the Navy are participating in INDRA – 2017. Whereas from Russian side nearly 1000 troops of the 5th Army, Marines and Ships of Pacific Fleet and aircraft from Eastern Military District will participate in INDRA-2017.
iii. INDRA-2017 is a landmark event in the history of Indo-Russian defence cooperation and will strengthen mutual confidence and inter-operability of the armed forces. iv. During the course of INDRA-2017, armed forces of both the countries will be engaged in professional interactions, will establish joint command and control structures and will train in counter terrorism operations in a joint tri service environment.

BANKING & FINANCE

SBI Foundation commits Rs.10 crore for conservation of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Terminus
On 17th October 2017, SBI Foundation granted Rs.10 crore for the conservation and restoration of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Terminus (CSTM) of Mumbai over the period of 3-5 years.

SBI commits Rs.10 crore for CSTM conservation:
i. Central Railway’s Divisional Railway Manager SK Jain and SBI Managing Director PK Gupta signed a MoU. As per the MoU, SBI Foundation will provide Rs.10 crore for the project under the “SBI-Project Swachh Iconic CSMT”.
ii. CSTM railway station is a UNESCO World Heritage site. Through this project, the Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) arm of SBI aims to contribute in development and preservation of world heritage structures.
iii. Restoration work of CSTM heritage building will be done by INTACH (Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage) an expert agency.

About Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Terminus (CSTM):
♦ History – built in 1887 to celebrate the Golden Jubilee of Queen Victoria
♦ Earlier name – Victoria Terminus

**Banks to provide funds at 7% to women SHGs under DAY-NRLM: RBI**
On October 18, 2017, Reserve Bank of India (RBI) issued revised guidelines on Interest Subvention Scheme under Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana – National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM), stating that banks will provide funds to women Self Help Groups (SHGs) in rural areas at 7 per cent under the DAY-NRLM in current fiscal, 2017-18.

**Interest Subvention under DAY-NRLM:**
i. RBI issued above mentioned revised guidelines as received from the Ministry of Rural Development. These guidelines will be implemented by 21 public sector banks and 19 private banks.
ii. As per the scheme, banks will be subvented to the extent of difference between the Weighted Average Interest Charged and 7 per cent subject to the maximum limit of 5.5 per cent for the year 2017-18.
iii. Women SHGs availing credit up to Rs. 3 lakh rupees will be eligible for this interest subvention scheme.
iv. Benefits of this scheme will be applicable on credit to women SHGs across 250 districts of India.

**Kotak Mahindra Bank launches Paymint**
Kotak Mahindra Bank in collaboration with financial technology firm Zeta has launched a multi-wallet digital prepaid solution for salaried employees named ‘Paymint’.

**About ‘Paymint’:**
i. Through Paymint’s single digital interface, which is powered by Zeta, corporate entities will be able to manage multiple reimbursements and allowances offered to employees including meal vouchers, medical reimbursements, travel allowances,
conveyance and other similar allowances. ii. Paymint will not only help corporate to get rid of cumbersome process of executing employee benefits programme but will also simplify the process for employees. iii. Processing allowances and reimbursements typically involves lot of paperwork. Paymint makes all these processes paperless and that too by providing a secure and customised system.

Kotak Bank ties up with Samsung Pay
Kotak Mahindra Bank has tied up with Samsung, under which its credit and debit cardholders will be able to tap and pay using Samsung smart phones at merchant establishments.

i. Currently, Samsung Pay works on 2.9 million points-of-sale card machines across India. It uses the Magnetic Secure Transmission (MST) technology which enables consumers to make in-store payments without the need for a physical card.

ii. This tie-up will strengthen Kotak’s digital savings account product as the customer will get a virtual debit card for contactless payments.

Quick Facts about Kotak Mahindra Bank:
♦ Founded in – 1985
♦ Headquarters – Mumbai
♦ Current MD – Uday Kotak

BUSINESS

Madame Tussauds among 3 FDI proposals cleared by DIPP
The Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion (DIPP) has approved three foreign direct investment (FDI) proposals, including that of Merlin Entertainment-owned Madame Tussauds, to open single-brand retail.

3 FDI proposals cleared by DIPP:

i. Mountain Trail Foods, which operates the Chai Point outlets, has got approval for food retailing. This would bring in FDI inflows of Rs.65 crore. Kohler India Corp’s proposal for single-brand retail has been approved.

ii. Madame Tussauds is expected to open its first museum in India in Delhi. DIPP has approved 20 single-brand retail proposals worth Rs.4,900 crore so far.
iii. Single brand trading applications that got approval include Amazon, Grofers, Urban Ladder, Acer, Fossil India and Bally International.

**About Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion (DIPP):**

♦ Purpose – formulation and implementation of promotional and developmental measures for growth of the industrial sector
♦ Chairman – Ramesh Abhishek

**AWARDS & RECOGNITIONS**

**Jaipur, Srinagar top ranked airports in small aerodrome**

On 18th October 2017, Jaipur and Srinagar Airport got first and second rank respectively in the category of 2-5 million passengers in Airport Council International (ACI)-Airport Service Quality (ASQ) Survey.

**Top ranked small aerodromes:**

i. Dr.Guruprasad Mohapatra, Chairman, Airports Authority of India (AAI) and his team received the ACI-ASQ Award at a function held in Mauritius on 17th October 2017.

ii. This is for the second consecutive time Jaipur Airport has been rated the Best Airport in the World in the traffic volume of 2 to 5 million passengers per year. Jaipur was ranked as the Best Airport in the same category in 2016 also.

iii. The Airport Service Quality (ASQ) Awards are the aviation industry's most prestigious honours. It measures passengers’ views on indicators like airport access, check-in, security screening, restrooms, stores and restaurants.

**About Airport Authority of India (AAI):**

♦ Headquarters – New Delhi
♦ Chairman – Dr.Guruprasad Mohapatra

**Environmental scientist Hans Joachim Schellnhuber receives Blue Planet Prize**

Environmental scientist Hans Joachim Schellnhuber has received Blue Planet Prize, world’s most prestigious award for pioneers in environmental science.

**Hans Joachim Schellnhuber’s Accomplishments and Blue Planet Prize:**
i. Schellnhuber has been awarded the Blue Planet Prize for establishing a new field of science, Earth System Analysis, and introducing most influential concepts including the notion of tipping elements in the climate system.

ii. Gretchen Daily of Stanford University, USA is the second recipient of the Blue Planet Prize. She has been awarded for her research about biodiversity and natural capital.

iii. Blue Planet Prize was instituted by Asahi Glass Foundation (affiliate of Asahi Glass manufacturing company of Japan) in 1992.

iv. It is presented to outstanding thinkers who help meet challenges of planetary dimensions.

v. The award carries prize money of 50 million Japanese Yen and is handed over in presence of Japan’s Imperial Prince and Princess.

ISKCON’s Govardhan Eco Village gets green platinum award
Govardhan Eco Village, set up by the International Society for Krishna Consciousness (ISKCON) in Palghar district of Maharashtra has won the ‘Green Platinum Award’. Green Platinum Award for ISKCON’s Govardhan Eco Village:

i. Green Platinum Award has been instituted by Indian Green Building Council (IGBC), which is a part of Confederation of Indian Industry (CII).

ii. The award was given to Gauranga Das, the Director of Govardhan Eco Village during the Green Building Congress-2017 at Jaipur, Rajasthan in beginning of October 2017.

iii. Goverdhan Eco Village is a farming community and retreat centre spread across 100 acres of land. It was set up in 2003.

iv. Organic farming, cow protection, rural education and rural development are some of the major activities carried out at Goverdhan Eco Village.

