

## National

### GST Council cuts tax rate on fertiliser to 5 pc from 12 pc

i. Just a couple of hours before the **Goods and Services Tax (GST)** roll out, the all-powerful GST Council has reduced the tax rate on fertiliser to 5 percent from previously decided **12 per cent**.

ii. Finance Minister Arun Jaitley, who heads the GST Council comprising representatives of states, states the decision to reduce the tax rate on fertiliser was taken because of apprehensions that price of the crop nutrient may go up. The GST Council, in another move to give relief to farmers, also cut the tax rate on exclusive parts of tractors from **28 per cent to 18 per cent**.

#### Important Takeaways from above News-

- The much-awaited Goods and Services Tax (GST) was rolled out from **01st July 2017**.
- The **GST**, which unifies more than a dozen central and state levies like excise duty, service tax and VAT.

### Govt lowers interest rate by 0.1 % on small saving schemes for July-Sep quarter

i. The government has lowered interest rate on small saving schemes by **0.1 percent** for the July- September quarter. The move will prompt banks to lower deposit rates. The rates of small saving schemes like PPF, Kisan Vikas Patra and Sukanya Samriddhi have been lowered across the board compared to the April-June quarter.

ii. Since April last year, interest rates of all small saving schemes have been recalibrated on a quarterly basis. According to finance ministry notification, investments in the public provident fund (PPF) scheme will fetch lower annual rate of 7.8 percent. **Kisan Vikas Patra (KVP)** investments will yield **7.5 per cent and mature in 115 months**.

iii. The one for girl child savings, Sukanya Samriddhi Account Scheme, will offer 8.3 percent annually, from 8.4 per cent at present. The investment on 5-year Senior Citizens Savings Scheme will yield **8.3 per cent**.

#### Important Takeaways from above News-

- KVP can be purchased from any Departmental Post Office.
- **Sukanya Samriddhi Account** can be opened up to age of **10 years** only from the date of birth.

### India contributes \$500,000 to UN Peace building Fund

i. **India has contributed \$500,000** to the UN Peacebuilding Fund, expressing hope that more funding by nations will boost efforts by the world body to build and sustain peace. India has been a member of the Peacebuilding Commission since its inception in **December 2005** and has so far contributed \$5 million to the Peacebuilding Fund. The fresh contribution of **\$500,000** to the fund will be affected over the coming days.

ii. The fund was launched to support activities, actions, programmes and organisations that seek to build a lasting peace in countries emerging from conflict.

#### Important Takeaways from above News-

- The Peacebuilding Commission (PBC) is an intergovernmental advisory body that supports peace efforts in conflict-affected countries and is a key addition to the capacity of the International Community in the broad peace agenda.

### Donald Trump picks Indian American Krishna R Urs to be ambassador to Peru

i. US President Donald Trump has nominated **Krishna R. Urs** to be the ambassador to Peru, the White House announced. The appointment of Urs, a career member of the Senior Foreign Service, would have to be approved by the Senate.

ii. He is currently Charge d'Affaires of the US Embassy in Madrid. Urs took over after James Costos, who was appointed by former President Barack Obama, resigned. Urs, a 30-year veteran of the foreign service was earlier the Deputy Chief of Mission in Spain.



#### Important Takeaways from above News-

- Lima is the capital of **Peru**.
- **Pedro Pablo Kuczynski** is present president of Peru.

### **BHEL signs pact with Japanese firm for manufacturing coaches for metro trains**

**i. Bharat Heavy Electricals Ltd** has entered into a technology collaboration agreement with Kawasaki Heavy Industries Ltd (KHI) of Japan for manufacturing of stainless steel coaches and bogies for metros. The agreement covers establishing design, engineering and manufacturing facilities at BHEL using Japanese technology. It will also entitle BHEL for all technological advances and upgrades.

**ii.** BHEL supplies electric as well as diesel locomotives, EMUs, and propulsion systems for Indian Railways. Kawasaki Heavy Industries manufactures heavy equipment/products and its Rolling Stock Company has supplied EMU (**Metro/Commuter**) train sets to various countries like US, Singapore, Taiwan, Hong Kong etc., besides Japan.

#### **Important Takeaways from above News-**

- **BHEL** has been the bedrock of India's Heavy Electrical Equipment industry since its incorporation in **1964**.

### **EC launches special drive to enrol left out voters**

**i.** Election Commission (EC) has launched the nation wide month long special drive from **01st July 2017** for maximisation of registration of eligible electors with the focus on left out eligible young citizens in the age group of 18-19. During the drive, the EC will remove names of registered dead electors, if any, from electoral rolls.

**ii.** During the Special Enrollment Drive, which will be completed by **31st July**, special attention would be given receiving Form 6 for enrolment of new electors and Removal of names of registered dead electors, if found any.

#### **Important Takeaways from above News-**

- **Election Commission** of India is a permanent Constitutional Body.
- The Election Commission was established in accordance with the Constitution on **25th January 1950**.
- It currently consists of Chief Election Commissioner and two Election Commissioners.
- Achal Kumar Jyoti is 21st Chief Election Commissioner of India.

### **Growth of eight core sectors slowed to 3.6 % in May**

**i. The growth of eight** core sectors slowed to 3.6 per cent in May due to fall in output of coal and fertilisers. The growth rate of eight infrastructure sectors— coal, crude oil, natural gas, refinery products, fertilisers, steel, cement and electricity — was 5.2 percent in May last year. Coal and fertiliser productions recorded negative growth of 3.3 per cent and 6.5 per cent, respectively, as per the government data released.

**ii.** Steel sector growth dipped to **3.7 per cent last month** as against 13.4 percent in May 2016. Slow-growth in key sectors would also have implications on the Index of Industrial Production (IIP) number as these segments account for about 41 percent to the total factory output. However, growth in refinery products and electricity output grew by 5.4 per cent and **6.4 per cent in May** as against 3.3 per cent and 6.2 per cent, respectively in the same period last year. Natural gas production too grew by 4.5 percent in May as against a negative growth rate of 6.5 percent a year earlier. In April, these eight sectors had recorded a growth rate of 2.8 percent.

### **PIB launches web page on GST**

**i.** The government's information dispensation arm, **Press Information Bureau** has launched a special page for the Goods and Services Tax. The page on the PIB website was launched by Principal Director-General, Press Information Bureau, A. P. Frank Noronha.

**ii.** The web page on **GST** is a one-stop platform for all information on the new tax regime. It contains press releases issued till date on the **Goods and Services Tax (GST)** in both Hindi and English. The web page also contains various presentations and FAQs on GST.

### **Quick Reaction Surface-to-Air Missile successfully test fired**

**i.** The indigenously developed **Quick Reaction Surface-to-Air (QRSAM)** short-range missile, which has a capability of engaging multiple targets was successfully test-fired from a test range along the Odisha coast.

**ii.** The missile has a strike range of **25 km to 30 km**. Designed to be a quick reaction missile, it involves an all-weather weapon system capable of tracking and firing. The missile was test-fired from a truck-mounted canister launcher from launch complex-3 at the **Integrated Test Range (ITR)** at **Chandipur, Odisha**.

### **Nandan Nilekani, Helion's Sanjeev Aggarwal launch \$100-million fund "Fundamentum"**



i. Aadhaar architect **Nandan Nilekani** and Helion Venture's **Sanjeev Aggarwal** have launched an investment fund called Fundamentum with a corpus of **\$100 million** to back startups looking for growth capital.

ii. The corpus may be extended to **\$200 million** if the fund sees more opportunities, the two founders said. The fund, which has so far closed **\$50 million**, will see one-third of the corpus coming from Nilekani and Aggarwal. Fundamentum has already brought on board six entrepreneurs who will also invest in the fund.

### India scores well on FSB reform report card to G20

i. The **Financial Stability Board (FSB)**, an international body for the global financial system, has placed India in the league of countries that are 'compliant or largely compliant' on the implementation of priority area reforms. Ahead of the **G20 Summit in Germany** to be attended by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, among other world leaders, the FSB has submitted its status report on progress in financial regulatory reforms in various jurisdictions, including India.

ii. The report listed India as a '**compliant**' jurisdiction with regard to **Basel III** reforms in risk-based capital and as 'largely compliant' on liquidity coverage ratio. Other countries that have been found to be 'compliant or largely compliant' on these metrics include Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Japan, Mexico, South Korea, Russia, Singapore, South Africa, Switzerland, Turkey and the US. At the same time, France, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, Spain and the UK have been found to be 'materially non-compliant' on at least one parameter.

### Important Takeaways from the above News:

- The FSB was established in **April 2009** as the successor to the Financial Stability Forum (FSF).
- **Financial Stability Board (FSB)** Secretariat in Basel, Switzerland.

### AFSPA in Nagaland extended for six months

i. Entire Nagaland has been declared as "disturbed area" for six more months under the **Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act (AFSPA)**, which empowers security forces to conduct operations anywhere without any prior notice. In a gazette notification, the home ministry stated it is of the opinion that the area comprising the whole of **Nagaland** is in such a "disturbed and dangerous condition" that the use of armed forces in aid of the civil power is necessary.

ii. Now, therefore, in exercise of the powers conferred by Section 3 of the **Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act, 1958**, the central government hereby declares that whole of the said state to be a 'disturbed area' for a period of six months with effect from **30th June 2017** for the purpose of that Act.

### Important Takeaways from the above News-

- **AFSPA** which was enacted in 1958 amid the nascent Naga insurgency, gives powers to the army and state and central police forces to shoot to kill, search houses and destroy any property that is "likely" to be used by insurgents in areas declared as "disturbed" by the home ministry.

### President legalises 'Kambala' buffalo races in Karnataka

the bill passed by Karnataka Assembly to legalise traditional buffalo race '**Kambala**'. In pursuance of the proviso to clause (1) of **article 213** of the Constitution of India, the President of India hereby approves the promulgation of '**The Prevention of cruelty to Animals (Karnataka Amendment) Ordinance, 2017**' by the Governor of Karnataka.

ii. Bowing to public pressure, a bill to legalise traditional buffalo race '**Kambala**' and bullock cart races in Karnataka was passed by the state Assembly in February with all parties backing the move. The Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960, was amended in its application to Karnataka by the bill which was tabled after the clamour for **Kambala** grew, spurred by the success of pro-jallikattu (taming of bull) stir in **Tamil Nadu**.

i. The President gave his assent to



### Indo-Thailand joint military exercise begins in Himachal Pradesh

i. A 14-day joint military training exercise between **India and Thailand** started in **Himachal Pradesh**. The joint exercise of the Indian Army with the Royal Thailand Army commenced at Bakloh in Chamba district.

ii. The aim of this exercise is to build and promote closer relations while exchanging skills and experiences between the two armies. **'Exercise Maitree 2017'** is a continuation of a series of joint exercises between the Indian Army and the Royal Thailand Army.

**Important Takeaways from Above-**

- A joint training exercise between the Indian Army and the Royal Army of Oman named Al Nagah-II 2017 also held in Himachal Pradesh in March 2017.
- Bangkok is the capital of Thailand.
- Its currency is Thai baht.

**TERI ranked second among world's climate think tanks**

i. An international body which focuses on climate policies has ranked **The Energy Resources Institute (TERI)** among the top think tanks in the world. TERI was ranked number two by the **International Center for Climate Governance (ICCG)**.

ii. The New Delhi-based think tank was ranked under the category **'2016 Top Climate Think Tanks in the Rest of the World--Absolute Global Rankings'** during ICCG's 23rd annual conference of the European Association of Environmental and Resource Economists (EAERE) in Athens in Greece.

**Important Takeaways from Above News-**

- The Director General of TERI is Ajay Mathur.

**Karnataka launches 'Elevate 100' scheme for start-ups**

i. The **Karnataka government** has launched the **'Elevate 100' scheme** to identify and nurture innovative start-ups. The aim is to identify 100 most innovative start-ups in the state to elevate them to the next level of success.

ii. The Elevate scheme is the brainchild of the start-up cell, Karnataka Biotechnology and Information Technology Services (KBITS), to help start-ups across the state succeed by providing them with access to mentors, networking opportunities, and in-depth sessions for start-ups on accounting, and emerging technologies.

**Unions to observe July 19 as 'Save public sector banks' day**

i. The United Forum of Bank Unions has decided to observe July 19, the **48th anniversary of nationalization of major banks**, as **'Save public sector banks' day**.

ii. Members will wear a commemorative badge on the day, display posters in front of all branches, distribute leaflets and hold rallies/demonstrations at all centers across the country.

**Important Takeaways from Above-**

- The Government of India issued an ordinance and nationalized the 14 largest commercial banks with effect from the midnight of **19 July 1969**.
- **K.K.Nair** is General Secretary of Indian National Bank Officers Congress.

**Sushma Swaraj inaugurated the 9th edition Delhi Dialogue**

i. **External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj** has inaugurated the **9th edition of Delhi Dialogue**.

ii. The theme for Delhi Dialogue 9 is **'India-ASEAN relations: Charting the Course for the Next 25 Years'**.

**Important Takeaways from Above News-**

- ASEAN was established on 8 August 1967 in Bangkok, Thailand.

**Jammu & Kashmir Assembly passes resolution to implement GST in the state**

i. **Jammu and Kashmir Assembly** adopted a resolution to implement the goods and services tax (GST), bringing the state's indirect taxation into the new unified tax regime that the rest of the country adopted on 1 July at a landmark ceremony in Parliament.

ii. With this Jammu and Kashmir has become the **last state to pass the GST bill in the state.**

**Important Takeaways from the above News-**

- **Mehbooba Mufti Sayeed** is the present chief minister of Jammu and Kashmir.
- **Narinder Nath Vohra** is the present governor of Jammu and Kashmir.

**Pradeep Kumar Rawat appointed as the next Ambassador of India to Indonesia**

i. **Pradeep Kumar Rawat** presently a Joint Secretary in the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), has been appointed as the **next Ambassador of India to Indonesia.**

ii. Rawat, an Indian Foreign Service (IFS) officer of the 1990 batch, is expected to take up his assignment shortly.

**Important Takeaways from Above News-**

- The capital of Indonesia is Jakarta.
- **Joko Widodo** is the current president of Indonesia.

**N Chandrasekaran appointed as Chairman of Tata Global Beverages Limited**

i. **Tata Global Beverages Ltd.** appointed **Natarajan Chandrasekaran** as the **Chairman** of its board with immediate effect. Chandrasekaran will succeed **Harish Bhat.**

ii. The Board has also appointed **Siraj Azmat Chaudhry** as Non-Executive Independent Director.

**Important Takeaways from the above News-**

- **Natarajan Chandrasekaran** is also head of Tata Sons.
- **Harish Bhat** was appointed in place of former Tata Sons chairman **Cyrus Mistry** in November 2016.

**Trilateral Malabar exercise to kick off on July 10**

i. **The Malabar naval exercise** involving **Indian, American and Japanese navies** will kick start on July 10 in the Bay of Bengal.

ii. The aim of the Malabar exercise is to achieve deeper military ties and greater interoperability among the three navies in the strategically-important Indo-Pacific region. India and the US have regularly conducted the annual exercise since 1992.

**India declares itself free from H5N1 and H5N8 bird flu**

i. India has declared itself free from highly pathogenic **Avian Influenza (H5N1 and H5N8)** after surveillance in the states showed no evidence of its presence. It has been notified to the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE).

ii. India had reported outbreaks of influenza at various epicenters in different states across the country between October 2016 and February 2017.

**Important Takeaways from Above News-**

- Avian influenza refers to the disease caused by infection with avian (bird) influenza (flu) Type A viruses.

**Odisha govt signs EOI with IAAF & AFI to establish High-Performance Academy**

i. **The Odisha government** signed an **Expression of Intent (EOI)** with the **International Association of Athletics Federations (IAAF)** and **Athletics Federation of India (AFI)** to establish a High-Performance Academy in Bhubaneswar.

ii. The EOI was signed by Sports Secretary **Vishal Kumar Dev** and AFI president **Adille Sumariwala** and IAAF president **Lord Sebastian Coe** in the presence of Chief Minister **Naveen Patnaik.**

iii. An academy for athletes will be built in the **Kalinga Stadium.**

**Indus OS partners with YES Bank to launch OS-integrated UPI platform**



**i. Indus OS** has partnered with **YES Bank** to launch **OS-integrated UPI (Unified Payment Interface)** payment platform in India.

**ii.** Users with Indus OS will be able to use this UPI payment platform on SMS, dialer interface, and on third party apps like WhatsApp. This means P2P transactions, as well as utility payments, can be made via SMS or messaging. The platform is expected to launch in this quarter.

#### **Banking Takeaways from Above News-**

- Co-founder and CEO of Indus OS is Rakesh Deshmukh
- The CEO of YES Bank is Rana Kapoor.

#### **EPFO ties up with 5 banks to collect PF dues**

**i. Retirement fund body EPFO (Employees' Provident Fund Organisation)** has inked pacts with five banks for collections of provident dues and to make retirement payments.

**ii.** The tie-ups with Bank of Baroda, ICICI Bank, HDFC Bank, Axis Bank and Kotak Mahindra Bank will help EPFO save around Rs 125 crore a year and expedite its investments as well as payment of benefits to its members.

#### **Important Takeaways from Above News-**

- EPFO came into existence under the promulgation of the Employee's Provident Fund Ordinance on the 15th November 1951.
- It was replaced by the Employee's Provident Fund Act, 1952.

#### **Siemens opens its first digital factory in India**

**i. Siemens** opened its first digital factory in **India**, also the third globally after one each in Germany and China, as the industrial conglomerate pitches smart facilities to small and medium scale enterprises in the country.