APPOINTMENTS & RESIGNS

Sunny Verghese appointed as WBCSD Chair from 2018
The World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD) has appointed NRI
businessman Sunny Verghese, co-founder and CEO of Singapore-based Olam International, as its new chairman from 2018.

**Sunny Verghese – WBCSD Chairman:**

i. Sunny Verghese is the first ever Asian CEO to be appointed as Chairman in World Business Council for Sustainable Development’s (WBCSD) 25 years of history.

ii. Sunny Verghese will succeed Paul Polman, CEO of Unilever as the Chairman. Paul Polman’s chairmanship ends in 31st December 2017.

iii. WBCSD is a global network of more than 200 CEOs who are responsible for a combined revenue of more than $8.5 trillion and 19 million employees.

**About World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD):**

♦ Purpose – business and sustainable development

♦ Location – Geneva, Switzerland

**Manika Jain appointed as Ambassador of India to the Kingdom of Cambodia**

On 18th October 2017, Manika Jain was appointed as Ambassador of India to the Kingdom of Cambodia.

**Manika Jain – Ambassador of India to the Kingdom of Cambodia:**

i. Manika Jain is an Indian Foreign Service (IFS) Officer of batch 1993. She is presently the Consul General of India, Melbourne.

ii. She has been appointed as the next Ambassador of India to the Kingdom of Cambodia. She would take up the assignment shortly.

**About the Kingdom of Cambodia:**

♦ Capital – Phnom Penh

♦ Currency – Riel

♦ Prime Minister – Hun Sen

**World’s largest mud eruption ‘Lusi’ caused by volcano: Study**

Scientists have said that, ‘Lusi’, the world’s largest ongoing mud eruption that began on the Indonesian island of Java in 2006, would not stop soon, as it is connected to a nearby volcanic system.

*Lusi:*
i. The study, published in the ‘Journal of Geophysical Research: Solid Earth’, discovered that the hot magma from the Arjuno-Welirang volcano has been heating the organic rich sediments under Lusi.

ii. Researchers suspect a magnitude 6.3 earthquake that struck Java two days before the mud started flowing as the trigger to Lusi eruption.


iv. The sea of mud has buried some villages 40 metres deep and made around 60,000 people homeless. The volcano still periodically throws jets of rocks and gas into the air. About Indonesia:

♦ Capital – Jakarta
♦ Currency – Indonesian rupiah
♦ Official language – Indonesian

**Tejas jets to get French-made radars**

On 17th October 2017, French defence firm Thales announced the development of a radar catering to the specific needs of Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) to equip the Tejas light combat aircraft.

French made radars for Tejas:

i. In 2016, HAL had issued a tender for Active Electronically Scanned Array (ASEA) radars for Tejas Mk-1A LCAs and till date no company has been selected.

ii. Thales claims that, the radar meets the specific needs of HAL to equip the 80 Tejas Mk1A multi-role aircraft operated by the Indian Air Force.

iii. Thales said the radar reflects its expertise in active array technologies. Tests on the radar were carried out recently at the Cazaux air base in France.

iv. Thales claims that, the radar is designed for air-to-air superiority and strike missions, long detection ranges and multi-target tracking capabilities.

About Thales:

♦ Headquarters – La Defense, France
♦ CEO – Patrice Caine
ENVIRONMENT

Sawfish more threatened than tigers, say scientists

On 17th October 2017, Marine scientists said that, the sawfish, included in Schedule I of the Indian Wildlife (Protection) Act 1972 is more threatened than tigers and elephants.

Sawfish:

i. On 17th October 2017, the first Sawfish Day was observed all over the world. A statement was issued by the Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI) on 16th October 2017, which said that, the sawfish may be the most endangered fish species in India.

ii. The CMFRI statement said that, the sawfish family has been declared as either ‘Endangered’ or ‘Critically Endangered’ in the International Union for Conservation of Nature Global Red List. This has been done considering their threatened status, high extinction risk and population decline.

iii. Sawfish are elasmobranchs, which means their skeleton is made of cartilage. They are closely related to sharks and have shark-shaped bodies and, hence, are also called flat sharks.

About Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI):

♦ Director – Dr.A.Gopalakrishnan
♦ Location – Kochi, Kerala

SPORTS

Ravi Shastri becomes World’s Highest Earning Cricket Coach

Indian cricket team coach Ravi Shastri is the world’s highest-earning cricket coach in the world.
1. Arunachal Assembly approves Kamle as 23rd district

The Arunachal Assembly passed a bill paving way for creation of a new district to be named Kamle. With the official creation of the new district, the total number of districts in the state shot up to 23. Chief Minister Pema Khandu introduced the Arunachal Pradesh Re-Organisation of Districts (Amendment) Bill 2017 in the Assembly on October 14. Kamle district, constituting the eastern part of Lower Subansiri district and western part of Upper Subansiri district, would have a population of 22,256 of homogeneous people.

2. Canada to be partner country for Tech Summit-2017

Canada will be the partner country at the 23rd iteration of the Tech Summit, knowledge and technology conference and exhibition from 14 – 15 November, 2017 in New Delhi. The Summit is being organised by the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) and the Indian Department of Science and Technology (DST). The India-Canada Tech Summit will highlight a broad range of research and innovations areas where India and Canada are world leaders. The themes for the Summit include Advanced Manufacturing Transportation, Agricultural Technology, and Energy.

3. Kotak Mahindra Bank and Zeta launch Paymint

Kotak Mahindra Bank (“Kotak”) and Zeta, a fintech pioneer, announced the launch of Paymint – a comprehensive digital platform to manage multiple employee benefits. A multi-wallet digital prepaid solutions platform, Paymint enables corporates to offer a host of benefits to its employees including meal vouchers, medical reimbursments, leave travel allowances, gift cards, conveyance, fuel allowances, driver salaries and so on. Paymint offers corporates a single digital interface, powered by Zeta, to manage multiple reimbursments and allowances offered to employees.

4. SBI Foundation commits Rs10 crore for conservation of CST

The SBI Foundation has committed Rs10 crore for the conservation and restoration of the Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Terminus (CST) of Mumbai over a period of three to five years. The CST railway station, formerly known as Victoria Terminus, is a Unesco World Heritage Site. Through this project, the CSR arm of the State Bank of India aims to contribute in development and preservation of world heritage structures, SBI said in a statement. Restoration work of CST heritage building will be done by INTACH, an expert agency.
5. Solicitor General Ranjit Kumar resigns

Ranjit Kumar, India’s second-most senior law officer, has resigned from the post of Solicitor General of India citing personal reasons. He was appointed by the incumbent government of Prime Minister Narendra Modi on 7 June 2014. Ranjit Kumar succeeded Mohan Parasaran. The Solicitor General of India assists the Attorney General of India in advising the Union Government on matters pertaining to law. Appointments Committee of the Cabinet appoints the Solicitor General. Attorney General for India is appointed by the President under Article 76(1) of the Constitution.