**ii.** The digital factory is one of the nine divisions at Siemens. It aims to provide a comprehensive portfolio of hardware and software products which enable comprehensive integration of data from development, production, and suppliers.

#### **Center launches GST Rates Finder app to verify accurate tax rate under GST regime**

**i.** Centre has launched an app – **GST Rates Finder** to verify the accurate tax rate on commodity and services under the Goods and Services Tax (GST) regime. Finance Minister Arun Jaitley launched the app in New Delhi.

**ii.** Through this app, user can determine GST rate by entering the name of the commodity or service. The search result will list all the Goods and Services containing the name which was typed in the search box. A taxpayer can search for applicable CGST, SGST, UTGST rate and Compensation Cess on a supply.

#### **JIGYASA - Student-Scientist connect programme launched**

**i. Jigyasa**, a student- scientist connect program was officially launched in New Delhi recently. Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), has joined hands with Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan (KVS) to implement this program.

**ii.** MoU signing ceremony was held in the presence of **Dr. Harsh Vardhan**, Minister of Science & Technology and **Shri Prakash Javadekar**, Minister of HRD.

**iii.** "JIGYASA" is one of the major initiative taken up by CSIR at the national level, during its Platinum Jubilee Celebration Year.

#### **MRP to be sole price decider from Jan 1, 2018**

**i.** From January 1, 2018, the price of a packaged good would no longer depend on where you bought it- be it a local Kirana store, a mall, a five-star hotel or an airport. The Consumer Affairs Ministry has amended the rules that govern packaged commodities to this effect.

**ii.** As per the amended Legal Metrology rules for packaged commodities, the Centre has clarified that the retail sale price shall be the maximum retail price (MRP) inclusive of all taxes, with the provision to round off the price to the nearest rupee or 50 paise.

#### **RBI allows NBFCs to offer new pension scheme**

**i. The Reserve Bank of India** has allowed systematically important **non-banking**



**finance companies (NBFCs)** to sell and market the **new pension scheme (NPS)**. **ii.** NBFCs with asset size of Rs500 crore and above that have made a net profit in the preceding financial year be permitted to sell NPS to their clients after registration with the pension regulator.

**Important Takeaways from Above News-**

- RBI Headquarters in Mumbai.
- The 24th Governor of RBI is Dr. Urjit Patel.
- Non-Banking Financial Company (NBFC) is a company registered under the Companies Act, 1956 of India.

**Indian-origin man Guruswamy Jayraman awarded Australia's highest civilian award**

**i. Guruswamy Jayraman**, a 69-year-old Glenwood resident who migrated from Delhi to Australia in 1991, has been awarded **Order of Australia** for community work, **the highest civilian award in Australia**.

**ii.** He holds a graduate diploma in health counseling and in medical terminology and counseling.



**Important Takeaways from Above News-**

- The capital of Australia is Canberra.
- Its Currency is Australian dollar.
- Malcolm Turnbull is the PM of Australia.

**Indian Ambassador to Peru Sandeep Chakravorty appointed New York Consul General**

**i.** India's Ambassador to Peru **Sandeep Chakravorty** has been appointed as the head of the **Indian consulate in New York**.

**ii.** The 1996 Indian Foreign Service (IFS) officer will replace Riva Ganguly Das as Consul General in one of the busiest Indian diplomatic missions overseas.

**iii.** Chakravorty (47) was India's Deputy High Commissioner in Dhaka, before being appointed as Ambassador to Peru and Bolivia.

**First Edition of WINGS 2017 – “Sab Uden, Sab Juden”- Expanding Regional Connectivity Hosted in New Delhi**

**i.** The First edition of **WINGS 2017 – “Sab Uden, Sab Juden”- Expanding Regional Connectivity** was hosted in New Delhi by the Ministry of Civil Aviation. The Plenary session was chaired by the **Union Minister of Civil Aviation, Shri P. Ashok Gajapathi Raju**.

**ii.** This event brought together the key stakeholders of the Aviation Sector such as States, Tourism Departments, and Tour Operators as a Group representing airline consumers to facilitate interaction with various airlines, airport operators, cargo operators and other ecosystem players at a common forum.

**Important Takeaways from Above News-**

- India is one of the fastest growing aviation markets and currently the ninth largest civil aviation market in the world.

**First International Aviation Security seminar organized by National Security Guard in Haryana**

**i.** The Minister of State for Skill Development & Entrepreneurship (I/C) Shri Rajiv Pratap Rudy attended the second day of the **first International Aviation Security Seminar in Manesar Haryana**.

**ii. National Security Guard (NSG)** has organized the seminar, with the aim of bringing all major stakeholders under one roof and facilitate them sharing views/opinion, discussions, brainstorming with the matters concerning Aviation Security.

**iii.** Shri Rajiv Pratap Rudy also hoisted the National Flag at NSG Campus, during the National Flag Foundation program. It is the India's 67th Flagpole and **26th highest Monumental Flagpole**.

**Important Takeaways from Above News-**

- NSG was founded in 1984
- It Headquarters in New Delhi

- Current Director General of NSG is Sudhir Pratap Singh

### GMR gets Rs. 1,330 cr loan from Axis Bank for developing Mopa airport

- GMR Goa International Airports Ltd**, a subsidiary of GMR Airports Ltd, has executed a debt facility agreement for the development of Greenfield airport at Mopa.
- The entire debt of Rs. 1,330 crore was underwritten by Axis Bank on a long tenor door to door basis of 18 years on competitive terms.

#### Important Takeaways from Above News-

- Srinivas Bommidala, Chairman-GMR Airports,
- Shikha Sharma is the MD and CEO of Axis Bank.

### India to import crude oil from US for first time

- India, the world's third-largest oil importer**, will import crude oil from the **United States** for the first time after **Indian Oil Corp** bought a cargo that will be delivered in October 2017.
- India is the latest Asian country to buy US crude after **South Korea, Japan, China, Thailand, Australia and Taiwan** as the countries seek to diversify oil imports from other regions after the OPEC cuts drove up prices of Middle East heavy-sour crude, or grades with a high sulphur content.

#### Important Takeaways from Above News-

- The Chairman of Indian Oil Corporation Ltd. is **Sanjiv Singh**.

### John Joseph to take charge as chief of GST intelligence agency

- A key intelligence agency tasked with checking evasion of **Goods and Services Tax (GST)** has got its new chief. Senior bureaucrat **John Joseph** has been appointed **Director General of Goods and Services Tax Intelligence (DG GSTI)**.
- The DG GSTI is the new name given to the Directorate General of Central Excise Intelligence (DGCEI), mandated to check service tax and central excise duty evasion.

CLAT coaching by NLU grads

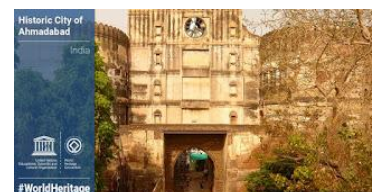
### President launches 3 digital initiatives over e-education

- President Pranab Mukherjee has launched digital initiatives - **Swayam, Swayam Prabha and National Academic Depository** - in New Delhi to push **e-education** in the country. The aim of the initiatives is to raise the Gross Enrollment Ratio in the higher education from **24.5 to 30 by 2020**.
- Massive Open Online Courses, **Swayam** will host courses taught in classrooms from Class 9th to post-graduation, which can be accessed by anyone, anywhere at any time.
- Swayam Prabha** is the platform of 32 DTH channels devoted to telecasting high-quality educational programmes 24X7 using GSAT-15 satellite.
- National Academic Depository** will facilitate online verification of certificates. All the courses are interactive and available free of cost.



### UNESCO declares Ahmedabad as world heritage city

- Ahmedabad city** has been declared as a **World Heritage City** at the 41st session of UNESCO's world heritage committee being held at **Krakow in Poland**. Nomination of Ahmedabad was supported by close to 20 countries, including Turkey, Lebanon, Tunisia, Portugal, Peru and Kazakhstan.
- Out of total **287 world heritage cities** across the globe, there were only two cities in the Indian subcontinent- Bhaktpur in **Nepal** and Galle in **Sri Lanka**.



#### Important Takeaways from Above News-

- Ahmedabad is the city in the state of **Gujarat**. The **Sabarmati River** runs through its center.
- **Vijay Rupani** is the Chief Minister of Gujarat.



- UNESCO Headquarters based in **Paris, France**.
- **Irina Bokova** Director-general of the UNESCO.
- UNESCO stands for- **United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization**.

### **Government to organize global food fair in November 2017 to boost food sector**

- The government of India will organize a global food fair** in November this year to provide a platform to Indian farmers and manufacturers to showcase their products and explore partnerships with foreign companies.
- The three-day international level fair '**World Food India 2017**' is being organized on November 3-5 by the Food Processing Ministry, where industry body CII will be an event partner.
- The World Food India is a step aimed at creating India a 'Global Food Factory' and 'Global Food Retail Market'.

### **Important Takeaways from Above News-**

- Harsimrat Kaur Badal is the Food Processing Minister.

### **Finance Ministry launched next gold bond tranche.**

- The next tranche of **sovereign gold bond (SGB) scheme** was launched recently by the Government. This time, providing a **2.5 percent annual interest** to investors.
- The bonds will be available in banks, Stock Holding Corporation of India Limited (SHCIL), designated post offices and recognized stock exchanges namely National Stock Exchange of India Limited(NSE) and Bombay Stock Exchange(BSE).
- Finance Ministry has announced the sixth tranche of gold bonds applications for which will be accepted from July 10 to July 14, 2017, according to the finance ministry. The bonds will be issued to eligible applicants on July 28.
- The minimum investment will be 1 gram of gold. The maximum limit can be subscribed up to 500 grams per person per fiscal year.

### **RBI amends order on bankruptcy action on 12 large NPAs**

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has amended its earlier order asking banks to initiate bankruptcy proceedings against 12 companies which have outstanding loans amounting to over Rs 5,000 crore as on March 2016.
- The amendment, made through a notification, comes after the **Gujarat High Court** asked the RBI to remove the stipulation on its order last month that the 12 non-performing assets (NPAs), or bad loans, would be granted priority at the National Company Law Tribunal.
- Essar Steel**, one of the 12 large NPAs identified by the RBI, had approached the Gujarat High Court for the RBI proceedings.

### **Finance Minister Arun Jaitley Launches 'Aaykar Setu' To Enhance E-Access Of Taxpayers**

- Finance Minister Arun Jaitley** launched 'Aaykar Setu', an e-initiative for the Income tax Department to directly communicate with the taxpayers and aimed at providing information on useful tax services.
- To enhance mobile access experience, a mobile responsive Android version was also released along with the **desktop version**.

### **Mother Teresa's Blue-Bordered Sari declared an Intellectual Property**

- The famous blue-bordered sari of Mother Teresa**, who has been canonized as Saint Teresa of Calcutta by the Vatican, has been recognized as **an Intellectual Property** of the Missionaries of Charity.
- This is the first time that a uniform has been made the intellectual property.** It has obtained "distinctive symbolic identity" of the Missionaries of Charity.

### **Important Takeaways from Above News-**

- Mother Teresa was born on 26 August 1910 into a Kosovar Albanian family.
- She died at the age of 87 on 5th September 1997 at Calcutta, West Bengal.

### **Ministry of Health signs MoU with Government of West Bengal to set up Centre of Excellence in Transfusion Medicine**

- Ministry of Health and Family Welfare** signed an MoU with the **Government of West Bengal** to formalize its

support to set up a **state-of-the-art Centre of Excellence in Transfusion Medicine** at **Kolkata**.

ii. The Centre of Excellence in Transfusion Medicine will be set up in Kolkata. The initiative helps in strengthening the blood transfusion services in the State and the surrounding region. The government of India has approved this important initiative with an outlay of approximately **Rs.200 Crores** towards equipment, manpower and running costs.

#### **Important Takeaways from Above News-**

- Shri Keshari Nath Tripathi is the Governor of West Bengal.
- Smt. Mamta Banerjee is the CM of West Bengal.

#### **NGT imposes nationwide ban on nylon and synthetic manja**

i. The **National Green Tribunal** banned the use of ‘**Chinese**’ kite strings, made of nylon or any synthetic material on the grounds that it poses threat to life and environment.

ii. The Tribunal directed all state governments to prohibit the “**manufacture, sale, storage, purchase and use**” of synthetic manja or nylon threads and all other synthetic strings used for flying kites with immediate effect.

iii. A bench headed by NGT Chairperson Justice Swatanter Kumar ordered the authorities to ban import of any synthetic manja.

#### **Important Takeaways from Above News-**

- Mr. Justice Swatanter Kumar is the Present Chairperson of NGT.
- The National Green Tribunal has been established on 18.10.2010 under the National Green Tribunal Act 2010.

#### **President Pranab Mukherjee inaugurates ‘Ashiana Annexe’ in Dehradun, Uttarakhand**

i. **President Pranab Mukherjee** inaugurated the **annexe of the presidential retreat Ashiana** which has accommodation facilities for accompanying officers and staff of the Rashtrapati Bhavan.

ii. The Ashiana retreat was built originally as a bungalow of the commandant of the President's Bodyguard and was revived by Mukherjee after long years of disuse. **K R Narayanan**, in March 1998, was the last president to stay here.

#### **Important Takeaways from Above News-**

- Rashtrapati Ashiana was built by British in 1920 as Commandant’s Bungalow.

#### **HAL signs MoU with Defence Ministry**

i. **Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL)** has signed an MoU for the financial year 2017-18 with the Ministry of Defence. The annual MoU was signed between Ashok Kumar Gupta, Secretary, Department of Defence Production and T Suvarna Raju, CMD-HAL.

ii. The MoU has outlined targets on various performance parameters of the company during the year 2017-18. The revenue from operations has been targeted at Rs. 17,900 crore, the highest ever.

#### **Important Takeaways from Above News-**

- HAL had its origin as the Hindustan Aircraft Company which was incorporated on 23 Dec 1940 at Bangalore.
- HAL is Headquartered in Bengaluru.

#### **Axis Bank ties up with IIC to boost trade with Latin America**

i. **Axis Bank** has entered into a collaboration with **Inter-American Investment Corporation (IIC)** to facilitate trade with Latin America and the Caribbean.

ii. **Axis Bank** becomes the **first Indian bank** to participate in the Trade Finance Facilitation Programme as a confirming bank. IIC, a member of the Inter-American Development Bank Group, is a multilateral development bank committed to supporting the private sector in Latin America and the Caribbean.

#### **36th Foundation Day of NABARD celebrated**

i. **Union Finance Minister Arun Jaitley** inaugurated the **36th NABARD Foundation Day** and Silver Jubilee of **SHG Bank Linkage Programme, in New Delhi**.

ii. Self Help Group Bank Linkage Programme (SHG BLP) is a pioneering initiative of Financial Inclusion by

NABARD. The pilot stage of this program was started in year **1992**.

**Important Takeaways from Above News-**

- Harsh Kumar Bhanwala is the Chairman of NABARD.
- National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development is the full form of NABARD.
- NABARD came into existence on 12 July 1982.

**CM of Delhi launches e-RTI, Delhi becomes 2nd state to accept online applications**

**i.** Filing an **RTI application** with the **Delhi government** is now just a click away. **Delhi became the second state to launch e-RTI portal** that will enable citizens to file online Right to Information (RTI). Maharashtra is the first state to launch the online RTI platform.

**ii.** The portal launched recently will enable citizens to file RTI and seek information related to 172 departments of the Delhi government including the office of the CM and his ministers.

**iii.** The e-RTI portal, which has been designed by the National Informatics Centre (NIC), includes filling of application, payment of fees and getting replies online.

**Important Takeaways from Above News-**

- The current Lt. Governor of Delhi is Anil Baijal.

**Maharashtra, first state in the country to launch free injectable contraceptive for women**

**i.** Maharashtra has become the **first state in the country** to provide women an **injectable contraceptive for free**. The state's public health department launched a program called **Antara** to offer women an injection of Medroxyprogesterone acetate (MPA), a birth-control hormone.

**ii.** The announcements were made on the occasion of **World Population Day (11th July)**. According to state health officials, the injection, a safe means of birth control, is effective for three months. The injection will be given intramuscularly to women in the age bracket of 18-45 years.

**Venkaiah Naidu releases new version of NHB RESIDEX**

**i.** Minister for Housing and Urban Affairs **M Venkaiah Naidu** released the new version of **NHB RESIDEX** on the occasion of the **annual day of National Housing Bank**, entering its 30th year in New Delhi.

**ii.** The NHB RESIDEX captures movements in the prices of residential real estate prices. NHB RESIDEX for January-March, 2017 revealed that price indices for residential properties based on actual market prices for ongoing construction prices have increased over the previous quarter in 24 of the 47 cities covered in the Index.

**Important Takeaways from Above News-**

- The Head Office of NHB is at New Delhi.
- NHB was set up on July 9, 1988, under the National Housing Bank Act, 1987.
- Shri Sriram Kalyanaraman is the MD & CEO of NHB.

**India to host 8th edition of Theatre Olympics in 2018**

**i.** India will host **8th edition of Theatre Olympics in 2018**, the biggest theatre celebration of the world. The greatest carnival will start from February 17-April 08, 2018. India is hosting this event for the first time.

**ii.** There will be **five hundred plays and seven hundred ambience performances** from across the world.

**Important Takeaways from Above News-**

- Theatre Olympics was established in 1993.
- The inaugural ceremony of the Theatre Olympics will take place in New Delhi.
- The first country to host the Theatre Olympics was Greece in 1995.
- The 7th Theatre Olympics were held in Wroclaw, Poland.

**Meghalaya CM Mukul Sangma launches LIFE program at Songsak**

**i.** Meghalaya Chief Minister **Mukul Sangma** has recently launched an ambitious flagship program titled "**Livelihood Intervention and Facilitation of Entrepreneurship**" (**LIFE**) at Songsak.

ii. LIFE will focus on capacity building, Under the program, every 10 SHGs (Self-Help Groups) will be motivated to act like a bank and help each other. LIFE aims to bring all the poor and vulnerable women into the SHGs movement.

### **YES BANK Launches 'YES GST' Program to Assist MSMEs**

i. **YES Bank**, India's fourth largest private sector bank, along with **YES Global Institute** has launched 'YES GST' program for MSMEs (Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises) under its MSME CSR initiative, 'Say YES to Sustainable MSMEs in India'.

ii. Through the program, the bank will help MSMEs to understand the impact of the changes in tax system and prepare them to know the new GST tax system.

iii. YES Bank has also launched GST-Ready products for MSMEs.

### **SBI waives charge on IMPS fund transfer of up to Rs 1,000**

i. **Country's largest bank SBI** has waived charges for fund transfer of up to Rs 1,000 through its **IMPS (Immediate Payment Service)** to promote small transactions.

ii. SBI had been charging Rs 5 along with the applicable service tax for IMPS fund transfer of up to Rs 1,000. IMPS is an instant interbank electronic fund transfer service through mobile phones as well as internet banking.

iii. For IMPS, the charge will be Rs 5 along GST for fund transfer in the range of Rs 1,000 to Rs 1 lakh. The charge will go up to Rs 15 for transactions of Rs 1-2 lakh. GST at the rate of 18 per cent is applicable on all financial transactions.

### **Important Takeaways from Above News-**

- The Chairman of SBI is Smt. Arundhati Bhattacharya.
- SBI is Headquartered in Mumbai, Maharashtra.

### **Rajasthan becomes first State to fix minimum education qualification for cooperative body poll**

i. **Rajasthan becomes the first state in the country to fix minimum educational qualification for contesting cooperative body polls.** To this effect, the Rajasthan Government amended the State Cooperative Societies Rules, 2003.

ii. The new rules will benefit around 10,000 cooperative and agricultural credit societies. For contesting the election as members of governing boards of dairy societies, farming societies, consumer societies, weavers' societies, urban banks, housing construction societies, and cooperative unions, the minimum educational qualifications will range from class 5 to class 8.

iii. The primary committee members need to have passed at least class 8. For district level members the minimum qualification required is class 10, while those interested in being a member of State level committee will need to be a graduate.

### **Important Takeaways from Above News-**

- Smt. Vasundhara Raje is the present CM of Rajasthan.
- Shri Kalyan Singh is the Governor of Rajasthan.

### **Gujarat to get India's first high-speed rail training centre**

i. The country is set to get its **first high-speed rail training center at Gandhinagar**. The center will provide for advanced training modules on cutting edge technologies.

ii. While India's first bullet train is proposed to hit the track in **2023**, the training center is supposed to start operating by **2020**.

### **Important Takeaways from Above News-**

- **Achal Khare** is managing director of National High-Speed Rail Corporation (NHSRC).

### **Delhi Police to be equipped with 'super cop belt'**

i. **National capital police will be the first state police in India who will get 'super cop belt'**, a specially designed belt, widely used by Police in UK, USA, Russia and Para-military forces like CRPF, CISF, NSG etc.

ii. This belt will help cops to keep things like Gun, Mobile Pouch, Security Batten, Wireless Set Pouch & ammunition pouch.



### **DIPP to set up India's first TISC in Punjab**

**i. The Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion (DIPP), Ministry of Commerce & Industry has signed an Institutional agreement with the Punjab State Council of Science and Technology in New Delhi to establish India's first Technology and Innovation Support Center (TISC) at Patent Information Centre, Punjab.**

**ii.** The objective of the TISC is to stimulate a dynamic, vibrant and balanced Intellectual Property Rights (IPRs) system in India to foster creativity and innovation.

**iii. Services offered by TISCs include:**

1. Access to online patent and non-patent (scientific and technical) resources and IP-related publications;
2. Assistance in searching and retrieving technology information;
3. Training in database search;
4. On-demand searches (novelty, state-of-the-art and infringement);
5. Monitoring technology and competitors;
6. Basic information on industrial property laws, management and strategy, and technology commercialization and marketing.

### **Railways Ministry launches RailCloud Project, NIVARAN-Grievance Portal and CTSE Scheme**

**i.** Minister of Railways Shri Suresh Prabhakar Prabhu launched the following Initiatives:-

#### **1. RailCloud**

RailCloud is another step towards Digitization of Railways. Rail Cloud works on popular Cloud Computing system. It aims to improve customer satisfaction, improve revenue and effective, efficient and safe operations.

#### **2. NIVARAN**

'NIVARAN-Grievance Portal' is the first IT application to be launched on the RailCloud. It is the platform for resolution of service related grievances of serving and former railway employees.

#### **3. Cashless treatment Scheme in Emergency (CTSE)**

With an aim to provide immediate care to its retired employees in Golden Hour, the Railway Board has rolled out a Cashless treatment Scheme in Emergency (CTSE) in empanelled hospitals for retired employees and their dependent family members.

### **Maharashtra, first state to have law against social boycott**

**i. Maharashtra has become the first state** to make social boycott a crime after President Pranab Mukherjee cleared the legislation. The Maharashtra Prohibition of People from Social Boycott (Prevention Prohibition and Redressal) Act prescribes a maximum punishment of three years in jail and a fine of Rs 1 lakh.

**ii.** It aims to prevent atrocities carried out by extra-judicial courts and caste panchayats. The Act also provides for compensation to victims. The fines imposed on violators will be used to compensate them.

### **Health Ministry of India launches the National Strategic Plan for Malaria Elimination 2017-22**

**i. Shri J P Nadda,** Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare launched the **National Strategic Plan** for Malaria Elimination (2017-22). The Strategic Plan gives year wise elimination targets in various parts of the country depending upon the endemicity of malaria in the next 5 years.

**ii.** The strategies involve strengthening malaria surveillance, establishing a mechanism for early detection and prevention of outbreaks of malaria, effective indoor residual spray and augmenting the manpower and capacities for effective implementation for the next five years.

#### **Static Takeaways from Above News-**

- National Framework for Malaria Elimination (NFME) was launched in 2016 with the aim of eliminating malaria by 2030.

### **SBI to slash NEFT, RTGS charges by up to 75%**

**i.** To encourage more customers to transact digitally, State Bank of India will slash charges for **National Electronic Funds Transfer (NEFT) and Real Time Gross Settlement (RTGS)** transactions by up to **75 per cent with effect from July 15.**

ii. The country's largest lender has also waived charges for fund transfer of up to **Rs 1,000** done through **Immediate Payment Service (IMPS)**.

#### **Important Takeaways from Above News-**

- The minimum amount to be remitted through RTGS is Rs2 lakh.

#### **BRPL, TERI in MoU to explore opportunities in solar rooftops, e-vehicles**

i. **BSES Rajdhani Power Ltd (BRPL)** and **The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI)** have entered into a partnership to explore collaboration opportunities for solar rooftop, electric vehicles, energy storage systems, energy efficiency and smart grid technologies.

ii. The MoU has been signed for two years. The collaboration will help in research and explore newer collaboration opportunities in the domain of emerging technologies.

#### **Important Takeaways from Above News-**

- The Chairman of TERI is Shri Ashok Chawla.
- Shri Lalit Jalan is the Chairman of BSES.

#### **Google acquires Bangalore-based artificial intelligence firm Halli Labs**

i. American technology giant **Google has acquired** Bangalore-based artificial intelligence (AI) firm **Halli Labs** for an undisclosed sum.

ii. The firm becomes the latest AI start up to be snapped by a technology giant after a spate of similar acquisitions by firms such as Microsoft, Facebook, Apple among others.

#### **Important Takeaways from Above News-**

- **Sundar Pichai** is the CEO of Google.
- **Alphabet Inc.** is the parent company of Google.

#### **Indian scientists discover supercluster of galaxies 'Saraswati'**

i. For the first time in the country, a team of Indian scientists has claimed to have discovered an "**extremely large supercluster of galaxies**", **Saraswati**, in the universe.

ii. The supercluster was discovered by **Shishir Sankhyayan**, a PhD student at the Indian Institute of Science Education and Research (IISER), Pune, **Pratik Dabhade**, IUCAA research fellow, **Joe Jacob** of the Newman College, Kerala, and **Prakash Sarkar** of the National Institute of Technology, Jamshedpur.

#### **Important Takeaways from Above News-**

- The **Milky Way** is the galaxy that contains our Solar System.

#### **Railways launches India's first solar-powered DEMU train**

i. **Indian Railways** launched its first **1,600 HP solar powered Diesel Electric Multiple Unit (DEMU) train** with a unique facility of Battery Bank from Safdarjung station, New Delhi.

ii. A solar power DEMU train with six trailer coaches will save about 21,000 Litres of Diesel and thereby bring cost saving of **Rs.12 Lac every year**.

#### **Important Takeaways from Above News-**

- **Piyush Goyal** is the current railway minister of India.
- The DEMU train has been manufactured by **Integral Coach Factory, Chennai**.

#### **Railways launches mobile app that does more than just booking**

i. Indian Railways launched an integrated mobile application to cater to various passenger requirements over and above ticket booking. The new app will include **inquiry, on-board cleaning and ordering meal on a single platform**. The app is called **Rail SAARTHI** and was launched by Railway Minister.

ii. The **Rail SAARTHI (synergised advanced application rail travel help and information)** such as safety for

women, complaint facility and suggestion for improvement. One can also book air ticket through the app and give feedback.

### Raipur Airport Ranked First in Customer Satisfaction Index Survey

i. Raipur's Swami Vivekananda Airport was ranked first in Customer Satisfaction among 49 airports in the country.

ii. Raipur Airport achieved 4.84 score on a five point scale index in the latest CSI (Customer Service Index) survey conducted by an independent agency for the period of January-June 2017, followed by Udaipur, Amritsar and Dehradun airports which have scored 4.75, 4.74 and 4.73 respectively.



### Important Takeaways from Above News-

- Airports Authority of India (AAI) was constituted by an Act of Parliament and came into being on 1st April 1995.
- Dr. Guruprasad Mohapatra is the Chairman of AAI.

### India ranks 116 out of 157 nations on SDG index

i. India is ranked 116 out of 157 nations on a global index that assesses the performance of countries towards achieving the ambitious sustainable development goals (SDGs). The SDG Index and Dashboards Report produced by the Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN) and the Bertelsmann Stiftung.

ii. India is ranked 116th on the index with a score of **58.1**, behind countries such as Nepal, Iran, Sri Lanka, Bhutan and China.

iii. Pakistan is ranked 122. Sweden leads the list, followed by Denmark and Finland.



### Important Takeaways from Above News-

- The UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN) has been operating since 2012 under the auspices of the UN Secretary-General.
- SDGs were adopted in September 2015 at the UN Sustainable Development Summit in New York, US.

### Govt launches GST training programme

i. The government has launched a GST training programme to skill around two lakh youths in six months to handle tax compliance issues like invoice making. The people would be trained under the Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY).

ii. The new training course would cater to the need of GST trained professionals to help businesses in areas such as registration and calculation of tax liability under the new tax regime.

### Important Takeaways from the above News:

- Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY) is the flagship scheme of the Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship (MSDE).
- GST is a single tax on the supply of goods and services, right from the manufacturer to the consumer.

### Matunga becomes India's first railway station run by women

i. Central Railway has taken a step towards women empowerment by appointing an all-female work staff at the suburban Matunga station.

ii. According to the official, women have been manning this station, which falls on the Central Railway, since the past two weeks. A total of 30 women staffers, including 11 booking clerks, five RPF personnel, seven ticket checkers are working under the supervision of station manager MAMTA KULKARNI since last two weeks.

### J-K govt launches weekly festival at Dal Lake

i. The spectacular Dal Lake here hosted first ever 'Culture of Cruise', a weekly cultural programme organised by the Jammu and Kashmir government aimed to bring artists from various fields on one stage.



ii. The innovative programme series brings writers, performance artists, musicians, poets and academics together and offers a program of performances, workshops, talks, forums and debates.

### **The Book 'Future of Indian Universities: Comparative and International Perspectives' has released**

i. Nobel Laureate Professor Amartya Sen released a book titled "Future of Indian Universities: Comparative and International Perspectives" at Rashtrapati Bhavan. President Pranab Mukherjee, who received the first copy of the book.

ii. The book 'Future of Indian Universities: Comparative and International Perspectives' has been compiled by Professor (Dr.) C. Raj Kumar, Vice Chancellor of JGU University and is published by Oxford University Press.



### **Important Takeaways from Above News-**

- Amartya Sen was awarded the Nobel Memorial Prize in Economic Sciences in 1998 and India's Bharat Ratna in 1999 for his work in welfare economics.

### **Kolkata to host global business meet in November**

i. The Indian Chamber of Commerce (ICC), in association with the West Bengal government, will host Horasis Asia Meeting, a global business meet, in the city in November.

ii. The two-day business meet, starting November 26, will focus on sustainable business practices in various areas, including power and energy.

### **Important Takeaways from Above News-**

- Shashwat Goenka is the President of ICC.

### **Maharashtra government approved revised policy of scheme to improve girl child ratio**

The Maharashtra government has approved a revised policy of the 'Majhi Kanya Bhagyashree' scheme, according to which families who have a yearly income of up to Rs 7.5 lakh will be benefited. The scheme was launched by the state government on April 1, 2016, in place of 'Sukanya' scheme.

ii. It is aimed at improving the skewed girl child ratio, prevent sex determination and female foeticide, and support female education.

iii. **Earlier provision:** The 'Majhi Kanya Bhagyashree' scheme catered to girls from Below Poverty Line (BPL) families and those whose annual income was up to Rs 1 lakh.

iv. **Revised provisions:** Families having an income up to Rs 7.5 lakh will be eligible for the scheme. After bearing the first girl child, if the mother or the father undergoes a family planning operation, a sum of Rs 50,000 shall be deposited in a bank in the name of the girl child. The scheme will be valid only if there are a maximum of two girl children born. In case a third child is born, the scheme shall become invalid for the first two as well.

i.

### **India & Sri Lanka sign MoU to develop village in Anuradhapura District**

i. **India and Sri Lanka** have signed a MoU to develop a village in **Anuradhapura District (in Sri Lanka)** at a cost of 30 crores Sri Lankan rupees. The village in the name of a famous Buddhist monk Sobitha Thero, envisages construction of 153 new houses, a multi-purpose community building, internal water supply system and renovation of monk's quarters & library.

ii. The project is in line with Government of Sri Lanka's policy of rehabilitation of rural villages for economic development. It will benefit 153 families residing in the village.



### **Important Takeaways from Above News-**

- Mr. Taranjit Singh Sandhu is the High Commissioner of India to Sri Lanka.
- Maithripala Sirisena is the President of Sri Lanka.

### **Indians among top asylum-seekers, according to the International Migration Outlook 2017**

i. According to the **International Migration Outlook 2017 report** on **Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)** member countries, **Indians are among top asylum-seekers** in other countries such as New Zealand, Australia, Finland, Japan, and the United States of America.

ii. According to the report on OECD member-nations, top asylum-seekers to New Zealand between 2012 and 2016



were from China, India, Fiji, and Iraq. Among these, India and China were the largest source countries of asylum-seekers (11% and 9%), followed by Fiji (8%), Iraq (7%) and Pakistan (6%).

#### Important Takeaways from Above News-

- The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) was officially born on 30 September 1961.
- Angel Gurría is the Present Secretary-General of OECD.
- It is the 41st edition of International Migration Outlook 2017.

#### Venkaiah Naidu, Vice Presidential Candidate, Quits BJP And Government

i. **M Venkaiah Naidu**, the vice presidential candidate of the BJP-led ruling coalition, quit the government and BJP. Prime Minister Narendra Modi, top ministers, and allies were by Mr. Naidu as he completed the formalities for joining the vice presidential contest.

ii. In preparation for his new role, 68-year-old Mr. Naidu quit his ministries. Smriti Irani will take additional charge of the Information and Broadcasting Ministry and Narendra Tomar will take charge of Urban Development.

#### UIDAI launches mAadhaar app on Android

i. **UIDAI**, which issues Aadhaar numbers, has launched **mAadhaar app** for mobile users that will allow users to carry unique identification profile on mobile.

ii. It allows users to carry their Aadhaar demographic information, i.e. name, date of birth, gender, address and the photograph linked with their Aadhaar number, on their smartphones.

#### Important Takeaways from Above News-

- Shri J Satyanarayana is the part time Chairman of UIDAI.
- UIDAI stands for Unique Identification Authority of India.

#### Patnaik dedicates to Nation Odisha's longest bridge

i. **Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik** dedicated to the nation **the state's longest bridge** and named it after **Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose**.

ii. The **2.88 km bridge** over the river **Kathajodi** will connect the state capital of Bhubaneswar with Cuttack reducing the distance between the two cities by 12 km.

#### Important Takeaways from Above News-

- S C Jamir is the Present Governor of Odisha.