6. Sunny Verghese appointed as WBCSD Chair from 2018

The World Business Council for Sustainable Development announced that Mr Sunny Verghese has been appointed as the new Chair of WBCSD. Mr Verghese’s term begins on 1 January 2018 for a duration of two years. The appointment was enacted by a vote from members at the 2017 Annual General Meeting of WBCSD in Mexico City. Mr Verghese will succeed Mr Paul Polman, CEO of Unilever, who has been Chairman of WBCSD since 2014.

7. Jacinda Ardern to be New Zealand’s next PM

Jacinda Ardern will become New Zealand’s next prime minister 26 days after the country’s electorate cast their votes. Labour party will form a coalition government with NZ First, along with the backing of the Green party, which means Ardern, 37, becomes New Zealand’s third female prime minister. Ardern, who also becomes New Zealand’s youngest prime minister for 150 years, said she was committed to forming a strong and durable government.

8. Environmental scientist Schellnhuber receives Blue Planet Prize

The world's most prestigious award for pioneers in environmental science was given to Hans Joachim Schellnhuber this week in Tokyo. He is Director of the Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research (PIK), a member of the Leibniz Association. The Blue Planet Prize, coming along with 50 million yen, honors outstanding thinkers who help to meet challenges of planetary dimensions.
1. World Statistics Day: October 20

World Statistics Day is observed all over the world on 20 October every year. World Statistics Day was celebrated for the first time on 20th October 2010 throughout the world. The United Nations Statistical Commission declared 20th October as World Statistics Day. World Statistics Day highlights the importance of reliable and timely data for informed decision-making by governments and individuals.

2. India ranked No. 1 in pollution related deaths: Lancet report

With 2.51 million deaths in 2015, India has been ranked No. 1 in pollution related deaths, according to a report by The Lancet Commission on pollution and health. China recorded the second highest number of such deaths (1.8 million). India accounted for about 28 per cent of an estimated nine million pollution linked deaths worldwide in 2015.

3. Assam to hold Global Investors Summit in February, 2018

The first Global Investors Summit in Assam will be held in Guwahati in February next year and Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate it. The state government plans to utilise the event to showcase Assam's business potential with attractive policies so that investments are made.

4. President to inaugurate International Gita Mahotsav in Haryana

President Ram Nath Kovind will inaugurate the International Gita Mahotsav in Kurukshetra, Haryana, on November 25. He will also participate in Gita Yajna and Gita Poojan ceremonies at Brahma Sarovar. The mahotsav which will conclude on December 3 will have Mauritius as partner country and Uttar Pradesh as partner state.

5. Kerala govt prohibits using 'Dalit', 'Harijan' in official communications

The Kerala Information and Public Relations Department's internal circular has directed to avoid usage of words "Dalit" and "Harijan" in its official communications. The order was issued based on the directive from Kerala State Commission for Scheduled Castes (SC) and Scheduled Tribes (ST) Chairman Justice PN Vijayakumar. The department informed that the government has also banned the usage of word "Keezhalar" which was used to refer to scheduled communities.
6. Adesina wins 2017 World Food Prize

The World Food Prize 2017 goes to Dr. Akinwumi Ayodeji Adesina, President of the African Development Bank Group for helping Africa get it right in agriculture and making it a key player of securing food for the world. The official announcement of the Prize was made during a ceremony at the U.S. Department of Agriculture in Washington D.C. The prize was founded by Norman E. Borlaug, a native of northeast Iowa who was awarded the 1970 Nobel Peace Prize for his life’s work on feeding the world through the scientific advancements of the Green Revolution.

7. ISKCON's Govardhan Eco Village gets green platinum award

The Govardhan Eco Village, set up by the International Society for Krishna Consciousness (ISKCON) in Palghar district, has won the ‘green platinum award’. The village’s director, Gauranga Das, received the award, instituted by Indian Green Building Council (IGBC). The IGBC has been established by the CII to enable sustainable built-environment for all. Govardhan Eco Village is a farm community and retreat centre spread over a scenic landscape of 100 acres at Galtare in Wada taluka.
PDF 22nd Oct. 2017

1. Centre asks states to name toilets as ‘izzat ghar’ in rural areas

The Centre has asked each state to name the toilets in their rural households as “izzat ghar”, or to use a phrase in regional language equivalent to “house of dignity”. Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation wrote to state government’s principal secretaries after observing the name “izzat ghar” being used in many parts of Uttar Pradesh. The ministry with an aim of making India open defecation free by October 2, 2019 is overseeing the implementation of Swachh Bharat Mission in villages.

2. PM Narendra Modi launches several projects in Gujarat

Prime Minister Narendra Modi visited the poll-bound Gujarat for the third time this month, where he inaugurated and laid foundation stones for a number of projects in Bhavnagar and Vadodara districts. PM Modi inaugurates the first phase of the Rs 615-crore 'roll-on, roll-off (ro-ro)' ferry service between Ghogha in Bhavnagar district and Dahej in Bharuch in the Gulf of Cambay. In Vadodara, he inaugurated and laid the foundation stones for projects worth over Rs 1,140 crore.

3. Aadhaar linking mandatory for bank accounts: RBI

The Reserve Bank of India has said biometric identity number Aadhaar linkage with bank accounts is mandatory. The RBI clarification followed media reports quoting a reply to a Right to Information (RTI) application that suggested the apex bank has not issued any order for mandatory Aadhaar linkage with bank accounts.

4. Sibi George appointed next Ambassador of India to Switzerland

Sibi George has been appointed as the next Ambassador of India to Switzerland. He will replace Smita Purushottam. George is presently serving as Joint Secretary in the Ministry of External Affairs. George, a 1993 batch Indian Forest Service (IFS) officer, has also served as deputy chief of mission of Indian embassy in Saudi Arabia.

5. Zimbabwe's Robert Mugabe named WHO 'goodwill ambassador'

Zimbabwe President Robert Mugabe was named a "goodwill ambassador" for the World Health Organization by the agency's first African leader, with the United States calling it "disappointing." The 93-year-old Mugabe, the world's oldest head of state, faces U.S. sanctions over his government's human rights abuses. WHO director-general Tedros Ghebreyesus of Ethiopia announced the appointment at a conference in Uruguay.
6. Alka Yagnik and Udit Narayan to get Lata Mangeshkar Award

Noted music composers Usha Khanna, Bappi Lahiri, Anu Malik and playback singers Alka Yagnik and Udit Narayan have been selected for the Madhya Pradesh governments prestigious National Lata Mangeshkar Award. The artistes will be honoured for their contribution in the field of music composition and singing. The award, instituted in the honour of Mangeshkar, will be presented on October 26 at a function in Indore, the birthplace of the 88-year-old legendary singer.

7. Indian boxers win 8 medals in Balkan Open

Indian pugilists returned with an impressive haul of eight medals, including four golds, from the third Youth International Championships Balkan Open 2017 at Sofia, Bulgaria. Besides four golds, the Indian boxers won one silver and three bronze medals. Indian youth team was also adjudged as the best team in the championship.

8. India beat Malaysia 2-1 to win third Asia Cup title

India's ten-year wait for the continental title ended as they beat Malaysia 2-1 to win their third Asia Cup title in Dhaka. India won the tournament twice before in 2003 and 2007 editions. They finished runners-up in the last edition in 2011 after losing to South Korea in final.

Points to Remember

- The 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.
1. Robert Mugabe removed as WHO goodwill ambassador after outcry

Zimbabwean President Robert Mugabe has been removed as a goodwill ambassador, the World Health Organization (WHO) said following an outrage among Western donors and rights groups at the appointment. Mugabe, 93, is blamed in the West for destroying Zimbabwe’s economy and numerous human rights abuses during his 37 years leading the country as either president or prime minister.

2. Rajasthan govt passes ordinance to protect judges, babus from probe

The Vasundhara Raje government has passed an ordinance which seeks to protect both serving and former judges, magistrates and public servants in Rajasthan from being investigated for on-duty action without its prior sanction. The Criminal Laws (Rajasthan Amendment) Ordinance, 2017, promulgated on September 7, also seeks to bar the media from reporting on accusations till the sanction to proceed with the probe is obtained.

3. North Korea, Pak not invited for consumer protection conference in India

India has not invited Pakistan and North Korea to attend the first global conference on consumer protection to be inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in New Delhi next week, consumer affairs Minister Ram Vilas Paswan said. The two-day Regional Conference on Consumer Protection will be held on October 26-27 and will see the participation of 23 countries. India is organising the event at the request of United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD).

4. Govt to organise global ayurveda meet in February

The Kerala government will organise an international seminar and ayurveda expo in Kochi in February next year. The four-day seminar will showcase Kerala’s achievements in health tourism, healthcare and ayurveda. Apart from leading firms and experts in the field, well-known names in the economic and business sectors will also take part in the event.

5. Banks to now match original IDs with photocopies

The Government has made it mandatory for banks and financial institutions to check the original identification documents of individuals dealing in cash above the prescribed threshold, to weed out the use of forged or fake copies. The Department of Revenue in the Finance Ministry has issued a gazette notification making an amendment to the Prevention of Money-laundering (Maintenance of Records) Rules. Biometric identification number Aadhaar and other official documents are required to be obtained by the reporting entities from anyone opening a bank account as well as for any financial transaction of Rs 50,000 and above.
6. Kidambi Srikanth wins Denmark Open

It took Kidambi Srikanth just 25 minutes to finish the Denmark Open Super Series final and Korea’s Lee Hyun Il. Srikanth defeated his opponent 21-10, 21-5 to deservedly take away his third Super Series title of the year and fifth overall. He had earlier stunned World No. 1 Viktor Axelsen to reach the semi-finals.

7. Gaganjeet Bhullar Lifts Macao Open Trophy For The Second Time

Indian golfer Gaganjeet Bhullar romped home to a three-shot victory at the Macao Open to bag his eighth Asian Tour title. As a result, Bhullar etched his name on the Macao Open trophy for the second time having previously won the event in 2012.
PDF 24th Oct. 2017

1. Hyderabad to host CFSI's Intl Children's Film Fest next month

Several film personalities are expected to attend the 20th International Children's Film Festival (ICFFI) to be held in Hyderabad between November 8 and 14. The festival, also called 'The Golden Elephant', being organised by Children's Film Society, India (CFSI), will be hosted by the Telangana government jointly with CFSI and the Union Ministry of Information and Broadcasting. A record number of 1,402 entries, drawn from as many as 109 countries, have been received by the CFSI in various categories, including animation, documentary and short films. The theme for this year's festival is 'New India'.

2. India's First Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Kendra for Skilling in Smart Cities

To bring momentum in skilling through collaborative efforts, the Union Home Minister Shri Rajnath Singh along with Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas and Skill Development and Entrepreneurship Shri Dharmendra Pradhan inaugurated India's first Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Kendra (PMKK) for Skilling in Smart Cities, in collaboration with New Delhi Municipal Council (NDMC). The ministers also laid the foundation for a Skill Development Centre at Moti Bagh and a Centre of Excellence at Dharam Marg, New Delhi. Affirming synergies with the Government of India’s flagship programs, the new skill development centres underscore the commitment of the Ministry of Urban Affairs & Housing (MUHA) and the Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship (MSDE) to support skilling in smart cities. National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC), an executive arm of MSDE, has collaborated with New Delhi Municipal Council Smart City Limited (NDMCSCL) to extend cooperation for setting up of PMKK Centres for Smart Cities, to provide skill training for unemployed youth through its short-term training (STT) module and contribute to the capacity building of municipal employees through Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) program.

3. Sitharaman to attend Southeast Asian defence ministers’ meeting

In her first foreign visit as defence minister, Nirmala Sitharaman will travel to the Philippines to attend a Southeast Asian defence ministers' meeting which is likely to review the regional security architecture including China's growing assertiveness in the South China Sea. China claims sovereignty over all of South China Sea, a huge source of hydrocarbons. However, a number of ASEAN member countries including Vietnam, the Philippines and Brunei have counter claims. India has been supporting freedom of navigation and access to resources in the South China Sea in accordance with principles of international law, including the 1982 UN Convention on the Law of the Sea.
4. Madhya Pradesh tops in digital initiatives: Survey

Madhya Pradesh has emerged as the top state in terms of digital initiatives undertaken, with a maximum score of 100.1 on performance index, followed by Maharashtra at 99.9 and Andhra Pradesh at 99.8, says a report by Coeus Age Consulting.Chhattisgarh (97.4) and Karnataka (95.3) occupied the fourth and fifth positions in the list, respectively. The report is based on a comparative assessment of digital initiatives by 36 states and Union Territories.

5. RBI sets up task force to develop public credit registry

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has set up a high-level task force to develop a comprehensive public credit registry (PCR). It is an extensive database of credit information for India that is accessible to all stakeholders. The 10-member task force is headed by Y. M. Deosthalee, ex-CMD, L&T Finance Holdings.

6. EEPC India, PNB ink MoU to provide easy finance

The Engineering Export Promotion Council (EEPC) of India and Punjab National Bank (PNB) signed an MoU to provide access to finance for the small and medium enterprises and merchant exporters of the council. The public sector bank will provide finances with assurance that loans up to Rs 10 crore would be provided within six to seven weeks at competitive rates. Business Standard

7. Rakesh Asthana appointed CBI special director

Gujarat-cadre IPS officer Rakesh Asthana has been appointed the special director of the CBI. Asthana, a 1984-batch IPS officer, had been serving in the Central Bureau of Investigation as additional director. Gurbachan Singh has been appointed as Special Director of Intelligence Bureau (IB). Deepak Kumar Mishra and Sudeep Lakhtakia have been promoted as Special DG in the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF). Rajesh Ranjan and AP Maheshwari have been promoted to the ranks of Special DG in the Border Security Force (BSF).

8. Centre appoints Shri Dineshwar Sharma as its Representative in J&K

In a major development, the Centre today appointed Shri Dineshwar Sharma, former Director of Intelligence Bureau, as the Representative of Government of India to initiate and carry forward a dialogue with the elected representatives, various organizations and concerned individuals in the State of Jammu and Kashmir. Shri Sharma will initiate a sustained interaction and dialogue to understand the legitimate aspirations of the wide cross sections of society, particularly the youth in Jammu and Kashmir and communicate them to the State Government and the Centre. The move comes in the wake of various steps taken by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi to address the needs of the people of Jammu and Kashmir. It may be recalled that during his visit to Srinagar on November 7, 2015, the Prime Minister had announced a package of Rs 80,068 Crores for the overall development of the State.
9. IPPB appoints Suresh Sethi as its MD & CEO

India Post Payments Bank (IPPB) has appointed Mr. Suresh Sethi, the former MD of Vodafone M-Pesa Ltd. as its Managing Director & Chief Executive Officer. Mr. Sethi had been selected by the Banks Board Bureau from amongst top contenders for the post, from both public and private sector Banking and Fintech professionals. Mr. Sethi takes over from the dynamic leadership of Mr. A.P. Singh who had been the interim MD & CEO of IPPB since January 2017.