#### MoU Signed Between Department of Defence Production and GSL

i. **Goa Shipyard Limited (GSL)**, a **Miniratna Defence Public Sector Undertaking (DPSU)** signed an MoU for the financial year 2017-18 with Ministry of Defence.

ii. This year's MoU target for '**Revenue from Operations**' has been set at Rs1150 crore, which is 43 percent higher than the financial year 2016-17 target of Rs800 crore.

iii. Notably, in the financial year 2016-17, the Shipyard achieved historical high VoP of Rs1030 crore and PBT of Rs177 crore. GSL was adjudged as 'Best Performing Shipyard' by MoD.

#### FM Arun Jaitley releases National Trade Facilitation Action Plan.

i. Finance Minister **Arun Jaitley** released the National Trade Facilitation Action Plan. The **WTO-Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA)** was a major milestone for the global trading system.

ii. This **Action Plan** gives a time bound map, not only for implementing TFA, but also for India's initiatives for trade facilitation and ease of doing business which goes beyond TFA. According to a Finance Ministry statement, all actions covered under the plan have been **categorised by prioritising** the activities into short, mid and long term.

#### ICICI Bank offers up to Rs 15 lakh instant personal loan via ATMs

i. Largest private sector lender **ICICI Bank** will be selling personal loans of up to **Rs 15 lakh through its ATMs** that can be availed of by select salaried customers even if they haven't previously applied for one.

ii. The facility offers a bouquet of features - swift application in simple steps, multiple eligible loan amount options up to **Rs. 15 lakh based on pre-checked CIBIL** scores and instant transfer of the money to the customer's account.

#### Important Takeaways from Above News-

- CEO of ICICI Bank is **Chanda Kochhar**.
- Headquarter of ICICI is in **Mumbai**.

### India's first Eco-bridges for the movement of tigers in Telangana

i. In a first of its kind, **Telangana** State will have eco-friendly bridges over a canal cutting across the tiger corridor linking the **Tadoba-Andhari Tiger Reserve (TATR)** in the **Chandrapur district** of Maharashtra with the forests in Telangana's Kumram Bheem Asifabad district.

ii. The 'eco-bridges' will be constructed at key spots along the **72 km-long**, and at some places over a kilometre wide, right flank canal of the Pranahita barrage in the Bejjur and Dahegaon mandals.

### Important Takeaways from Above News-

- **Kawal Tiger Reserve** is located at Jannaram mandal of Mancherial District in Telangana state of India.
- Chief Minister of Telangana is **KC Rao**.

### India-Japan agreement on peaceful uses of N-energy comes into force

i. **India-Japan** agreement for Cooperation in the **Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy** has come into force recently. Foreign Secretary S Jaishankar and Ambassador of Japan to India Mr. Kenji Hiramatsu exchanged diplomatic notes in this regard. The agreement was signed on **11th November 2016** in Tokyo during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Japan.

ii. The agreement is a reflection of the strategic partnership between the two sides and will pave the way for enhanced cooperation in energy security and clean energy.

### Important Takeaways From Above News-

- The Capital of Japan is **Tokyo**.
- The Currency of Japan is **Japanese yen**.
- Shinzo Abe is the **PM of Japan**.

### President inaugurates Bicentenary Celebration of Paika Rebellion

i. **President Pranab Mukherjee** inaugurated the Bicentenary celebration of Paika Rebellion of Odisha organised by the Union Ministry of **Culture in New Delhi**.

ii. Many scholars, researchers and historians have opined that the **Paika Rebellion of 1817** was India's first organised armed rebellion against British Raj.

### Important Takeaways from Above News-

- Present Chief Minister of Odisha is **Naveen Patnaik**.

### SEBI inks pact with ESMA for information exchange on CCPs

i. Markets regulator **SEBI** has entered into a pact with the European Securities and Markets Authority (ESMA) for exchange of information concerning Central Counterparties (CCPs). **CCPs** are entities that help facilitate clearing and settlement activities.

ii. The MoU establishes cooperation arrangements, including exchange of information regarding CCPs which are established and authorised or recognised in India by SEBI and which have applied for EU recognition under **EMIR**.

### Important Takeaways from Above News-

- Headquarter of SEBI is in **Mumbai**.
- Present chairman of SEBI is **Ajay Tyagi**.

### Telangana launches 'Janahitha' for speedy redressal of public grievances

i. The **Telangana government** launched a special portal called "**Janahitha**" to receive complaints from the public.

ii. The programme was inaugurated in Suryapet district on a pilot basis by Telangana Energy minister G Jagadish Reddy. The portal, which has been developed by **Telangana's IT** department, is a single window for all grievances and their redressal management.

### Indian Army inks MoU with DRDO to raise MRSAM defence system regiment

i. The Indian Army has signed MoU with **Defence Research and Development**



**Organisation (DRDO)** to raise one regiment of the advanced Medium Range Surface to Air Missiles (MRSAM) defence system.

ii. The MRSAM is an advanced, all weather, mobile, land-based air defence system. It can shoot down enemy ballistic missiles, aircraft, helicopters, drones, surveillance aircraft and AWACS aircraft. It is capable of engaging multiple aerial targets at ranges of more than 50 km. The system will be jointly developed by **Israel Aerospace Industries (IAI)** and **DRDO** with the involvement of DPSUs and private sectors.

### **Arun Jaitley launches Pradhan Mantri Vaya Vandana Yojana pension scheme with 8% fixed rate**

i. Finance Minister **Arun Jaitley** formally launched Pradhan Mantri Vaya Vandana Yojana (PMVVY), a pension scheme exclusively for senior citizens with 8% fixed rate of interest on their savings.

ii. Under this scheme, there will be an assured return of 8 per cent over a tenure of 10 years. It can be purchased offline as well as online through Life Insurance Corporation (LIC) of India which has been given the sole privilege to operate this scheme.

### **Important Takeaways from Above News-**

- Present chairman of LIC is **V K Sharma**.

### **Kerala to host literary festival with 'Tolerance' as theme**

i. Kerala will be hosting the **fifth edition of South India Writers Ensemble (SIWE)** at Chengannur, a town in Kerala's coastal Alappuzha district from 24 July 2017.

ii. The core theme of the festival this year is 'tolerance'. So creative writers, journalists, theatre and film personalities from across the industry will be seen deliberating on the theme at a time when the country as a whole is witnessing raging debates over intolerance.

### **Important Takeaways from Above News-**

- Chief Minister of Kerala is **Pinarayi Vijayan**.
- Governor of Kerala is **Palaniswamy Sathasivam**.

### **Vijay Goel, Nitin Gadkari flag off 10th 'Slum Yuva Daud'**

i. Sports Minister **Vijay Goel** and Road Transport and Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari today flagged off the 10th Slum Yuva Daud at Khichripur in New Delhi.

ii. The Slum Yuva Daud is a part of the Adopt a Slum campaign of the Sports Ministry and Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan. Thousands of youth from Delhi slums participated in the run which started from Lal Bahadur Shastri Hospital, Khichripur and ended at Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar Stadium, Trilokpuri.

### **Important Takeaways from Above News-**

- Chief Minister of Delhi is **Arvind Kejriwal**.

### **Kiren Rijiju inaugurates RIWATCH Museum in Arunachal Pradesh**

i. Union Minister of State for Home **Kiren Rijiju** has inaugurated the Research Institution of World Ancient, Traditional, Culture & Heritage (**RIWATCH**) Museum at Roing in **Arunachal Pradesh**.

ii. Later, on the sideline of his visit to **Roing**, **Rijiju** also inaugurated the **235-meter long** Chimari Bridge, which would serve as a life line between the National Highway 52 of Roing-Tezu.

### **Meghalaya CM launches 'Mission Football' in Shillong**

i. **Meghalaya Chief Minister Dr. Mukul Sangma** launched 'Mission Football' at a grand ceremony at JN Sports Complex, Shillong recently.

ii. Mission Football is an initiative to help develop skills of football enthusiasts and develop young footballers for the country. It is a dedicated program for talent identification and nurturing of talents to develop national and international players.



### **India to host Global Conference on Cyber Space 2017**

i. **India will host the fifth Global Conference on Cyber Space (GCCS)** in November 2017. One of the largest cyber security conferences in the world, GCCS will be held in New Delhi.

ii. Union Minister for electronics and IT, Ravi Shankar Prasad stated that prime



minister Narendra Modi will be inaugurating the conference whose **theme** will be based on **Cyber4All: An Inclusive, Sustainable, Developmental, Safe and Secure Cyberspace**.

**iii.** It is the first time ever that the Global Conference on Cyber Space is taking place outside Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) nations. **Important Takeaways from Above News-**

- The Global Conference on Cyber Space is a prestigious international conference that aims at encouraging dialogue among stakeholders of cyberspace.
- The conference was incepted in the year 2011.

### **India ranks 132 in Commitment to Reducing Inequality Index**

**i. India has ranked 132nd** out of 152 countries on the inaugural “**Commitment to Reducing Inequality Index**” released by international NGO Oxfam in association with Developmental Finance International.

**ii.** Sweden led the index while Nigeria remained the worst performer. Among India’s neighboring countries, China’s rank is 87; Pakistan fared worse than India at 146 while Bangladesh ranked at 148.

**The top 3 countries in the list are-**

1. Sweden
2. Belgium
3. Denmark

### **India, Bangladesh sign pact to connect both countries by waterways**

**i. India and Bangladesh** have signed a pact to connect both the countries by waterways. The waterways will facilitate movement of passengers and goods between India’s northeast and West Bengal with Bangladesh.

**ii.** Union Minister of State for Road Transport, Highways and Shipping Mansukh Mandaviya stated in Agartala that infrastructure for the services would be set up along the major rivers in Bangladesh, West Bengal and the Brahmaputra in Assam.



### **Important Takeaways from Above News-**

- The Capital of Bangladesh is Dhaka.
- Prime minister of Bangladesh is Sheikh Hasina.
- Abdul Hamid is the President of Bangladesh.

### **Navy Chief Sunil Lanba begins tour of Mozambique and Tanzania**

**i. Navy Chief Admiral Sunil Lanba** had begun an **eight-day-long two-nation tour of Mozambique and Tanzania** with an aim of exploring new avenues of bilateral defence cooperation. Admiral Lanba, who also heads the powerful Chiefs of Staff Committee (COSC), will visit first Mozambique.

**ii.** Later on his tour, Admiral Lanba will begin his five-day-long visit to Tanzania on July 26. He is scheduled to meet President of Tanzania John Magufuli, Defence Minister Hussein Mwinyi and other higher delegations. India and Mozambique have a Joint Defence Working Group (JDWG) for defence and security cooperation.



### **Important Takeaways from Above News-**

- The Capital of Mozambique is Maputo.
- Filipe Nyusi is the President of Mozambique.
- The Capital of Tanzania is Dodoma.
- John Magufuli is the President of Tanzania.



### **Union Government launches 'SHe-Box' portal for Sexual harassment**

- i. The Minister of Women & Child Development, Smt. Maneka Gandhi launched an online complaint management system titled **Sexual Harassment electronic-Box (SHe-Box)** for registering complaints related to sexual harassment at workplace in New Delhi.
- ii. The complaint management system has been developed to ensure the effective implementation of Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act (the SH Act), 2013. Currently, this facility has been extended to employees of Central Government, the scope of the portal will soon be extended to women employees of the private sector also.

### **Union Home Minister chairs first meeting of Islands Development Agency (IDA)**

- i. The Union Home Minister **Shri Rajnath Singh** chaired the first meeting of the newly constituted **Islands Development Agency (IDA)**.
- ii. The Union Home Minister presented the vision for developing India's maritime economy while preserving the natural eco-system and addressing the security concerns.

#### **Important Takeaways from Above News-**

- The IDA was set up on 1st June 2017.

### **Reliance Defence launches first two naval patrol vessels Shachi and Shruti**

- i. Reliance Infrastructure subsidiary **Reliance Defence and Engineering Limited (RDEL)** announced the launch of its first two **Naval Offshore Patrol Vessels (NOPVs)** at their shipyard in Pipavav, Gujarat.
- ii. The two NOPVs, '**Shachi**' and '**Shruti**' are among five ships being constructed by RDEL under the P-21 project of the Indian Navy. It is the first private shipyard in India to obtain defence production licence and sign a contract for defence ships in 2011.

#### **Important Takeaways from Above News-**

- Anil Ambani is the Non-Executive Chairman of RDEL.

### **PM Modi inaugurates APJ Abdul Kalam's memorial in Rameswaram**

- i. Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the former President, **Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam's memorial** at Pei Karumbu in **Rameswaram, Tamil Nadu** on the **second death anniversary** of the former President. Mr. Modi unveils a statue of Dr. Kalam and hoisted the National flag at the memorial.
- ii. Mr. Modi will flag off **Kalam Sandesh Vahini**, an exhibition bus which will travel across the country and reach Rashtrapati Bhavan on 15th of October, which marks the birth anniversary of the former President.

#### **Important Takeaways from Above News-**

- A. P. J. Abdul Kalam was the 11th President of India from 2002 to 2007.

### **Madras High Court makes Vande Mataram mandatory in Schools, Govt. and Private Offices**

- i. The **Madras High Court** ruled that **Vande Mataram** should be sung in all schools and colleges across the state "**at least once a week**", and in government and private offices "**at least once a month**".
- ii. Issuing the order, Justice M V Muralidharan stated, Considering the larger public interest and to instil a sense of patriotism in each and every citizen of the state, the national song 'Vande Mataram' shall be played and sung in all schools/ colleges/ universities and other educational institutions at least once a week (preferably on Monday or Friday).

#### **Important Takeaways from Above News-**

- Vande Mataram is written by Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay.

### **Microsoft launches 'Made for India' Kaizala app**

- i. Technology giant **Microsoft** has **officially launched 'Kaizala'**, a productivity app that has been designed to enhance the collaboration and communication experience for Indian enterprises.
- ii. The '**Made for India**' app is designed for large group communications and work management and works even on 2G networks. The product will make it possible for organizations to interact with people within the organization as

well as outside like partners and vendors in a seamless manner.

**Important Takeaways from Above News-**

- CEO of Microsoft Corporation is Satya Nadella.
- It is a USA Based Company.

**Axis Bank acquires FreeCharge for Rs. 385 crore**

**i. Axis Bank announced the acquisition of Snapdeal-owned mobile payments provider Freecharge** in an all-cash deal worth **Rs385 crore**. The deal is subject to regulatory approval from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and the indicative time-frame to complete the acquisition is two months, the private sector lender said in an exchange filing.

**ii.** With this buyout, Axis Bank will get over 50 million customers of Freecharge along with its niche and patented technology and human resources. Founded in 2010 by Mumbai based entrepreneur Kunal Shah, FreeCharge started as a recharge deal coupons platform before turning into a full-scale mobile wallet.

**Important Takeaways from Above News-**

- Kunal Bahl, Co-Founder & CEO of Snapdeal, the parent company of Freecharge.

**Uttarakhand records second highest tiger count in India**

**i.** The count of tigers in Uttarakhand shot up to 242 with an increase of 63 big cats in the year 2017. The news was announced by Trivendra Singh Rawat, Chief Minister of Uttarakhand.

**ii.** In addition, 11 cubs were also found in the two tiger reserves, the Corbett Tiger Reserve and the Rajaji Tiger Reserve, in the state. **Uttarakhand** is the second state in terms of tiger count behind **Karnataka**, which has 400 big cats.

**iii.** According to the latest statistics, at least 208 tigers have been identified in Jim Corbett Tiger Reserve, up from last year's 163. Also, six cubs were identified there.

**Important Takeaways from Above News-**

- Jim Corbett National Park is the oldest national park in India.
- It was established in 1936 as Hailey National Park to protect the endangered Bengal tiger.

**Mumbai Metro launches India's first mobile ticketing system**

**i. Mumbai Metro** announced the launch of **India's first Mobile Ticketing System 'OnGo'** which will help commuters pass the AFC gates using their mobile phones.

**ii.** Commuters will be able to generate a QR Code through 'OnGo' service for current or future journeys up to a week in advance by clicking the mobile app wherein they would pay for their journey.

**Important Takeaways from Above News-**

- Mumbai Metro is a consortium formed by Reliance Infrastructure Ltd, MMRDA and Veolia Transport SA, France.
- Mrs. Ashwini Bhide is the present Managing Director of Mumbai Metro Rail Corporation.

**National Centre for Seismology launches an App 'India Quake'**

**i.** Union Minister of Science & Technology, Earth Sciences and Environment, Forests & Climate Change, **Dr. Harshvardhan** launched an app **"India Quake"** for Earthquake Parameter Dissemination on the occasion of Foundation Day of Ministry of Earth Sciences.

**ii.** The App will make information dissemination faster with no restrictions on the number of recipients. Any citizen can download this App and get the real time earthquake location information on his/her mobile.

**Important Takeaways from Above News-**

- Earthquake is measured by Seismograph.
- Ministry of Earth Sciences foundation day is celebrated on 27th July of every year.

**NPCI receives final nod from RBI to function as Bharat Bill Payment Central Unit**

**i. National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)**, the umbrella organization for all retail payment systems

has received a final nod from the Reserve Bank of India to function as the Bharat Bill Payment Central Unit (BBPCU) and operate the Bharat Bill Payment System (BBPS).

ii. On August 31, 2016, 8 BBPS operating units, which received in-principle approval from RBI, took part in the pilot. Almost after a year of running the pilot, streamlining the technology and business processes, NPCI has now received final clearance from RBI.

#### Important Takeaways from Above News-

- A. P. Hota is the MD & CEO of NPCI.
- The Bharat Bill Payment System (BBPS) is an RBI conceptualized system driven by National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI).