Points to Remember
IPPB has been incorporated as a Public Limited Company under the Department of Posts with 100% GOI equity. IPPB plans to leverage the unparalleled reach of the India Post network to achieve a Pan India roll out of 650 branches by early next year.

10. Alok Kumar Pateria appointed as ADG, CISF

The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet has approved the appointment of Shri Alok Kumar Pateria, IPS (MP:86) as Additional Director General, CISF on deputation basis He appointed has been made for a period upto 31.05.2020 i.e. date of his superannuation from the date of assumption of charge of the post or until further orders, whichever is earlier.

11. Lewis Hamilton wins United States GP

Lewis Hamilton passed rival Sebastian Vettel to take a dominant victory in the United States Grand Prix but will have to wait at least one more race if he is to win a fourth world title. The Mercedes driver is 66 points clear of Vettel, who finished second. It means Hamilton is almost certain to win the title in Mexico next weekend.
1. United Nations Day: 24 October

24 October has been celebrated as United Nations Day since 1948. In 1971, the United Nations General Assembly recommended that the day be observed by Member States as a public holiday. UN Day marks the anniversary of the entry into force in 1945 of the UN Charter.

2. Supreme Court Slaps Rs. 2 Lakh Fine On Environment Ministry

The Supreme Court today came down heavily on the Union Environment Ministry for not finalising pollution emission standards for industries using pet coke and furnace oil in the national capital region and slapped a cost of Rs. two lakh on it. Terming it as a "completely disgusting state of affairs", the top court asked the Ministry why the standards were not finalised despite its earlier direction that it should be done on or before June 30 this year.

3. ‘Paika Bidroha’ to be named as 1st War of Independence

The ‘Paika Bidroha’ (Paika rebellion) of 1817 will find a place in the history books as ‘the First War of Independence’ from the next academic session, HRD Minister Prakash Javadekar said. Mr. Javadekar had first made the announcement IN Bhubaneswar at a function to mark the bicentenary of the Paika rebellion, and added that the Centre has allocated Rs. 200 crore for commemorating it across the country. Paikas were peasant militia under the Gajapati rulers of Odisha who rendered military service to the king during times of war. They rebelled against the British rule under the leadership of Bakshi Jagabandhu Bidyadhara as early as 1817.

4. Govt to infuse Rs 2.11 lakh crore into PSU banks over 2 years

The government has announced an aggressive Rs. 2.11 lakh crore capital infusion for the NPA hit public sector banks over a period of two years. Out of this, Rs. 1.35 lakh crore will be through the recapitalisation bonds, while remaining Rs. 76,000 crore from the budgetary support, Financial Services Secretary Rajiv Kumar said. Non-performing assets of banks have increased from Rs. 2.75 lakh crore in March 2015 to Rs. 7.33 lakh crore as on June 2017.

5. RBI slaps Rs 2 crore penalty on IDFC Bank

The Reserve Bank of India has imposed a monetary penalty of Rs 2 crore on IDFC Bank for contravention of regulatory restrictions pertaining to loans and advances. The central bank, in a statement said the penalty has been imposed in exercise of powers vested in RBI under the Banking Regulation Act, 1949, taking into account failure of the bank to adhere to certain directions issued by RBI.
6. ADB Sign $300 Million Loan to Promote Fiscal Reforms in West Bengal

The Asian Development Bank and the Government of India signed a $300 million loan to continue a series of fiscal reforms in the State of West Bengal to improve the quality of public service delivery. The Second West Bengal Development Finance Program targets a further increase in public investment through reduction of unproductive expenditure, and savings from efficiencies in revenue collections. Phase I of the project costs $400 million.

7. Tata among top five in India's most attractive brands index

The Tata conglomerate is the only Indian brand to feature among the top five in the India's most attractive brands index which has been topped by South Korean consumer electronics maker Samsung. Tata, which was at number 7 in 2016 is ranked at number 4 in India's Most Attractive Brands 2017 study, carried out by Trust Research Advisory (TRA) and based on primary research conducted on close to 2,450 consumers across 16 cities. Samsung, which had occupied the third place last year, pipped LG and Sony to regain the top slot.

8. NS Venkatesh appointed AMFI chief executive

NS Venkatesh has been appointed as chief executive of the Association of Mutual Funds in India (AMFI). The post was lying vacant after CVR Rajendran stepped down from the position in December. Prior to joining AMFI, a nodal association of mutual funds across India, he was the executive director at Lakshmi Vilas Bank.

9. HSBC appoints Jayant Rikhye as CEO India

The Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation (HSBC) announced the appointment of Jayant Rikhye as the chief executive officer for India. The appointment would be effective from December 1 subject to regulatory approvals, HSBC said in a statement. In his new role, Rikhye will lead HSBC’s next phase of growth in the country, where he first joined the Group in 1989.

10. Cristiano Ronaldo Wins FIFA World Player Of The Year Award

Real Madrid's Portugal striker Cristiano Ronaldo was crowned the FIFA best soccer player in the world for the second consecutive year. Here is the list of the awards:

- Cristiano Ronaldo wins Best Fifa Men's Player

- Lieke Martens wins Best Fifa Women's Player

- Celtic win Fifa Fans Award
• Sarina Wiegman wins Best Fifa Women's Coach
• Zinedine Zidane wins Best Male Coach
• Gigi Buffon wins Best Goalkeeper
• Olivier Giroud wins Puskas Award for best goal

11. Jitu Rai, Heena Sidhu win gold in air pistol mixed team event

Jitu Rai and Heena Sidhu combined to give India their first gold medal of the ISSF World Cup Finals, clinching the top honours in the 10m air pistol mixed team event on the opening day of competitions. 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 duo shot 483.4 in the final to finish top of the podium at the Dr Karni Singh Shooting Ranges.

12. Thumri queen Girija Devi passes away

Eminent classical singer Girija Devi passed away in Kolkata. She was 88. Known as the "thumri queen", Girija Devi popularised the genre of semi-classical Indian music. She was conferred with all three Padma awards, and was honoured with the Padma Vibhushan in 2016.
1. Singapore Passport World's 'Most Powerful'

Singapore has the world's "most powerful" passport, according to a global ranking topped for the first time by an Asian country. India ranked at 75th position, three notches better than its previous ranking. According to the 'Global Passport Power Rank 2017' by global financial advisory firm Arton Capital, Germany is ranked second, followed by Sweden and South Korea in third place.

2. Chile named best country to visit in 2018

Chile has been named the best country to visit next year by Lonely Planet in its 'Best in Travel 2018' list. South Korea and Portugal have ranked second and third respectively, while Djibouti and New Zealand have completed the top five. The other countries featured on the list are Malta, Georgia, Mauritius, China and South Africa.

3. Indian ship in Indonesia for joint exercise – CORPAT

Indian Naval ship Sukanya reached Belawan port, Indonesia to take part in the 30th edition of CORPAT (Coordinated Patrol) and third Bilateral exercise between the Indian and Indonesian navies. The exercise is aimed at fostering closer maritime ties with countries located on the rim of the Indian Ocean.