#### RBI sets up Supervisory Colleges for six Scheduled Commercial Banks

i. Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has set up Supervisory Colleges for six Scheduled Commercial Banks which have sizeable international presence: - State Bank of India, ICICI Bank Ltd., Bank of India, Bank of Baroda, Axis Bank Ltd. and Punjab National Bank.

ii. The objectives of the colleges are to enhance information exchange and cooperation among supervisors, to improve understanding of the risk profile of the banking group and thereby facilitate more effective supervision of internationally active banks.

#### Niti Aayog clears six proposals for high-tech public transport

i. Mass rapid transportation technologies such as hyperloop, metrinio and pod taxis could soon be a reality in India after Niti Aayog cleared half-a-dozen proposals of the transport ministry exploring options to improve public transport.

ii. The think tank approved the proposals of the transport ministry with a condition that the ministry conducts trial run of all these technologies and puts in place safety measures before the starting commercially operation. Once these safety parameters are tried and tested and the pilot run is successful, some of them including metrinio, could be up for running by next year's end.

#### Important Takeaways from Above News-

- The Chairperson of NITI Ayog is Shri Narendra Modi.
- Vice Chairperson of NITI Ayog is Dr. Rajiv Kumar
- The full form of NITI is National Institution for Transforming India.

#### Dr. Harshvardhan launches "Sagar Vani" - An Integrated Information Dissemination System

i. Minister of Science & Technology, Earth Sciences and Environment, Forests & Climate Change, Dr. Harshvardhan launched an app "Sagar Vani" on the occasion of Foundation Day of Ministry of Earth Sciences.

ii. 'Sagar Vani' has been launched to disseminate ocean related information and alerts to the user community in a timely manner for their safety.

#### Important Takeaways from Above News-

- Ministry of Earth Sciences foundation day is celebrated on 27th July of every year.

#### DRDO develops India's first unmanned tank 'Muntra'

i. Defense Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has developed India's first unmanned tank, which has three variants – surveillance, mine detection, and reconnaissance in areas with nuclear and bio threats. It is called Muntra (Mission UNmanned TRacked) and has been rolled out of the Chennai lab.

ii. The tanks will facilitate Indian Armed forces in conducting unmanned surveillance missions. Muntra-S has been developed for unmanned surveillance missions, whereas Muntra-M is built for detecting mines. Muntra-N will be deployed in areas where nuclear radiation or bio weapon risk is high.

#### Important Takeaways from Above News-



- The Muntra tanks have surveillance radar and can be used to spy on ground target about 15 kilometers away.
- S Christopher is the chairman of DRDO.

### Punjab launches 'Apni Gaddi Apni Rozgar' scheme

i. The Punjab government has recently announced the launch of its flagship 'Apni Gaddi Apna Rozgar' scheme by flagging off over 100 uber MOTO bikes. Under the scheme, the state government will be providing commercial two wheelers and four wheelers to unemployed youth at subsidized rates.

ii. The scheme aims to generate job opportunities for youth and providing better mobile transport in Punjab.



### Important Takeaways from Above News-

- Uber was founded in 2009.
- Its Headquarters in California, the USA.

### Canara Bank launches 'CANDI' - its first digital branch in Bengaluru

i. Canara Bank has launched its first 'Digital Banking Branch' named 'CANDI' in Bengaluru. The branch will provide an end-to-end digital experience to customers.

ii. The most attractive feature of the Digital Branch is a humanoid robot that addresses basic queries of customers on banking products and services. This is a first-of-its kind initiative by a public sector bank in the country.

### Important Takeaways from Above News-

- The Headquarters of Canara Bank is in Bengaluru, Karnataka.
- The Chairman of Canara Bank is Shri T. N. Manoharan.

### SBI cuts savings bank rate to 3.5% on deposits up to Rs. 1 cr

i. The decline in the rate of inflation and high real interest rates have prompted State Bank of India to cut the savings bank deposits rate from 4 per cent to 3.5 per cent on deposits below Rs. 1 crore.

ii. The savings bank deposits above Rs. 1 crore will continue to earn 4 per cent interest. The cut in SB rate will enable it to maintain the marginal cost of funds based lending rate at the current level.

### RBI slaps Rs. 3 cr penalty on Union Bank for KYC non-compliance

i. The RBI has imposed a penalty of Rs. 3 crore on state-owned Union Bank of India for "non-compliance" with the directions on Know Your Customer (KYC) norms.

ii. This action is based on deficiencies in regulatory compliance and is not intended to pronounce upon the validity of any transaction or agreement entered into by the bank with its customers.

### Jio launches world's longest 100Gbps underwater cable system.

i. Jio on Wednesday announced the launch of the 25,000-kilometre Asia-Africa-Europe (AAE-1) submarine cable system.

ii. Jio claimed it is the longest technology-based 100 Gbps (gigabits per second) submarine cable system in the world, stretching from France to Hong Kong with 21 cable landings across Asia and Europe. The project is the combined work of leading service providers from various countries.

## GST

### What is GST?

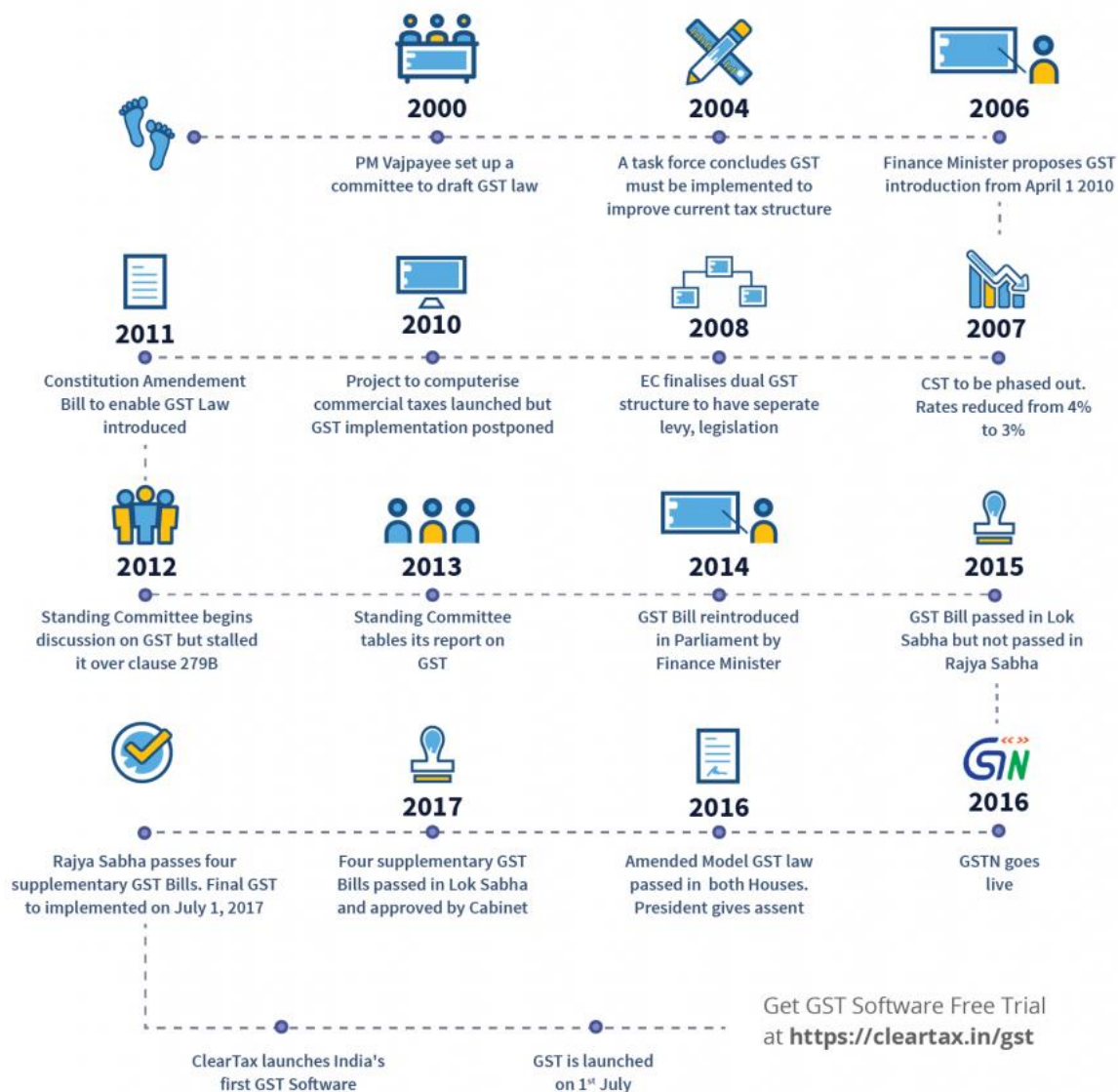
Goods & Services Tax Law in India is a comprehensive, multi-stage, destination-based tax that will be levied on every value addition.

In simple words, GST is an indirect tax levied on the supply of goods and services. GST Law has replaced many indirect tax laws that previously existed in India.

## History of GST in India

# History of GST

clearTax



## Constitution

According to the Article 279A, it is on the part of Prime Minister to give the order to constitute the council of GST within the 60 days from the 12th September 2016 which is already notified by the Government.

Following are the designated personnels, who will form the GST Council together:-

- The **Union Finance Minister** who will be the **CHAIRMAN** of the council;
- The Union Minister of State in charge of Revenue or Finance who will be the **MEMBER** of council;
- **ONE MEMBER** from each state who is Minister in charge of Finance or Taxation or any other Minister, and anyone of them will be **VICE CHAIRMAN** of the GST Council who will be mutually elected by them.

## Note



- The Secretary of Revenue Department will work as EX-Officio Secretary to the GST Council,
- The Chairperson of Central Board of Excise and Customs will be the permanent invitee in all the proceedings of the GST Council who will not have the voting rights.

### Quorum and Decision-Making

- For a valid meeting of the members of GST Council, at least 50 percent of the total number of the member should be present at the meeting.
- Every Decision made during the meeting should be supported by at least 75 percent majority of the weighted votes of the members who are present and voting at the meeting. In “article 279A” a principle is there which divides the total weighted vote cast between Central Government and State Government :-
  - The vote of Central Government shall have the weighted of one-third of the total votes
  - The votes of State Government shall have the weighted of two third of the total votes, cast in the meeting
- Any act, decision or proceedings shall not be declared as invalid on the basis of any remaining deficiency at the time of establishment of GST Council i.e.
  - if there is any vacancy remained in the Council
  - if there is any defect in the constitution of Council
  - if there is any defect in the appointment of a person as a member of the Council
  - if there is any procedural non compliance.

### Functions of the GST Council

The GST council will be supposed to make recommendation to the Union and State on the following matters :-

- On subsuming of various taxes, cess, and surcharge in GST.
- Details of services and goods that will be subjected to GST or which will be exempted from GST.
- On Threshold limit below which services and goods will be exempted from GST.
- On GST rates including floor rate with bands of GST and any special rate for time being to arrange resources to face any natural calamity.
- Making special provisions for the following states: Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Jammu and Kashmir, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Sikkim, Tripura, Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand.
- On model law on GST, Principal of levy of GST and the principals which will govern the place of Supply.

### The Recent Decision of GST Council

The apex body for the governing all the GST related issues has finally done with the tax rates on its 13th and 14th meeting in Srinagar with approximately 81 percent of goods being rated under 18% while remaining goods being deserved tax rates at higher than 18%. The council has discussed over total of 1,211 items and has fixed rates over them

The council decided rates of 18% for the cosmetics while the food grains and milk was exempted from the GST. Other items in the range of 5 percent duty slab includes coal, Sugar, tea, coffee, edible oil. The council has approved 7 rules out of total 9 to be assimilated in the **GST rule book**.

The GST council has discussed tax rates on 80 to 90 percent of the goods and services on the first day of its two-day meeting schedule & after which four rate structures have been kept in the **proposed GST system**. The telecom and financial services will be at a standard rate of 18 percent while for the transporting services, it is 5 percent. While the rail, road and air transport are taken into the low 5 percent bracket. Overall GST council has quickly picked up the work of tax rates decision as the time was limited to discuss over these matters

### Advantages Of GST

- ☺ Removing cascading tax effect
- ☺ Higher threshold for registration
- ☺ Composition scheme for small businesses
- ☺ Online simpler procedure under GST
- ☺ Lesser compliances
- ☺ Defined treatment for e-commerce
- ☺ Increased efficiency in logistics
- ☺ Regulating the unorganized sector

### What are the components of GST?

There are 3 applicable taxes under GST: CGST, SGST & IGST.

- **CGST:** Collected by the Central Government on an intra-state sale (Eg: Within Karnataka)
- **SGST:** Collected by the State Government on an intra-state sale (Eg: Within Karnataka)
- **IGST:** Collected by the Central Government for inter-state sale (Eg: Karnataka to Tamil Nadu)

## International

### New Israeli flower named after PM Modi

i. A new fast-growing Israeli flower was today named after Prime Minister Narendra Modi, in a special gesture to mark the first visit of an Indian PM to the Jewish nation.

ii. Israeli **Crysanthumun** flower will now be called “**MODI**”.

### Important Takeaways from above News-

- Benjamin Netanyahu is the PM of Israel.
- The Capital of Israel is Jerusalem.



### India Signed 7 Agreements with Israel

i. A total of seven agreements were signed between India and Israel in sectors ranging from agriculture to water conservation and space as they sought to deepen ties beyond high-priced defence deals.

ii. The PM of India Mr. Narendra Modi and his counterpart Benjamin Netanyahu presented a series of agreements for cooperation on satellite technology, water and agriculture, as well as the creation of a \$40 million innovation fund.

### Important Takeaways From Above News-

- PM Modi's visit marks 25 years since India and Israel established diplomatic relations.

### 5th Meeting of BRICS Education Ministers held in China

i. Meeting of BRICS Ministers of Education was held in Beijing, China. The Indian delegation was led by Shri Prakash Javadekar, Minister of Human Resource Development, India.

ii. Javadekar highlighted some of the initiatives of the Govt. of India in education. He specifically spoke about the National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF), SWAYAM platform which has already hosted over 480 courses online, research initiative IMPRINT and Smart India Hackathon.

### Important Takeaways from Above News-

- Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa are the five-member Nations of BRICS.
- It was established in 2006.



### 10th Session of the India- Jordan Trade and Economic Joint Committee held in New Delhi

i. The 10TH India-Jordan Trade and Economic Joint Committee (TEJC) Meeting was held in New Delhi under the co-chairs of Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman, Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Commerce and Industry, (India) and Mr. Yarub Qudah, Minister of Industry, Trade and Supply (Jordan).

ii. The two leaders also inked the revised Economic and Trade Cooperation Agreement between India and Jordan, aiming at boosting and diversifying bilateral trade relations, in addition to promote economic, trade and investment cooperation based on the principle of equity, non-discrimination.



### India ranks 23rd among 165 nations in cyber security index

i. India is ranked a high 23rd out of 165 nations in a global index that measures the commitment of nations across the world to cyber security. The second Global Cyber security Index (GCI) was released by the UN telecommunications agency International Telecommunication Union (ITU).

ii. The top 3 most committed countries to cyber security are-

1. Singapore,
2. The United States,
3. Malaysia,

#### Important Takeaways from Above News-

- ITU currently has a membership of 193 countries.
- ITU is headquartered in Geneva, Switzerland.

#### European Parliament approves first ever EU-Cuba pact

**i. The European Parliament** overwhelmingly approved a first-ever cooperation deal **between the EU and Cuba**. MEPs in the eastern French city of Strasbourg approved the Political Dialogue and Cooperation Agreement which was signed in December 2016.

**ii.** With the deal, Cuba joins other Latin American countries with similar agreements with the EU, whose relations with the island had previously been conducted in the so-called Common Position that linked ties to improvements in human rights.

#### Important Takeaways from Above News-

- The European Parliament is headquartered in Brussels, Belgium.

#### Pakistan successfully test fires short-range ballistic missile, Nasr

**i. Pakistan** has successfully test-fired short-range surface-to-surface ballistic missile 'Nasr'. NASR is a high-precision weapons system with the ability for quick deployment and a range of **70 kilo meters**.

**ii.** Pakistan Army has conducted a series of training launches and tests during the current week for validation of new technical parameters of 'NASR' with an enhanced range of 60-70 kilo meters and flight manoeuvrability.



#### Important Takeaways From Above News-

- Army chief of Pakistan is **Gen Qamar Javed Bajwa**.

#### 12th G20 Summit held in Hamburg, Germany

**i. Hamburg** hosted the **twelfth G20 Summit** on the 7th and 8th of July, 2017. The G20, or group of 20, is an international meeting between heads of states, finance ministers and central bank governors from the world's leading economies.

**ii.** German Chancellor **Angela Merkel is hosting this year's G20 Summit** in Hamburg.

**iii.** Leaders of the G20 countries agreed to swift action and targeted exchange of information on terrorism and its financing. The leaders also decided that the private sector will also be involved in the global efforts to counter terror financing.



#### Important Takeaways from Above News-

- G-20 was founded in 1999.
- The first meeting of G-20 was held in Berlin in 1999.
- The last G-20 summit was held in China in 2016.

#### 122 countries adopt 'historic' UN treaty to ban nuclear weapons

**i. 122 countries** approved the first-ever treaty **to ban nuclear weapons** at the UN meeting boycotted by all nuclear-armed nations. One country the Netherlands voting against while Singapore abstained.

**ii.** None of the nine countries that possess nuclear weapons the United States, Russia, Britain, China, France, India, Pakistan, North Korea and Israel took part in the negotiations or the vote.

**iii.** Even Japan the only country to have suffered atomic attacks, in 1945 boycotted



the talks as did most NATO countries.

### Nepal SBI launches first paperless Banking services sbiINTOUCH

i. **Nepal SBI Bank**, a subsidiary of the **State Bank of India**, launched its fully automatic digital banking services in the Nepalese capital Kathmandu. This is for the first time the State Bank of India has expanded the paperless banking system outside India.

ii. Digital banking provides various services including cash deposit, the opening of new accounts, distribution of debit card, ATM and online banking information on the touch of the screen. Customers can avail the services from SBI In touch Bank.

### Important Takeaways from Above News-

- The Capital of Nepal is Kathmandu
- The Prime Minister of Nepal is Sher Bahadur Deuba

### Model United Nations Regional Conference begins in Kathmandu

i. A **Model United Nations (MUN) Regional Conference** is being held at Kathmandu. The event is organised by the US Embassy in partnership with the **Youth Thinker's Society**. Youths from 12 South and Central Asian countries including India are participating in **5-day conference**.

ii. The basic aim of the MUN is to provide a platform to young minds to channelize energy and resources for a more prosperous and peaceful world.

iii. The conference simulate four UN committees-United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), Economic and Financial Committee (ECOFIN), United Nations Security Council (UNSC) and United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC).

### 22nd World Petroleum Congress (WPC) International Conference held in Istanbul, Turkey

i. The **22nd World Petroleum Congress (WPC) International Conference** was held recently in Istanbul, Turkey. Union Minister of State for Petroleum and Natural Gas, Dharmendra Pradhan visited Istanbul to represent India at the Conference.

ii. The theme for 22nd World Petroleum Congress was '**Bridges To Our Energy Future**'. WPC was first organized in year 1993. Currently, it is being held at the interval of three years.



### Important Takeaways from Above News-

- 21st WPC was held in Moscow, Russia.
- The capital of Turkey is Ankara.

### Indonesia renames part of South China Sea

i. Indonesia has named waters in its exclusive economic zone that overlap with China's expansive claim to the South China Sea as the **North Natuna Sea**.

ii. The part of the renamed area falls in China's "nine-dash line" waters extending hundreds of miles to the south and east of China's island province Hainan.

### Important Takeaways from Above News-

- In 2011, the Philippines renamed the waters as the "West Philippine Sea"
- The Capital of Indonesia is Jakarta.



### Australia and US jointly launched multimillion hypersonic missile – HIFiRE

i. The **US and Australia** have jointly test-fired a hypersonic missile capable of moving at a speed eight times faster than sound as part of a \$54-million research project.

ii. The test was part of a project called the **Hypersonic International Flight Research Experimentation Program (HIFiRE)** involving the US and Australian militaries, Queensland University, Australia's Defence Science and Technology





Group.

iii. A hypersonic glider capable of moving at a speed **eight times faster than sound** has launched from a rocket range in the town of Woomera, South Australia.

### US Navy tests world's first Laser Weapons System

i. The U.S. Navy recently tested the **world's first-ever active laser weapons system**, which is now deployed and ready for war. The system has special materials that release photons and at the speed of light, it silently hits an object, burning it to a temperature of thousands of degrees.

ii. Each strike travels 50,000 times the speed of an incoming intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM).



### Important Takeaways from Above News-

- Admiral John Richardson is the Chief of Naval Officer of US Navy.

### Sheikha Lubna Al Qasimi tops poll of most powerful Arab women: Forbes

i. Sheikha Lubna Al Qasimi, the UAE Minister of State for Tolerance has topped a poll of **the most powerful Arab women in government** for 2017, according to Forbes Middle East.



ii. Ms. Qasimi was followed by two women from Egypt - **Sahar Nasr**, the country's minister of investment and international cooperation and **Ghada Wali**, the minister of social solidarity.

iii. Forbes has also released a list of the top 100 most powerful Arab business women for 2017, and the UAE represents the highest number of women, with 18, followed by Egypt, with 16.

### Important Takeaways from Above News-

- Forbes is an American business magazine and was founded in 1917

### Australia joins International Solar Alliance led by India and France

i. Australia became the **35th country** to join the **International Solar Alliance (ISA)**, an initiative launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in November 2015 in Paris. It is **co-led by India and France**.

ii. The aim of ISA is to support developing countries to boost their solar production capacity. India on its part through the Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency (IREDA) and Solar Energy Corporation of India (SECI) is contributing \$1 million to the ISA fund.

### India on track to grow at 7.4 per cent in 2017: ADB report

i. According, to Asian Development Bank supplement report India is expected to achieve the projected growth rate of **7.4 per cent in 2017** and further up to **7.6 per cent next year** on strong consumption demand, with South Asia leading the growth chart in Asia and the Pacific.

ii. According to the report, South Asia will be the fastest growing of all sub-regions in Asia and the Pacific, with growth on track to meet original projections of 7 per cent in 2017 and 7.2 per cent in 2018.

### Important Takeaways from Above News-

- Headquarter of ADB is in Manila, Philippines.
- President of Asian Development Bank is Takehiko Nakao.

### Google introduces recruiting app 'Hire' for businesses

i. Google has launched **'Hire'**, a recruiting app for small- and medium-sized businesses that also integrates seamlessly with G Suite. It is a move to compete with Microsoft-owned LinkedIn.

ii. Hire makes it easy to identify talent, build strong candidate relationships and efficiently manage the interview process end-to-end"



### World's largest supercarrier USS Gerald R Ford commissioned in USA

- i. US Navy commissioned world's largest aircraft carrier, USS Gerald R Ford into the fleet. The commissioning ceremony was held at Naval Station Norfolk, Virginia in presence of US President Donald Trump.
- ii. USS Gerald R. Ford is the first ship in this new class of nuclear-powered aircraft carriers for the U.S. Navy. The ship is named after the 38th President of the United States Gerald Ford and has been built by Newport News Ship Building Company. The massive 1,106-foot-long carrier is powered by two new generation nuclear reactors.



### World's first floating wind farm emerges off coast of Scotland

- i. The world's first floating windfarm has taken to the seas in a sign that a technology once confined to research and development drawing boards is finally ready to unlock expanses of ocean for generating renewable power in Scotland.
- ii. The £200 million Hywind project is unusual not just because of the pioneering technology involved, which uses a 78-metre-tall underwater ballast and three mooring lines that will be attached to the seabed to keep the turbines upright. It will bring power to 20,000 homes.



### Important Takeaways from Above News-

- Edinburgh is the Capital of Scotland.
- Its currency is Pound sterling.

### UN selects Dubai as data hub for MENASA region

- i. The UN has selected Dubai as the data hub for the Middle East North Africa and South Asia (MENASA) region for the city's integrated initiatives to mine and manage its data.
- ii. The designation will be part of a portfolio of local and regional data portals, analytics and reports to engage stakeholders and help accelerate progress. It will also serve as a dedicated platform for city-to-city learning and 'solutions transfer' across metropolitan, national and global contexts.

### Important Takeaways from Above News-

- Dubai is one of the famous City in the United Arab Emirates.
- The Burj Khalifa is a mega tall skyscraper situated in Dubai.

### BRICS Youth Forum opens in Beijing

- i. The 2017 BRICS Youth Forum opened in Beijing, China to discuss the development of the youth in the countries of the grouping. The theme of three-day forum is 'Enhance BRICS Partnership, Promote Youth Development'.
- ii. It gathered 50 youth representatives working as civil servants, scholars, entrepreneurs, artists and journalists from the BRICS countries. The five BRICS countries first came up with the idea of establishing a dialogue mechanism for BRICS youth in 2014 during a meeting between BRICS leaders in South Africa.



### Amazon's Jeff Bezos briefly overtakes Gates to become world's richest

- i. Amazon's share price propelled founder Jeff Bezos to the top of a list of the world's richest individuals—for less than a day. Mr. Bezos, who is also chairman and chief executive of the Seattle-based company, was worth almost \$91bn (£70bn) after Amazon's share price rose more than 1 per cent in morning trading in New York.
- ii. That put his fortune ahead of Microsoft co-founder Bill Gates'. The latter has a net worth of around \$90.7bn and has been at the top of Bloomberg's rich list since 2013. But Mr Bezos slipped back into second place later in the day.



### Important Takeaways from Above News-

- Mr. Bezos, who founded the company in 1994, owns around 17 per cent of Amazon's shares.

### **Pakistan PM Nawaz Sharif resigns over Panama Papers verdict**

- i. **Nawaz Sharif has resigned as prime minister of Pakistan** following a decision by the country's Supreme Court to disqualify him from office.
- ii. The ruling came after a probe into his family's wealth following the **2015 Panama Papers** dump linking Mr Sharif's children to offshore companies

#### **Important Takeaways from Above News-**

- Liaquat Ali Khan was the first prime minister of Pakistan.



### **7th edition of SAARC Artists Camp & Exhibition of Paintings begins in Nepal**

i. The **7th edition** of South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) Artists Camp and Exhibition of Paintings has begun at **Kathmandu**.

ii. Minister of Culture, Tourism and Civil Aviation of Nepal, **Jitendra Narayan Devhas** inaugurated the event. These events provide platform to artists for exchanging ideas with fellow artists and helping in creating special bonding among them and 40 artists from SAARC member countries except Afghanistan taking part in the 4-day camp.



#### **Important Takeaways from Above News-**

- Headquarter of SAARC is in Kathmandu.
- **Amjad Hussain B. Sail** is the present Secretary General of SAARC.

### **WHO declares an end to the Ebola outbreak in the Democratic Republic of the Congo**

i. It was first The World Health Organization (WHO) has declared the end of the most recent outbreak of Ebola virus disease (EVD) in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC).

ii. This outbreak was declared finished in 2016. About Ebola virus disease (EVD) Ebola virus disease (EVD) is a viral hemorrhagic fever of humans and other primates caused by ebola viruses.

iii. It was first identified in 1976 in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) in a village near the Ebola River, from which it takes its name.

### **Germany Parliament passed the same-sex marriage bill**

i. European country Germany's Parliament on 7 July 2017 passed the same-sex marriage bill, thus bringing the country in line with many of its Western peers.

ii. Germany has allowed same-sex couples to enter civil partnerships since 2001, but has not granted them full marital rights, which include the possibility to jointly adopt children.

iii. It will now join European countries such as Austria, Belgium, Denmark, France, Ireland, Norway, Spain, Sweden and the UK who have legalized same sex marriages.



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## Appointments or Resign/Retired

### Superwoman Lilly Singh appointed UNICEF's Global Goodwill Ambassador

i. UNICEF appointed Indian- origin Canadian YouTube star **Lilly Singh** as its newest Global Goodwill Ambassador at a special event in **New Delhi**.

ii. Lilly was in the capital to support UNICEF's **Youth4Change** initiative, a programme for youth that brings them together to support their peers and communities in taking action on issues such as health, hygiene, child labour and gender equality.



### Important Takeaways from the above News:

- UNICEF stands for United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund.
- The Head office of UNICEF is in **New York, US**.

### Khaltmaa Battulga elected as Mongolian president

i. **Mongolian** Businessman and Martial Arts expert **Khaltmaa Battulga** was sworn in as president, vowing to revive the flagging economy and pursue relations with countries outside its giant neighbours Russia and China.

ii. **Battulga replaces Tsakhia Elbegdorj** after the outgoing president served the maximum four-year terms for two times.

### Important Takeaways from Above News-

- Ulaanbaatar is the capital of Mongolia.
- The Currency of Mongolia is Mongolian togrog.



### Saima Wazed Hossain appointed WHO Goodwill Ambassador for Autism in South Asia

- i. **Saima Wazed Hossain**, a globally renowned champion for the cause of autism spectrum disorder has been appointed as the WHO's goodwill ambassador for autism in the world body's Southeast Asia region.
- ii. Her appointment is for a period of two years. As WHO Goodwill Ambassador, Hossain will be promoting the **Thimphu Declaration** which emphasizes on integrating the needs of autism affected people into national health and socioeconomic development plans.



#### Important Takeaways from Above News-

- Saima Wazed Hossain was designated as WHO Regional Champion for Autism in May 2016.
- Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus is the Director-General of WHO for the term of 5 Years.

### Kamal Haasan to be brand ambassador of Tamil Thalaivas

- i. Tamil film actor **Kamal Haasan** has been appointed brand icon of **Pro Kabaddi League** franchise Tamil Thalaivas, co-owned by India batting legend **Sachin Tendulkar**.

### Ram Nath Kovind elected 14th President of India

- i. The NDA candidate **Ram Nath Kovind** has been declared by the Secretary General of Lok Sabha Anoop Mishra as elected President of India. Mr. Kovind got 7,02,044 votes while his opponent, the joint Opposition candidate Meira Kumar, got 3,67,314 out of a total of 10,69,358.
- ii. Succeeding Pranab Mukherjee, Kovind will be sworn in as the 14th president of India on July 25. Kovind will be the seventh youngest person to be anointed to the coveted post. He is also the second Dalit after KR Narayanan to adorn the coveted post. He is the first President from Uttar Pradesh.

### TR Zeliang appointed as Chief Minister of Nagaland by Governor

- i. **TR Zeliang** has been appointed as the **Chief Minister of Nagaland by Governor PB Acharya**. This will be the second term for Zeliang, his earlier term was from 2014 to 2017.
- ii. Zeliang's appointment came after Nagaland Chief Minister Shurhozelie Liezietsu and nine ruling Naga People's Front (NPF) legislators failed to appear for the floor test.



#### Important Takeaways from Above News-

PB Acharya is the Governor of Nagaland.

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### Achal Kumar Jyoti to be the next Chief Election Commissioner

- i. **Achal Kumar Jyoti** has been appointed as the next Chief Election Commissioner, the Law Ministry informed. Chief Election Commissioner **Nasim Zaidi** is demitting office later this week. Mr Jyoti, the former Chief Secretary of Gujarat, assumed the role of Election Commissioner in May 2015. Born on January 23, 1953, Mr Jyoti will have a tenure of **less than 10 months** as ECs demit office at the age of 65.
- ii. Mr Jyoti is a 1975-batch Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officer who retired as **Gujarat Chief Secretary in January 2013**. He served in the top bureaucratic post of the State when Prime Minister Narendra Modi was Chief Minister. Mr. Jyoti (62) has also served as the State Vigilance Commissioner and worked in various capacities in his cadre including as Chairman of the Kandla Port Trust between 1999 and 2004 and Managing Director of the **Sardar Sarovar Narmada Nigam Ltd (SSNNL)**.

#### Important Takeaways from the above News-

- **Election Commission of India** is a permanent Constitutional Body.
- The Election Commission was established in accordance with the Constitution on **25th January 1950**.
- The **National Voters' Day** is celebrated every year on 25th January.

### Himachal Pradesh DGP Sanjay Kumar appointed new NDRF chief

- i. **Himachal Pradesh director general of police (DGP) Sanjay Kumar** has been appointed as the **new chief of the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF)**.
- ii. The Union home ministry has approved the appointment of Mr. Kumar to the top NDRF





post. The post of NDRF director general (DG) fell vacant after incumbent R K Pachnanda was appointed as the chief of the Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP).

#### Important Takeaways from Above News-

- NDRF was formed in 2006.
- It is headquartered in New Delhi.

#### MoHUA is the new name for urban development & housing ministry

i. The government has merged the **urban development and housing and urban poverty alleviation ministries**. Now this will be known as **Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA)**. This is the third time the ministries have been merged.

#### Important Takeaways from Above News-

- Ministry of Works & Housing was changed to Ministry of Urban Development in September 1985.

#### Leslie Thng to take over as new CEO of Vistara

i. The board of **TATA SIA Airlines Ltd**, which owns and operates the full-service airline Vistara, has appointed former SilkAir head **Leslie Thng** as **Vistara's new chief executive officer (CEO)**, effective from October 2017.

#### Important Takeaways from Above News-

- Leslie Thng will succeed Vistara's incumbent CEO **Phee Teik Yeoh**.
- **Vistara**, a joint venture between Tata Sons and Singapore Airlines, commenced operations on **9 January 2015**.

#### Debi Prasad Dash takes over as DRI chief

i. **Debi Prasad Dash**, a 1985-batch Indian Revenue Service (Customs) officer, has taken over as **director-general of the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DG-DRI)**, the premier agency that tackles smuggling and black money.

ii. Mr. Dash was the acting DRI chief for the past five months. He has earlier worked in the UN Security Council, Commonwealth Secretariat, and the CBI.

#### Important Takeaways from Above News-

- Sh. Jayant Misra was the previous DG of DRI

#### Subhash Garg takes charge as Economic Affairs Secretary

i. **Senior bureaucrat Subhash Chandra Garg** assumed charge as **Secretary of the Department of Economic Affairs (DEA) in the Finance Ministry**. Mr. Garg was World Bank Executive Director for Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, and Sri Lanka prior to this appointment.

ii. **He succeeds Shaktikanta Das**, who retired after an extended tenure on May 31. Corporate Affairs Secretary Tapan Ray was given additional charge of DEA Secretary after Das' exit.

#### Important Takeaways from Above News-

- Department of Economic Affairs comes under Finance Ministry.

#### Tata Sons appoints Aarthi Subramanian as Chief Digital Officer

i. **Tata Sons**, the holding company of the Tata Group, has **appointed Aarthi Subramanian** as the conglomerate's **chief digital officer**. Subramanian, who is an executive director at TCS, will join Tata Sons in August.

ii. Subramanian is the second TCSer whom Tata Sons **Chairman N Chandrasekaran** has picked up to be a part of his core team after **Suprakash Mukhopadhyay**.