4. Deadline to link Aadhaar with schemes extended till March 31

The deadline for mandatory linking of Aadhaar to avail benefits of various government schemes would be extended till March 31 next year, the Centre told the Supreme Court. It told a bench headed by Chief Justice Dipak Misra that the deadline for Aadhaar linking to avail benefits of the schemes was to end in December and it has now been decided to extend it till March 31, 2018.

5. India grants USD 585,000 aid to Sri Lanka university

India has provided equipment and vehicles worth USD 585,000 to a university in Sri Lanka’s Tamil-dominated north as part of its development partnership with the country in the field of higher education. The assistance package was given to develop agriculture as well as an engineering faculty on the Killinochchi campus of University of Jaffna, Indian High Commission said in a statement. The material worth USD 585,000 (SLR 90 million) is part of the USD 3.9 million (SLR 600 million) development project to develop the agriculture and engineering departments of the university.
6. BJP to observe first anniversary of DeMo as ‘anti-black money day’

Bharatiya Janata Party will celebrate 8 November, first anniversary of the demonetisation move, as ‘anti-black money day’, said Finance Minister Arun Jaitley. Earlier, the Opposition had said that they will observe 8 November as a ‘black-day’ with nationwide protests and rallies. Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) has also announced to hold a nationwide protest, “Dhokha Divas”, on 8 November to mark the completion of one year of demonetisation.

7. RBI fines Yes Bank Rs 6 crore for non-compliance

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has announced it has imposed a penalty of Rs 6 crore on Yes Bank for not complying with the directions of the central bank. Yes Bank delayed reporting an information security incident involving its ATMs and failed to comply with the RBI's direction on Income Recognition Asset Classification (IRAC norms).

8. Sharmila Tagore Honoured With Lifetime Achievement Award

Veteran actor Sharmila Tagore was bestowed with the Lifetime Achievement Award by the PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industry in New Delhi for her contribution in the field of cinema. Minister of State for Prime Minister's Office Jitendra Singh and Delhi BJP chief Manoj Tiwari presented the award to Tagore at a ceremony held at Siri Fort Auditorium.

9. Manav Thakkar First Indian to Top ITTF Junior Circuit Rankings

Manav Thakkar became the first Indian to occupy the top spot on the ITTF World Junior Circuit standings, following the conclusion of the tournament in Belgrade. Thakkar was previously placed at No. 5 position. The players that follow him in WJC standings include American Kanak Jha at No.2, Argentina’s Francisco Sanchi, Frenchman Bastien Rembert and Chinese Taipeiis Feng Yi-Hsin.
PDF 27th Oct. 2017

1. Saudi Arabia bestows humanoid robot with citizenship

A humanoid named Sophia has made history by becoming the first robot in the world to be granted citizenship. Saudi Arabia offered citizenship to the robot, designed by entrepreneur David Hanson. The particulars of the citizenship were not discussed, and it’s not clear if Sophia will have the same rights as a human Saudi Arabian citizen.

2. Nepal govt accepts resignation of envoy to India

The Nepal government has accepted the resignation of Deep Kumar Upadhyay, the country's ambassador to India, who has quit to contest the upcoming parliamentary elections. Upadhyaya had tendered his resignation to Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs Krishna Bahadur Mahara on October 6. Upadhyay has filed his nomination for the upcoming parliamentary election from Kapilastu district in western Nepal as the ruling Nepali Congress candidate.

3. First International Day of Diplomats celebrated in Brasilia

The first International Day of Diplomats was celebrated in Brasilia on October 24 with participation from the diplomats of Bangladesh, Brazil, France, Ghana, India, Israel, Italy, Mexico, South Africa and Turkey. The idea of celebrating International Day of Diplomats on October 24 was proposed by Indian poet-diplomat Abhay K. in his piece for a leading online daily titled 'Why the World needs International Day of Diplomats'.

4. ‘Letters of Intent’ for 14 monuments under ‘Adopt a Heritage Scheme’

Seven shortlisted companies were given ‘Letters of Intent’ for fourteen monuments under ‘Adopt a Heritage Scheme’ of Ministry of Tourism 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. SBI Foundation shortlisted for the adoption of - Jantar Mantar, Delhi. TK International Limited shortlisted for the adoption of - Sun Temple, Konark, Raja Rani Temple, Bhubaneshwar and Ratnagiri Monuments, Jaipur, Odisha. Yatra Online Pvt. Limited shortlisted for the adoption of: Hampi, Karnataka, Leh Palace, Jammu & Kashmir, Qutub Minar, Delhi and Ajanta Caves, Maharashtra. Travel Corporation of India Ltd. shortlisted for the adoption of: Mattancherry Palace Museum, Kochi and Safdarjung Tomb, Delhi. Adventure Tour Operator Association of India shortlisted for the adoption of : Gangotri Temple Area and Trail to Gaumukh and Mt. Stok Kangri, Laddakh, Jammu and Kashmir. Special Holidays Travel Pvt. Ltd. (With) Rotary Club of Delhi shortlisted for the adoption of: Agrasen ki Baoli, Delhi. NBCC shortlisted for the adoption of Purana Qila, Delhi. The ‘Adopt a Heritage Scheme’ of Ministry of Tourism was launched on World Tourism Day i.e. 27th September, 2017 by the President of India.
5. Power Minister addresses the 3rd Global Investors' India Forum

Union Minister of State (IC) for Power and New & Renewable Energy, Shri R. K. Singh addressed the 3rd Global Investors’ India Forum in New Delhi. The theme of the event was ‘Ideate, Innovate, Implement and Invest in India’ and it was attended by global industry stalwarts. The event was organized by the ASSOCHAM and witnessed the participation of Global Industry stalwarts, who engaged in an intense discussion with the Minister; and senior officials of the Ministry.

6. Odisha will be the 'Focus State' at World Food India-2017

Odisha will be the 'Focus State' in the World Food India (WFI)-2017, a mega international food event to be held at New Delhi from November 3 to 5. More than 200 global companies from 30 countries will be participating in the event. Besides, 450 domestic companies and leading research and development (R&D) institutes along with 95 Indian industry captains are likely to participate in WFI.

7. Madras HC bans photos of living persons on banners in Tamil Nadu

The Madras high court banned the use of pictures of living persons on banners and hoardings in Tamil Nadu, where towering cut-outs of politicians and actors are almost a part of the local culture. The court asked Tamil Nadu’s top official to maintain a clean environment and also ensure that there were “no unnecessary drawings” on buildings and residential places in all wards of the southern state. It means that pictures of the chief minister, ministers or politicians can no longer be used in posters or hoardings, often put up as a show of strength and support – larger the better.

8. India to help develop Colombo, Trincomalee Ports

India will help develop both Colombo and Trincomalee ports in Sri Lanka, foreign secretary S Jaishankar, days after Sri Lankan Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe named India as a top contender for developing the strategically located Trincomalee harbour. The development potentially extends India’s outreach in the Indian Ocean, where China is pursuing an expansionist policy. India is also helping build road and rail projects in Sri Lanka.
9. Ram Gopal Bajaj will be conferred with National Kalidas Award

Renowned theatre director, Ram Gopal Bajaj, will be conferred with the National Kalidas Award instituted by the Madhya Pradesh government in the field of theatre. It is to be noted that this award is provided for various aspects of theatre in excellence, long spiritual practice and continuous creation. The selection committee recommended Ram Gopal Bajaj's name with unanimous decision. Under this honour, cash award of Rs 2 lakhs is given to the awardee.

10. AP CM Naidu receives 'Golden Peacock Award' in London

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 a convention in London. Earlier eminent recipients of the award under other categories are - anti-corruption crusader Anna Hazare, agricultural scientist M S Swaminathan, Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik and former Delhi chief minister Sheila Dikshit. Naidu's wife and managing director of the Heritage Foods Nara Bhuvaneswari also received the award under the category - Corporate Governance and Sustainability.
PDF 28th Oct. 2017

1. Jeff Bezos passes Bill Gates to become the world's richest person

A post-earnings surge in Amazon.com Inc. shares Friday pushed Jeff Bezos to the top of the Bloomberg Billionaires Index for the first time, vaulting him ahead of Bill Gates who had held the top spot as the richest person on Earth for more than four years. At the close of U.S. markets on 27 October, Bezos had a net worth of $93.8 billion, $5.1 billion ahead of Gates on the Bloomberg index, a daily ranking of the world’s 500 richest people. Gates, 61, had been the world’s richest person since 2013.

2. Burundi becomes first country to leave International Criminal Court

Burundi has become the first country to withdraw from the International Criminal Court. The pullout took effect 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, amid accusations that the court focuses too much on the continent. South Africa’s withdrawal was revoked in March. Gambia’s new government reversed its withdrawal in February.

3. International Conference on Green Initiatives & Railway Electrification

Minister of Railways & Coal Shri Piyush Goyal inaugurated International Conference on Green Initiatives & Railway Electrification organised by Ministry of Railways through Institution of Railways Electrical Engineer (IREE) India. The main objective of the two days international conference is to bring green power project developers and other stakeholders on a common platform for making Indian Railways (IR) an efficient and Greener mode of transport. This conference has the aim for giving boost to ‘Make in India’ and ‘Innovative India’ campaigns of Hon’ble Prime Minister of India.

4. India pips US to become second-largest smartphone market

India has pipped the US to become the world's second-largest smartphone market at the end of the third quarter, according to two research firms, which also said China’s Xiaomi is expected to end Korean major Samsung’s four and-a-half year reign at the top soon. Singapore-based Canalys said in a report that the Indian smartphone market grew by 23% year-on-year in the July-September quarter to top 40 million units.
5. First International Conference on Consumer Protection concludes

The First International Consumer Protection Conference on “Empowering consumers in new markets” for the South, South East and East Asian Countries was held on 26 to 27 October 2017 in New Delhi. Mr. Narendra Modi, Prime Minister of India inaugurated the Conference which was attended by 1600 participants that included delegates from 19 countries. Dr. Mukhisa Kituyi, Secretary-General of UNCTAD addressed the conference in the Inaugural session. The Conference was chaired by Shri Ram Vilas Paswan, Union Minister for Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution.

6. ADB sign $65.5 Million Loan to support Coastal Protection in Karnataka

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the Government of India signed a $65.5 million loan agreement in the national capital to continue interventions to check coastal erosion on the Western Coast in Karnataka. The loan is the Second Tranche of a $250 million financing facility under the Sustainable Coastal Protection and Management Investment Program. The financing will be used to address the immediate coastal protection needs and for strengthening institutional capacity of Karnataka’s Public Works, Ports and Inland Water Transport Department.

7. FIFA U-17 World Cup: Brazil beat Mali 2-0 to finish third

Alan and Yuri Alberto scored in the 55th and 88th minutes, respectively, as Brazil defeated Mali 2-0 to finish third at the FIFA U-17 World Cup. The 10-man Brazil sealed third place play-off match at the Salt Lake Stadium in Kolkata. The same venue will host the final clash between England and Spain.

8. National Games to held next year from November 4-17 in Goa

After a lot of delay, Sports Authority of Goa finalised the dates of the 36th National Games, to be held in Goa in 2018 from November 4 to 17. There was uncertainty over the dates of the 30-discipline event ever since the Games were awarded to the State in 2011. The delays to the 34th and 35th editions of the Games, which were hosted by Jharkhand and Kerala respectively, affected Goa’s plan to hold the mega-event.
1. Spanish PM dismisses Catalan government

Spanish Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy announced the immediate sacking of Catalan leader Carles Puigdemont and his government and called new elections in the region on December 21. This followed the decision taken by the Catalan parliament earlier in the day to unilaterally declare independence of the region in the northeast of Spain. Rajoy announced the measures after a special cabinet meeting called at his residence in the Palacio de la Moncloa to decide how to apply Article 155 of the Spanish Constitution.

2. 11th World Congress on Adolescent Health held in New Delhi

The 11th World Congress on Adolescent Health was held in New Delhi during 27th to 29th October 2017. The theme for World Congress on Adolescent Health 2017 was ‘Investing in Adolescent Health—the Future is Now’. This event was hosted by MAMTA Health Institute for Mother and Child and the Public Health Foundation of India (PHFI).

3. Dalai Lama addresses peace conference in Imphal

The 14th Dalai Lama during his three-day maiden visit to Manipur addressed at the International Peace Conference in the Imphal. The conference was aimed at promoting peace and harmony in the northeastern region. The conference brought a host of religious leaders from various countries, including Buddhist monks from South-East Asia and Myanmar, under one platform.

4. RIL first Indian company to cross Rs 6 trillion market cap

Reliance Industries Ltd (RIL) became the first Indian company to cross Rs6 trillion market capitalisation after its shares surged over 75% so far this year and hit a fresh lifetime high. The stock added nearly Rs3 trillion market cap since April after its telecom arm Reliance Jio started charging its customers.

5. Martina Hingis announces retirement from pro tennis

Hall of Famer Martina Hingis, one of only six women's players to hold the No. 1 ranking in both singles and doubles at the same time, announced her retirement. Hingis won 13 major doubles titles, along with five in singles and seven in mixed doubles. The Swiss star still is the youngest Grand Slam champion in history, having won the Wimbledon doubles title when she was just 15.
6. FIFA U-17 World Cup 2017: England Crowned Champions

England made a remarkable comeback from two goals down to outclass three-time runners-up Spain 5-2 and clinch their maiden FIFA U-17 World Cup at a packed Vivekananda Yuba Bharati Krirangan in Kolkata. England have now done a FIFA double in the same year, having won the FIFA U-20 World Cup in June. Earlier Brazil beat Mali 2-0 in the third-place playoff to earn a consolation after they lost to England in the semi-final.

7. Pro Kabaddi League: Hat-trick for Patna Pirates

Patna Pirates beat Gujarat Fortunegiants 55-38 to clinch its third straight title in the ProKabaddi league at the Jawaharlal Nehru Indoor Stadium in Chennai in season 5. Raider Pardeep Narwal (19 points) starred for Patna to single-handedly dominate the match and clinch the all-important victory.

- Top-scorer: Pardeep Narwal (Patna Pirates)
- Best debutant: Sachin (Gujarat Fortunegiants)
- Best raider: Pardeep Narwal
- Best defender: Surender Nada (Haryana Steelers)
- Most valuable player: Pardeep Narwal
PDF 30th Oct. 2017

1. World Stroke Day: October 29

World Stroke Day is observed on October 29 to underscore the serious nature and high rates of stroke. The theme for World Stroke Day 2017 is “What’s your reason for preventing stroke?”. Stroke occurs when the blood supply to part of the brain is cut off. Without blood, brain cells can be damaged or die.