#### Important Takeaways from Above News-

- **N Chandrasekaran** is present Chairman of Tata Global Beverages Limited.
- TCS executive **Ramanathan Ramanan** is the head of Atal Mission under NITI Aayog.

### **K K Venugopal: new Attorney General**

- i. Senior advocate **K K Venugopal's** name has been cleared for appointment as the Attorney General for India following the decision of **Mukul Rohatgi** to step down as the top law officer.
- ii. The Law Ministry had recently referred the file relating to the appointment of Venugopal as the Attorney General.



### **UK's first woman Sikh MP Preet Kaur Gill elected to key Parliament panel**

- i. Britain's first woman Sikh **MP Preet Kaur Gill** has been elected to an influential cross-party panel in the UK Parliament that examines the workings of the Home Office.
- ii. The Labour MP, who won the Birmingham Edgbaston seat in the UK elections 2017, will be one of 11 MPs on the cross-party home affairs committee, which investigates the spending, policy and administration of the ministerial department.



### **Justice Gopal Prasad Parajuli to be the new Chief Justice of Nepal**

- i. **Justice Gopal Prasad Parajuli** will be the new **Chief Justice of Nepal**. The **Parliamentary Hearing Special Committee (PHSC)** unanimously endorsed Justice Parajuli's name for the post of Chief Justice of Supreme Court.
- ii. After endorsement by PHSC the President will now appoint him as the Chief Justice. He will head the Judiciary till April 28, 2018.



### **UK govt appoints Brenda Marjorie Hale as first female President of SC**

- i. The UK government appointed **Brenda Marjorie Hale as the first female President of the Supreme Court**, the senior-most judge of the country. Hale, 72, will take charge as the head of Britain's top judging panel in September following the retirement of current President, Lord Neuberger.
- ii. She has served as Neuberger's deputy since 2013. Three new justices have also been appointed to the Supreme Court – Lady Justice Black, Lord Justice Lloyd Jones and Lord Justice Brigg – who will take up the role when Lady Hale is sworn in officially as President on 2nd October.

### **Important Takeaways from Above News-**

- The Capital of UK is London.
- The Prime minister of UK is Theresa May.

### **Raveesh Kumar to be next ministry of external affairs spokesperson**

- i. **Raveesh Kumar**, a 1995-batch IFS officer who is currently posted in Frankfurt, Germany as Consul General of India, is understood to be the next **spokesperson of the ministry of external affairs**.
- ii. Kumar will replace **Gopal Baglay**, who was appointed as the joint secretary in the **Prime Minister's Office**. The IFS officer started his career at the Indian Mission in Jakarta. It was followed by a stint in Thimphu and London.

### **Google CEO Sundar Pichai joins Alphabet Board of Directors**

- i. **Google CEO Sundar Pichai** has been appointed to the board of directors of **Alphabet, the search giant's parent company**.
- ii. Alphabet is the second most valuable U.S. company behind Apple. Alphabet shares have risen by more than 50% since Pichai, following a steady rise through Google's managerial ranks.

### **Janalakshmi Financial Services appoints Ajay Kanwal as CEO**

- i. Gearing up for the launch of their small finance bank, **Janalakshmi Financial Services (JFS)**, the largest microfinance company, has announced the appointment of its new **CEO Ajay Kanwal**.
- ii. Kanwal, a veteran banker having 27 years of experience in both consumer and



commercial banking sector, will take charge of office from August 1.

**Important Takeaways from**

**Above News-**

- Janalakshmi Financial Services, set up in Bengaluru in 2008.
- V. S. Radhakrishnan, the current CEO, will take over as Vice-Chairman.

**Amidst internal Rifts, Nitish Kumar takes oath as Chief Minister for the 6th time**

i. Less than a day after resigning as Bihar chief minister, **Nitish Kumar took oath** at 10 am today at Raj Bhawan in Patna as the head of the government **that would include BJP and its allies**. Prior to this, the party of Nitish Kumar, JD-(U) was supported by Mahagathbandhan allies with Lalu Yadav led RJD.

ii. Kumar met Governor Keshari Nath Tripathi yesterday with NDA leaders and staked claim to form a new government **with the support of 132 MLAs**. He has been asked by the governor to prove his majority in the Assembly within two days of taking the oath. Nitish Kumar took oath as chief minister of Bihar. **Sushil Kumar Modi took oath as deputy chief minister**.

**Subhash Chandra Garg appointed as India's Alternate Governor on the Board of Governors of ADB**

i. Economic Affairs Secretary Subhash Chandra Garg has been appointed as **Indias Alternate Governor** on the Board of Governors of the **Asian Development Bank (ADB)**, the Finance Ministry announced recently.

ii. Garg has been appointed in place of former DEA Secretary Shaktikanta Das. The appointment came into effect from July 12.

**Shahid Khaqan Abbasi declared as interim Pakistan Prime Minister**

i. The ruling Pakistan Muslim League has selected Minister for Petroleum and Natural Resources, **Shahid Khaqan Abbasi** to be **the interim prime minister of Pakistan**.

ii. Nawaz Sharif had recently resigned as Pakistan Prime Minister after the Supreme Court disqualified him from holding public office. The court disqualified Sharif under Article 62 and 63 of the Constitution. He will remain on he post for 45 Days.

**PV Sindhu appointed Group-I officer in Andhra Pradesh**

i. **Olympic silver medallist P V Sindhu** has been appointed a **Group-I officer in Andhra Pradesh**. Chief minister N Chandrababu Naidu handed over the government order to the Rio Olympics silver winning shuttler.

ii. Chandrababu Naidu had promised a Group-I post to Sindhu when she won the silver medal in Olympics. Accordingly, she was appointed the deputy collector.

**Important Takeaways from Above News-**

- PV Sindhu is the fifth Indian woman to clinch a medal in Olympics history after Karnam Malleswari, Mary Kom, Saina Nehwal and Sakshi Malik.

## Honours/ Awards

**Danfoss India conferred with Golden Peacock environment management award**

i. Climate and energy efficiency solutions company **Danfoss India** has been conferred with the **'Golden Peacock Award' for Environment Management**.

ii. The award was presented in Hyderabad during the **19th World Congress on Environment Management'** in the

presence of Supreme Court Justice Kurien Joseph.

#### **Important Takeaways from Above News-**

- **Ravichandran Purushothaman** is the present President of Danfoss India.
- **Golden Peacock Awards**, instituted by the **Institute Of Directors (IOD)**, India in **1991**, are now regarded as a benchmark of Corporate Excellence worldwide.

#### **Indian-Americans to be honoured with Great Immigrants Award**

i. Two Indian-Americans, Adobe **Chief Shantanu Narayan** and former US Surgeon General **Vivek Murthy** are among 38 immigrants to be honoured this year for their role in helping advance the country's society, culture and economy.

ii. Narayan and Murthy will be honoured with the prestigious 'Great Immigrants' annual award on US's Independence day on **04th July 2017**. Murthy, born in the UK and a Harvard and Yale alumnus, was appointed by former President Barack Obama in 2014, becoming the first-ever Indian-American to occupy the post and also the youngest ever surgeon general of the country. Narayan, a native of Hyderabad has an undergraduate degree in electronics engineering, a master's degree in computer science, and an MBA from UC Berkeley.

#### **IROAF sets gold standards by winning Golden Peacock Award for Eco Innovation for year 2017**

i. Indian Railways achieves a major landmark in the field of Eco friendly fuel technologies at **Indian Railways Organization for Alternate Fuel (IROAF)** which has been awarded the coveted National level **“Golden Peacock Award for the Year 2017 for Eco-Innovation”** for substitution of fossil fuels (Diesel) by environment friendly CNG in **DEMU passenger train services**.

ii. Use of CNG in Train Sets for passenger transportation has been done for the **first time in the world**.

#### **Important Takeaways from Above News-**

- Golden Peacock Awards were instituted by the Institute Of Directors (IOD), India in 1991.

#### **President awards IIMB**

i. President **Pranab Mukherjee** has awarded **IIM Bangalore (IIMB)** for making management education accessible to all through Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs).

ii. IIMB is the national coordinator for management education on the government's Swayam platform and has completed five MOOCs on the platform so far.

#### **L K Advani receives Lifetime Achievement Award for contributions in Lok Sabha**

i. Veteran **BJP leader L.K. Advani** received the **Lifetime Achievement Award** for his contributions as a parliamentarian in the **Lok Sabha**. JD-U leader **Sharad Yadav** also received the Lifetime Achievement Award as a **Rajya Sabha** representative from Vice President Hamid Ansari at a function organized by the Lokmat Media Group to honor distinguished Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha members.

#### **ii. The other awardees from the Lok Sabha-**

- Best Parliamentarian- Revolutionary Socialist Party MP N.K. Premachandran,
- Best Woman Parliamentarian- Congress leader Kumari Sushmita Dev and
- Best Debut Woman Parliamentarian- BJP leader Meenakshi Lekhi.

#### **iii. The awardees from the Rajya Sabha-**

- Best Parliamentarian- CPI-M leader Sitaram Yechury,
- Best Woman Parliamentarian- Samajwadi Party MP Jaya Bachchan and
- Best Debut Woman Parliamentarian- Congress MP Rajni Patil.

#### **Japanese, Sri Lankan among Magsaysay award winners**

i. **Yoshiaki Ishizawa**, a **Japanese** historian who helped Cambodians preserve the Angkor temples, and **Gethsie Shanmugam**, a **Sri Lankan** teacher who counseled war widows and orphans to overcome their nightmares, are among the six winners of this year's **Ramon Magsaysay Awards**.

ii. The other recipients named are Abdon Nababan, an Indonesian, a Singaporean businessman Tony Tay, a Philippine

theater group and Lilia de Lima, a Filipino.

### **Important Takeaways from Above News-**

- The Ramon Magsaysay Award is an annual award named after former Philippine President Ramon Magsaysay.
- It is regarded as Asia's version of the Nobel Prize and was first awarded in the year 1958.

### **IIFA Awards 2017: List Of Winners**

i. The **18th edition** of the International Indian Film Academy Awards was held in New York. Sonam Kapoor's film Neerja won the best film award. Actor Shahid Kapoor earned the Best Actor award for his role in Uda Punjab, while Alia Bhatt won the Best Actor (Female) award for the same film.



ii. Here's the complete list of the **IIFA 2017 winners**:

- Best Film- Neerja
- Best Director- AnirudhRoy Chaudhary for Pink
- Best Actor (Male)- Shahid Kapoor for Uda Punjab
- Best Actor (Female)- Alia Bhatt for Uda Punjab
- Best Actor in Supporting Role (Female)- Shabana Azmi for Neerja
- Best Actor in Supporting Role (Male)- Anupam Kher for MS Dhoni: The Untold Story
- Best Debutant (Female): Disha Patani for M.S. Dhoni: The Untold Story
- Best Debut (Male)- Diljit Dosanjh for Uda Punjab
- Best Actor In Comic Role- Varun Dhawan for Dishoom
- IIFA Woman Of The Year- Tapsee Pannu

### **IPS officer Mahesh Bhagwat conferred 2017 Trafficking in Persons (TIP) Report Heroes Award**

i. IPS officer from Telangana, Mahesh Muralidhar Bhagwat was conferred with the 2017 Trafficking in Persons (TIP) Report Heroes Award.

ii. Currently, Mahesh Bhagwat is Police Commissioner of Rachakonda, one of the three Police Commissionerates located in Hyderabad.

iii. He was central figure in anti-trafficking operations that have removed hundreds of victims from situations of trafficking, and with the help of other government departments and civil society organisations, ensured their placement in rehabilitation programmes.





## Sports

### Pankaj Advani-led Indian team beat Pakistan to clinch Asian Snooker Championship

**i. India's leading cueist Pankaj Advani** teamed up with Laxman Rawat to demolish Pakistan in the final of the Asian Team Snooker Championship in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan. Advani pieced together a brilliant break of 83 to seal the first tie of the best-of-five final.

**ii.** Advani remained the only player not to lose a single individual match in the team event. This title brings up Advani's second Asian title this season and 8th overall while it was a first major first international title for Rawat.



### Manpreet Kaur, Govindan Laxmanan win gold in Asian Athletics Championships

**i. India's Manpreet Kaur** claimed the gold medal in the women's shot put on the opening day of the Asian Athletics Championships 2017 at the Kalinga Stadium, Bhubaneswar, Odisha.

**ii.** Govindan Laxmanan emerged triumphant in the men's 5,000 meters and has also won Gold Medal.



### Important Takeaways from Above News-

- The last edition of Asian Athletics Championship was held in Wuhan, China in 2015.

### Atthaya Thitikul, 14, becomes youngest player to win on Ladies European Tour

**i. Atthaya Thitikul**, a 14-year-old amateur from Thailand has won on the Ladies European Tour, supplanting Lydia Ko as the youngest champion on the circuit. She clinched a two-stroke victory at the Ladies European Thailand Championship at Phoenix Country Club in Pattaya.

**ii.** New Zealander Ko held the previous record as the youngest winner on the tour, after claiming the 2013 New Zealand Open at the age of 15 years, nine months and 17 days.

### Important Takeaways from Above News-



- The Ladies European Tour is a professional golf tour for women.
- It was founded in 1978.

### Mercedes' Valtteri Bottas wins Austrian Grand Prix

**i. Valtteri Bottas** roared to the second victory of his career when he won the Austrian Grand Prix for Mercedes.

**ii.** Bottas finished ahead of Sebastian Vettel and Daniel Ricciardo, who finished second and third respectively. Three-time Formula One champion, Mercedes' Lewis Hamilton finished fourth in the race.

### Important Takeaways from Above News-

- The First Austrian Grand Prix was held in the year 1963.

### Harinder Sandhu wins South Australian Open title

**i. India's Harinder Pal Sandhu** beat Rhys Dowling of Australia in the final to lift South Australian Open squash title. He mounted a comeback to win it on extra points.

**ii.** The third game was a no-contest as the Indian, a former national champion, shut out Dowling's challenge 11-4 to wrap up the victory. It was Sandhu's eighth title at the PSA level and the third this season after winning two in Malaysia in the month of May.

### Important Takeaways from Above News-

- Dipika Pallikal was the Champion of 2016 South Australian Open title.

### India tops medal tally for first time in Asian Athletics Championships history

**i. India has topped the medal tally for the first time** in the history of **Asian Athletics Championships**. In a stunning show of dominance on the fourth and final day of competitions in Bhubaneswar, India clinched five gold, 1 silver, and 3 bronze.

**ii.** With that, the hosts ended the championships on top with a haul of **29 medals** which included 12 gold, 5 silver, and 12 bronze. India's earlier best came way back in the **1985 Jakarta edition** where they had won 22 medals.

**iii.** India pushed **China to the second spot (20 Medals)**. China ended this edition with a tally of 8 gold, 7 silver, 5 bronze. **Kazakhstan finished third (8 Medals)** with 4 gold, 2 silver, 2 bronze while Iran ended on fourth with 4 gold and 1 bronze.

#### **Important Takeaways from Above News-**

- This was the 22nd Edition of Asian Athletics Championships which was held in Odisha.
- OLLY was the Mascot of the Championship.

#### **P V Sindhu bags 'Sportsperson of the Year' award**

**i. Rio Olympics silver medallist P V Sindhu** was bestowed with the '**Sportsperson of the Year**' award during the '**Maruti Suzuki Sportsperson of the Year**' Charity Gala Awards.

**ii.** Sindhu's coach **P Gopichand** received the Coach of the Year award while the **Flying Sikh Milkha Singh** was given the **Living Legend of the Year** award.

**iii.** Young India cricketer **K L Rahul**, who made a mark in the last Test series against Australia, was awarded **Gamechanger of the Year** award.

**iv.** The 2008 Beijing Olympics gold medallist and the country's sole gold medal winner in individual events at Olympics, **Abhinav Bindra** was given the **Lifetime Achievement Award**.

#### **Important Takeaways from Above News-**

- Deepa Malik was given Inspirational athlete of the year award.
- Gaurav Gill was given Athlete of the year award.

#### **Mithali Raj creates history, becomes leading run-getter in Women's ODIs**

**i. Mithali Raj** has been India's premier player ever since she made her debut in 1999.

**ii.** In the crucial game against Australia, Mithali became the woman cricketer who has **scored most runs in ODIs**. **Mithali Raj became the first women's player to reach 6000 ODI runs**. England's Charlotte Edwards was the previous leading run-getter in ODIs with 5992 runs.

**iii.** She has 48 not-outs to her name, which is the most in women's cricket.

#### **Important Takeaways from Above News-**

- Mithali Raj is the present Captain of Indian Woman's Cricket Team.

#### **Ravi Shastri appointed new head coach and Zaheer Khan bowling coach: BCCI**

**i. Ravi Shastri** has pipped Virender Sehwag to become Indian cricket team's new head coach. The appointment was confirmed by Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI). Shastri will take charge from India's upcoming three-Test series against Sri Lanka, starting **July 26**.

**ii.** Shastri, was chosen by the BCCI's Cricket Advisory Committee (CAC) that included former captains **Sourav Ganguly, Sachin Tendulkar** and veteran batting star **VVS Laxman**.

**iii.** Zaheer Khan has been appointed as the bowling coach of Indian Cricket Team.

#### **Important Takeaways from Above News-**

- Ravi Shastri replaces **Anil Kumble** as a head coach.

#### **Sundar Singh wins gold at World Para Athletics Championships**

**i. India's Sundar Singh Gurjar** has **won gold** on the opening night of **2017 World Para Athletics Championships in London**. He triumphed in the men's javelin throw with a personal best of 60.36 meters.