2. India to host UN wildlife summit in 2020

India will host the next United Nations (UN) global wildlife conference in 2020, it was announced on 28 October. An announcement in this regard was made in the Philippine capital on the last day of the 12th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS COP). The CMS COP is held once in three years.

3. AU Small Bank, Sidbi launch Rs200 crore fund for MSMEs

AU Small Finance Bank tied up with Small Industries Development Bank of India (Sidbi) to launch a Rs200 crore fund for providing loans to micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs). The programme will fund term loans in the Rs25 lakh to Rs2 crore ticket size. Both the financial institutions will earmark a corpus of Rs100 crore for lending under this agreement this financial year.

4. N.J. Gangte appointed High Commissioner of India to Zambia

Shri N.J. Gangte (IFS: 1994) has been appointed as the next High Commissioner of India to the Republic of Zambia. He is expected to take up his assignment shortly. He is presently Joint Secretary in the Ministry of External Affairs.

5. Kidambi Srikanth wins French Open Super Series title

Kidambi Srikanth dished out a blemish less performance in French open final to collect his fourth Super Series title of the year. Srikanth took just 34 minutes to ease past Japanese qualifier Kento Nishimoto in the Super Series final 21-14, 21-13. Srikanth surpassed Saina Nehwal as the only Indian to win four Super Series titles in a year. Saina won three in 2010. He clinched titles at Indonesia, Australia and Denmark earlier this year.

6. Johor Cup hockey: Indian junior team wins bronze medal

Indian Junior Men’s Hockey team beat hosts Malaysia 4-0 in the Bronze medal match of the 7th Sultan of Johor Cup 2017 at the Taman Daya Hockey Stadium. Goals from Vishal Antil (15’, 25’), Vivek Prasad (11’) and Shilanand Lakra (21’) were enough for India to finish their tournament with the Bronze medal.
7. ATP World Tour: Bopanna wins doubles in Vienna

Rohan Bopanna and Pablo Cuevas of Uruguay won the doubles title in the Erste Bank Open. They beat Marcelo Demoliner and Sam Querrey 7-6(7), 6-7(4), 11-9. The title here worth 500 ATP points and €132,030 for the Indo-Uruguayan pair. It was the third Tour title of the season for the 37-year-old Bopanna, ranked 17 in the world.


The book ‘Dreamnation: Uniting a Country with Handwritten Dreams’ was released online by Indian women’s cricket team captain Mithali Raj recently. The book contains inspiring words of Dr A.P.J. Abdul Kalam. The book was co-authored by Saji Mathew and Jubie John.
1. Giriraj Singh launches MSME Delayed Payment Portal – MSME Samadhaan

Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Shri Giriraj Singh launched MSME Delayed Payment Portal – MSME Samadhaan. It will micro and small entrepreneurs across the country to directly register their cases relating to delayed payments by Central Ministries/Departments/CPSEs/State Governments. Shri Arun Kumar Panda, Secretary, Ministry of MSME along with other dignitaries and senior officials from the Ministry were also present. Speaking on the occasion, Shri Giriraj Singh said that the Micro, Small and Medium Enterprise Development (MSMED) Act, 2006 contains provisions to deal with cases of delayed payment to Micro and Small Enterprises (MSEs). As per the provisions, the buyer is liable to pay compound interest with monthly rests to the supplier on the amount at three times of the bank rate notified by Reserve Bank in case he does not make payment to the supplier for the supplies of goods or services within 45 days of the day of acceptance of the goods/service or the deemed day of acceptance.

2. India and World Bank sign $200 Million Loan Agreement for the Assam

The Government of India and the World Bank signed a $200 million Loan Agreement for the Assam Agribusiness and Rural Transformation Project. The Project will support the Government of Assam to facilitate agri-business investments, increase agriculture productivity and market access, and enable small farm holders produce crops that are resilient to recurrent floods or droughts in the state. The Project will be implemented in over 16 Districts of Assam. Over 500,000 farming households will directly benefit from the Project. At least 30 percent women are expected to participate in project activities. Specific focus will be given to women-led enterprises and their participation in the decision-making process of farmer producer organizations. The $200 million loan from the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD), has a 7-year grace period, and a maturity of 16.5 years.

3. SBI extends Rs 2317 crore for 43 solar power projects

State Bank of India signed an agreement with seven companies for funding solar power energy following a line of credit from World Bank. The seven companies include Adani Group, JSW Energy, Hinduja Renewables, Tata Renewables Energy, Azure Power, Cleantech Solar and Hero Solar Energy. The bank has funded 43 projects rooftop solar power projects amounting Rs 2317 crore with the aggregate capacity of 475 mw. SBI has availed $ 625 mn from World Bank.

4. Government sets up Arun Jaitley led panel on PSU bank mergers

Moving ahead with reforms in the public sector banking space, the government has constituted a ministerial panel headed by Finance Minister Arun Jaitley that will oversee merger proposals of state-owned banks. The other members of the panel include Railway and Coal Minister Piyush Goyal and Defence Minister Nirmala Sitharaman. The panel will oversee the proposals coming from boards of PSBs for consolidation.
5. Microsoft joins IIT Kharagpur to create 'deeper' search engine

In a bid to take on Google Search, Microsoft said it is working with professors from the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT)-Kharagpur towards developing a system that can form the basis for a deeper, more meaningful search engine. The new search engine could assist users looking for subjective information and trusted opinions, the company said in a statement. Bing is a web search engine owned and operated by Microsoft.

6. Vice Admiral Ajit Kumar P assumes charge as the Vice Chief of Naval Staff

Vice Admiral Ajit Kumar P, AVSM, VSM has assumed charge as the Vice Chief of Naval Staff from Vice Admiral Karambir Singh AVSM at a formal ceremony held at South Block, New Delhi. Vice Admiral Karambir Singh proceeds to Visakhapatnam and is scheduled to take over as Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief Eastern Naval Command on 31 Oct 17.

7. Venezuela's opposition awarded Sakharov Prize

The democratic opposition and political prisoners in Venezuela have won the European Union's Sakharov Prize for human rights. The European Parliament said it wanted to reward the courage of students and politicians fighting for freedom in the face of a repressive government. The Venezuelan laureates follow the footsteps of last year's winners, two Yazidi women who escaped sexual enslavement by Isis group.

8. Anupam Kher receives 'Pramod Mahajan Smriti Award'

Veteran Bollywood actor Anupam Kher received Pramod Mahajan Smriti Award in Pune. The veteran actor was recently appointed as Chairman of Film and Television Institute of India.

9. Mexican Grand Prix: Hamilton takes fourth title

Britain’s Lewis Hamilton has been crowned Formula One world champion after he finished ninth in a dramatic Mexican Grand Prix. The race was won by Red Bull’s Max Verstappen but Mercedes’ Hamilton clinched his fourth drivers’ championship after Ferrari’s Sebastian Vettel was unable to win the race following collisions between the trio on the first lap.

10. Tamil writer Melanmai Ponnusamy passes away

Tamil writer and Sahitya Akademi award winner Melanmai Ponnusamy passed away. He was 66. He won the award in 2008 for his short story collection, Minsara poo. He had published 22 short story collections, six novels, six novellas and a collection of essays. His first short story was published in Semmalar, the literary magazine of the Communist Part of India (Marxist).