**ii.** Sri Lanka's Dinesh Priyantha Herath came second with 57.93 meters while defending champion Guo Chunliang of China was third with a season's best 56.14 meters.

#### **Important Takeaways from Above News-**

- World Para Athletics Championships 2013 was held in Doha, Qatar.

### Muguruza clinches maiden Wimbledon title

**i. Garbine Muguruza** of Spain came out with the spectacular performance as she defeated seven-time Grand Slam Champion Venus Williams in straight sets to clinch her maiden Wimbledon title.

**ii.** The **14th-seeded** Spaniard defeated **Williams 7-5, 6-0** in what eventually turned out to be a one-sided contest lasting one hour and 23 minutes on the Centre court.

### Roger Federer lifts a record 8th Wimbledon title beating Marin Cilic in Men's singles

**i. Roger Federer** won a record **eighth Wimbledon title** and became the **tournament's oldest champion** with a straight-sets victory over **Marin Cilic**. Federer claimed his 19th Grand Slam title.

**ii.** The 36-year old Federer is also Wimbledon's oldest men's winner of the modern era, succeeding Arthur Ashe, who was almost 32 when he won in 1976. This was his 11th Wimbledon final and 29th title at the majors.

**iii.** With this victory, Federer also became the first player since Bjorn Borg in 1976 to win Wimbledon without dropping a set in the entire tournament.

### India's Harinder Pal Sandhu wins Victorian Open squash tournament by defeating Rex Hedrick

**i. India's Harinder Pal Sandhu** has won the second title in two weeks, beating top-seed **Rex Hedrick** of Australia in a 77-minute final of Victorian Open squash, a PSA Tour event, in Melbourne, Australia.

**ii.** Third-seeded Sandhu had recently won the South Australian Open. In the Women's PSA W10 final, **Hong Kong's Tsz-Ling** showed every bit of her undoubted class in a straight games victory over fourth seed, Amanda Landers-Murphy.

### Lewis Hamilton won Formula One's fifth British Grand Prix

**i. Mercedes' Lewis Hamilton** won the **British Grand Prix** for the fifth time – matching the record of Jim Clark and Alain Prost to cut Sebastian Vettel's championship lead to just a single point.

**ii.** They allowed Valtteri Bottas to grab second from Kimi Raikkonen to secure a Mercedes one-two, as Vettel trailed home seventh.

### Important Takeaways from Above News-

- Valtteri Bottas who races for Mercedes stood second in the race.

### I H Manudev wins 1st National Masters snooker tournament title

**i. I H Manudev** has won the **first National Masters snooker tournament title in Chennai**. Alok Kumar, a former national men's champion, had been in fine form coming into the summit clash but found Karnataka's Manudev a tough proposition.

### The Wimbledon 2017- Complete list of Winners

**i.** 131st edition of the Wimbledon Championships tennis tournament took place at All England Lawn Tennis and Croquet Club in Wimbledon, London, the United Kingdom from 3rd – 16th July 2017.

**ii.** It was played on grass courts, organised by the All England Lawn Tennis Club and the International Tennis Federation and is part of the ATP World Tour, the WTA Tour, the ITF Junior Tour and the NEC Tour. Here is the complete list of all the winners in different categories of Wimbledon 2017.



Category	Winner	Runners-up
Men's Singles	Roger Federer (Switzerland)	Marin Cilic (Croatia)
Women's Singles	Garbine Muguruza (Spain)	Venus Williams (US)
Men's Doubles	Lukasz Kubot (Poland) & Marcelo Melo	Oliver Marach (Austria) & Mate Pavic

	(Brazil)	(Croatia)
<b>Women's Doubles</b>	Ekaterina Makarova (Russia) & Elena Vesnina (Russia)	Monica Niculescu (Romania) & Chan Hao-ching (Chinese)
<b>Mixed Doubles</b>	Jamie Murray (UK) & Martina Hingis (Switzerland)	Heather Watson (UK) & Henri Kontinen (Finland)

### **Bharat Arun appointed Team India bowling coach.**

- i. Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) has appointed **Bharat Arun as the Indian Cricket team's bowling coach.**
- ii. BCCI's acting Secretary Amitabh Chaudhary announced that the cricket body has also decided to retain **Sanjay Bangar as an assistant coach** and **R Sridhar as fielding coach till the 2019 ODI World Cup.**

### **FIFA has lifted their ban on the Sudan Football Association**

- i. World football's governing body FIFA lifted the ban on the **Sudan Football Association (SFA)** imposed on it for the failure to abide by agreements mentioned in articles 14 and 19 of the FIFA statute.
- ii. The SFA and its member officials are now eligible to benefit from the FIFA development program, course or training.



### **Important Takeaways from Above News-**

- Mr. Bakri Hassan Salih is the present Prime Minister of Sudan.
- The Capital of Sudan is Khartoum.
- The President of FIFA is Gianni Infantino.

### **Karamjyoti Dalal wins bronze medal at World Para Athletics**

- i. **India's Karamjyoti Dalal** has won bronze medal at the World Para Athletics Championships 2017 in the discus-throw. In the women's F55 category of discus-throw, she managed a throw of 19.02 m.
- ii. Earlier, Sundar Singh Gurjar had opened India's account at the 2017 World Para Athletics Championships by winning gold medal in the men's javelin throw event. Later, Amit Saroha won silver medal in the club throw event in the F-51 category.

### **Mithali Raj named captain of ICC Women's World Cup team**

- i. **India skipper Mithali Raj** was chosen as **the captain of the ICC Women's World Cup 2017 team** by the International Cricket Council. The 34-year-old Indian was selected as captain after she led India to the final of the just-concluded ICC Women's World Cup.
- ii. Mithali led by example, scoring 409 runs during the 30- day tournament. The side includes four players from England, three from South Africa, and Australia all-rounder Ellyse Perry. Mithali has been picked in the Team of the Tournament for the second time in her career.

### **Important Takeaways from Above News-**

- England Women Team has won the ICC World Cup 2017 by defeating India.

### **Boxer Sachin Siwach wins Gold at Commonwealth Youth Games**

**i. World Youth Champion Sachin Siwach** clinched a **gold medal at the Commonwealth Youth Games**, Bahamas after defeating Welsh boxer James Nathan Prober 4-1 in the final.

**ii.** Siwach, who won gold last year, was the only one of the 103 boxers to have clinched a gold so far in the tournament, taking place in Bahamas. The World Youth Champion was also the flag bearer of India for the tournament.

#### **H S Prannoy wins US Open Grand Prix Gold badminton title**

**HS Prannoy** notched up a thrilling three-game win over Commonwealth Games champion **Parupalli Kashyap** in an all-Indian final to clinch the \$120,000 US Open Grand Prix Gold. It was held at Anaheim, California USA.

**ii.** In the women's singles of the tournament, Japanese Aya Ohori won the final. She has defeated Michelle Li of Canada.

#### **India to host maiden men's World Boxing Championship in 2021**

**i.** The **International Boxing Association (AIBA)** has announced that **India will host their first Men's World Championship in 2021**. The announcement was made after a two-day executive committee meeting that was held in Moscow.

**ii.** The AIBA Men's **World Championships 2019 will be held in Russia** city of Sochi. The 2018 **Women's World Championships will also be held in New Delhi**.

#### **Important Takeaways from Above News-**

- Headquarters of AIBA is in Lausanne, Switzerland.
- President of AIBA Dr. Wu Ching-kuo.

#### **Ajay Singh wins bronze medal in Asian Youth and Junior Weightlifting Championships**

**i.** India's **Ajay Singh has won the bronze medal in Asian Youth and Junior Weightlifting Championships at Kathmandu**, taking India's tally to three. Ajay got third place in 77 kgs men's junior category lifting 143 kgs in snatch and 172 kgs in clean and jerk.

**ii.** S. Nirpupama Devi had won bronze in 69 kgs women youth category. Konsam Ormila Devi had won gold in 44kg weight category on an opening day.

#### **Indonesia to host AFC U-19 championship**

**i.** The **Asian Football Confederation (AFC)** Competition Committee officially awarded **Indonesia** the hosting of the **AFC Under-19 Championship 2018**.

**ii.** The AFC U-19 championship is scheduled to be held from October 18 to November 4 of 2018.

#### **Important Takeaways from Above News-**

- Headquarters of Asian Football Confederation (AFC) is in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.
- The capital of Indonesia is Jakarta.

#### **Sebastian Vettel of Ferrari wins Hungarian Grand Prix**

**i.** **Sebastian Vettel of Ferrari** took the chequered flag at the Hungaroring to claim his fourth victory of the season.

**ii.** In a nail-biting finish, Vettel had his team-mate Kimi Raikkonen behind complaining that he could go faster but being used by the team as a buffer against Hamilton. Valtteri Bottas from Mercedes was in third place.

#### **Shiva Thapa, Manoj Kumar strike gold at Czech Republic boxing tournament**

**i.** Indian boxers packed quite a heavy punch at the **48th Grand Prix Usti Nad Labem**, clinching **five gold, two silver, and one bronze medal at the event in the Czech Republic**.

**ii.** World Championships bronze-medallist Shiva Thapa (60kg), former Commonwealth Games gold-medallist Manoj Kumar (69kg), Amit Phangal (52kg), Gaurav Bidhuri (56kg) and Satish Kumar (+91kg) claimed gold medals after winning their respective summit clashes.



### Caeleb Dressel becomes first ever Swimmer to win three gold medals in one night at worlds Championship

- i. The **20-year-old Caeleb Dressel** established himself as America's newest star of the pool recently, becoming the **first swimmer to win three gold medals** on a single night at either the worlds or the Olympics.
- ii. Caeleb Dressel accomplished this feat at **2017 FINA World Aquatics Championships in Budapest, Hungary**. Not even Phelps managed such an audacious feat. Dressel raced three times over the course of about two hours and won every time.

### India Rises to 96th in FIFA World ranking, Best in Two Decades

- i. India has moved four places up to the **96th position** in the **FIFA World Ranking** released recently. This is the country's second-best ranking and its previous best was the 94th position in February 1996.
- ii. India has moved 77 positions up from the 173rd rank on March 2015.

#### Important Takeaways from Above News-

- Headquarter of FIFA is in Zurich, Switzerland.

The President of FIFA is Gianni Infantino.

### ICC Women's World Cup final : India lose to England by 9 runs

- i. **Indian eves lost to England** by a narrow margin of nine runs in the **ICC Women's World Cup final** at Lord's in London. Chasing a target of 229, Indian middle-order collapsed like a pack of cards, being bowled out for **219 in 48.4 overs**.
- ii. Opener Poonam Raut was top scored with 86, while Harmanpreet Kaur contributed 51. Earlier, Natalie Sciver's 51 and Sarah Taylor's 45 laid the foundation for England's decent total of 228 for 7. For England, it was **their fourth Women's World Cup**.

#### Important Takeaways from Above News-

- Captain of England women's cricket team is Heather Knight.

CLATAPULT  
CLAT coaching by NLU grads  
Obituaries

### Renowned cartoonist Mangesh Tendulkar passes away

- i. Renowned cartoonist **Mangesh Tendulkar** passed away in Pune.
- ii. He was 83. Tendulkar was suffering from bladder cancer for the last three years.
- iii. Tendulkar was one of the most decorated cartoonists in India. He was conferred with the president's medal in 1980, Marathi Natya Parishad Award in 1993 and Pulotsav award in 2003 among several other honors.



### China's Nobel laureate Liu Xiaobo dies at 61

- i. China's most famous political prisoner, the Nobel laureate and democracy icon **Liu Xiaobo**, has died at the age of 61. Liu was awarded the **2010 Nobel Peace Prize** for his long and non-violent struggle for fundamental human rights in China.
- ii. The Chinese intellectual and activist is the **first Nobel Peace Prize winner to die in custody** since German pacifist Carl von Ossietzky, the 1935 recipient, who died under surveillance after years confined to Nazi concentration camps.



### Former Sikkim CM Nar Bahadur Bhandari passes away

- i. **Nar Bahadur Bhandari**, one of the longest-serving **chief ministers of Sikkim** has died recently. Mr. Bhandari, a three-term former Chief Minister was 77 years old.
- ii. He became the Chief Minister of Sikkim for the first time in 1979 on a Janata Parishad ticket and then again in 1984 and 1989 on a Sikkim Sangram Parishad ticket.



#### Important Takeaways from Above News-

- The Capital of Sikkim is Gangtok.
- The present Chief Minister Sikkim is Pawan Kumar Chamling.

#### Former ISRO Chairman U R Rao passes away at 85

- i.** Eminent space scientist and former **Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) Chairman Udupi Ramachandra Rao** passed away due to age related ailments. He was 85.
- ii.** He was currently serving as the **chairman of the governing council of the Physical Research Laboratory in Ahmedabad**. Rao served as the chairman of ISRO for 10 years from 1984-1994.



#### Important Takeaways from Above News-

- The current chairman of ISRO is A. S. Kiran Kumar.
- Rao was awarded the Padma Bhushan in 1976 and the Padma Vibhushan in 2017 for his contribution to Indian space technology.

#### Renowned scientist Yash Pal passes away

- i.** Veteran scientist, administrator and popular science communicator, **Professor Yash Pal** died in Noida, Uttar Pradesh. He was 90. Mr. Pal made significant contributions to the field of science and to the study of cosmic rays, high-energy physics, astrophysics and development, among others.
- ii.** A scientist of international repute, Mr. Pal was awarded the **Padma Bhushan in 1976** and the **Padma Vibhushan in 2013**.



#### Dharam Singh, former Karnataka CM passes away

- i.** **N. Dharam Singh, former Chief Minister of Karnataka**, passed away following a heart attack. He was 80. He was the **17th Chief Minister of the state**. He headed the Congress-Janata Dal (Secular) coalition government from May 2004 to February 2006.
- ii.** Dharam Singh represented the Karnataka Legislative Assembly seven times without a defeat and was a member of the Lok Sabha from Bidar constituency once (2009).

#### Bollywood actor Inder Kumar passes away

- i.** **Bollywood actor Inder Kumar** passed away recently. He was 44. Inder Kumar suffered a heart attack at his residence in Andheri's Four Bungalows. He has worked in more than 20 films.
- ii.** He also shared the screen space with Salman Khan in Wanted and Tumko Na Bhool Paayenge among others.

## Important Days with theme

#### World Population Day: 11 July

- i.** **World Population Day** is being observed globally on **11th July**.
- ii.** The theme of this year is **'Family Planning- Empowering People, Developing Nations'**.

#### World Youth Skills Day: 15 July

- i.** **World Youth Skills Day** is being observed globally on **15th July**. The objective of the day is to raise awareness about the importance of investing in youth skills development.
- ii.** The theme of this year is **"Skills for the Future of Work"**.

#### Important Takeaways from Above News-

- The first World Youth Skills Day (WYSD) was celebrated on **15 July 2015**.

#### Nelson Mandela International Day: 18th July

- i.** Nelson Mandela International Day (or Mandela Day) is an annual international day in honour of Nelson Mandela, celebrated each year on 18 July, Mandela's birthday.
- ii.** The Nelson Mandela Foundation is dedicating this year's Mandela Day to Action Against Poverty, honouring Nelson Mandela's leadership and devotion to fighting poverty and promoting social justice for all.

#### Important Takeaways from Above News-

- The Mandela Day was officially declared by the United Nations in November 2009.
- The first UN Mandela Day held on 18 July 2010.
- Nelson Mandela was the first democratically elected president of a free South Africa.

#### **Nation celebrates Kargil Vijay Diwas: 26 July**

- i.** The country celebrated the **18th Anniversary of 'Kargil Vijay Diwas'**. On the occasion, Defence Minister Arun Jaitley and three Chiefs of Services laid floral tribute at Amar Jawan Jyoti, India Gate.
- ii.** Kargil Vijay Diwas is celebrated on **26 July**, commemorates India's emphatic victory against Pakistan and honors the war heroes.
- iii.** On this day in **1999**, the Indian Army successfully took control of posts at a treacherous high altitude and glaciated terrain across the Himalayas in the Ladakh region of Jammu and Kashmir, after fighting for 60 days.

#### **Important Takeaways from Above News-**

- Four Param Vir Chakras, nine Maha Vir Chakras, 53 Vir Chakras and other medals had been awarded to felicitate the Kargil War heroes.
- More than 500 soldiers from Indian Armed Forces sacrificed their lives during the war.

#### **World Hepatitis Day: 28 July**

- i.** **World Hepatitis Day (WHD)** takes place every year on **28 July** and brings the world together under a single theme to raise awareness of the global burden of viral hepatitis and to influence real change.
- ii.** The Theme for World Hepatitis Day 2017 is **'Eliminate Hepatitis'**.

#### **International Tiger Day: 29 July**

- i.** **The 7th International Tiger Day** is observed globally on **29 July**. This year's International Tiger Day would be celebrated with the slogan **'Fresh Ecology For Tigers' Protection'**.
- ii.** The conference of the heads of 13 countries – where tigers are available – held at Saint Petersburg of Russia in 2010 took the decision to mark the world tiger day on July 29 every year.

#### **United Nation's World Day against Trafficking in Persons: 30 July**

- i.** **The United Nations World Day against Trafficking in Persons 2017** is observed across the world on 30 July. This year, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) selected **'Act to Protect and Assist Trafficked Persons'** as the focus of the Day.
- ii.** The theme emphasizes one of the most pressing issues of the large mixed migration movements of refugees and migrants.

#### **Important Takeaways from Above News-**

- In 2013, the General Assembly held a high-level meeting to appraise the Global Plan of Action and designated July 30 as the World Day against Trafficking in Persons.