

# CURRENT AFFAIRS FOR JULY-2017

## List of Important Days

July 1 - National Doctors' Day.

July 2 - World Sports Journalists Day.

July 3 - International Plastic Bag Free Day (IPBFD)

July 4 - Independence Day of United States.

July 6 - World Zoonosis Day.

July 7 - Global Forgiveness Day.

July 7 - World Chocolate Day.

July 11 - World Population Day.

(Theme - "Family Planning: Empowering People, Developing Nations")

July 12 - Malala Day.

July 15 - World Youth Skills Day.

July 15 - France has celebrated its 228th Bastille Day.

July 17 - World Day for International Justice (International Justice Day).

(Theme - "Preventing conflict and sustaining peace through decent work")

July 17 - World Emoji Day

July 18 - Nelson Mandela International Day.

July 19 - Save public sector banks' day.

July 23 - National Broadcasting Day.

July 26 - Kargil Vijay Diwas.

July 27 - Death Anniversary of 11th President of India,

Bharat Ratna Dr Avul Pakir Jainulabdeen Abdul Kalam (A. P. J. Abdul Kalam)

July 28 - World Hepatitis Day. (Theme - "Eliminate Hepatitis")

July 29 - International Tiger Day.

July 30 - World Day against Trafficking in Persons.

(Theme – "Act to Protect and Assist Trafficked Persons")

## Reserve Bank of India

· The Financial Stability Report released by Reserve Bank of India (RBI) said the initiatives like GST will push the economic growth to 7.3% in the current fiscal year in terms of gross value added (GVA).

· Customers of Banks will not suffer any loss if unauthorized electronic banking transactions are reported within three days, the Reserve Bank of India has announced.

- Further, the amount involved will be credited to the accounts concerned within 10 days.

· RBI Deputy Governor Viral Acharya said that the Reserve Bank of India is considering setting up of Public Credit Registry (PCR), an extensive database of bank loans.

- Acharya suggested the registry would be managed by a public authority like the central bank, and reporting loan details should be mandatory.

· The Finance Ministry has received around 90 applications for the post of RBI Deputy Governor as SS Mundra's three-year term is coming to end in July 2017.

· The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) is going to issue a new batch of 20 notes under the Mahatma

Gandhi series-2005 soon.

The notes will have the inset letter 'S' and RBI Governor Urjit Patel's signature.

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has refused to deposit cash of over 200 crore in old notes from 31 district central cooperative banks in Maharashtra.
- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has floated a tender for leasing 12 currency verification systems to help isolate fake currency from deposited demonetized notes.
- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) had stopped printing the 2,000 currency notes about five months ago and has started printing the smaller denomination 200 notes.
- The new 200 currency note will be available in the market before the previously reported date of 15 August 2017.
- The National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) has received final nod from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to function as the Bharat Bill Payment Central Unit (BBPCU) and operate the Bharat Bill Payment System (BBPS).

### **State Bank of India**

- The State Bank of India (SBI) has waived charges for fund transfer of up to 1000 through its Immediate Payment Service (IMPS) to promote small transactions.
- The charge will be 5 along with GST for fund transfer of 1000 to 1 lakh and up to 15 for transactions of 1 to 2 lakh.
- The State Bank of India (SBI) launched SBI Realty, a dedicated portal that will help home buyers to choose flats from its 3,000 approved projects across the country.
- India's largest lender State Bank of India (SBI) cut interest rates on savings bank deposits by 0.50 percentage points effective July 31.

### **Other Banks**

- Punjab National Bank (PNB) Maestro debit card holders will face card blockage if they fail to replace it with a more secure EMV chip based card by July 31.
- Private sector lender Axis Bank has reached an agreement to buy digital payments platform FreeCharge for 350-400 crore in cash from Snapdeal.
- Canara Bank, which has set an ambitious target of moving to 'paperless' futuristic banking, launched its first 'Digital Banking Branch' at Bengaluru.  
Titled 'CANDI', the branch will provide an end-to-end digital experience to customers.

- Netherlands' third-largest bank ABN AMRO announced that it will no longer extend credit to clients in the tobacco industry.

### **Insurance**

- ICICI Prudential has agreed to take over the life insurance business of Sahara Group's subsidiary Sahara Life, which was shut down by insurance regulator IRDAI in June.

- ICICI Lombard General Insurance, a joint venture of ICICI Bank and Fairfax Financial Holdings, has filed draft prospectus for its IPO. This makes it the first non-life insurance company in India to file for IPO.

- SBI Life Insurance, a unit of State Bank of India, has filed for an Initial Public Offering (IPO), that will reportedly raise over \$1 billion (over 6,400 crore).

- Insurance giant Swiss Re is preparing an insurance policy for the Mesoamerican Reef in Mexico to prevent its further deterioration.

- HDFC Standard Life Insurance and Max Life Insurance have called off their proposed merger after failing to win regulatory approval for a union that would've created an insurance giant with 1.1 lakh crore in assets.

### **Supreme Court**

- The Supreme Court held that a person obtaining jobs and admissions under the reserved category by producing fake caste certificates will lose the job/admission as well as the certificate.

- The Supreme Court suspended the government ban on sale and purchase of cattle for slaughter.

- While hearing petitions challenging Aadhaar, the Supreme Court appointed a 9-judge bench to decide whether privacy is a fundamental right or not under the Constitution.

- The Supreme Court ruled that the police cannot arrest the accused without conducting a preliminary inquiry under dowry harassment cases.

### **High Courts and Sessions Courts**

- Delhi High Court launched a helpline number-1888 for litigants and lawyers to provide an easy access to justice.

- The Gujarat High Court has asked the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to drop a line from its directive to send 12 large accounts for immediate action under the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code.

- Lahore High Court lifted a ban on the airing of Indian television serials in Pakistan.

- Madras High Court directed that National Song Vande Mataram should be sung in all Tamil

Nadu educational institutions at least once a week.

It further mandated all government and private offices sing or play it at least once a month.

- In a recent order, the Bombay Court held that a working woman who is "capable of maintaining and sustaining herself" should not be entitled to get maintenance from her estranged husband.

### **Election Commission**

- Achal Kumar Joti has been appointed as the new Chief Election Commissioner (CEC).

He will take charge after Nasim Zaidi retires on July 6.

## **Central Government**

- The government is going to link promotions of IPS officers to their physical fitness.
- The Centre notified that action would be taken against those who post videos and images of the protected Andaman and Nicobar Islands' tribal communities on social media.
- To create awareness about Aadhaar number, the government has started a story-telling contest named 'Aadhaar Hai To Aasaani Hai'.
- Union Cabinet gave its in-principle approval for sale of the government's 51.11% stake in Hindustan Petroleum Corporation (HPCL) to India's largest oil producer ONGC for 30,000 crore.
- The government is pro-actively considering having two separate time zones in the country.
- In a bid to prevent harassment of women, the government has decided to make registration of marriages compulsory.

## **States**

- Uttarakhand banned begging, making it one of the twenty states and two union territories to have banned the practice.
- Mizoram recently celebrated the 31st anniversary of the signing of the historic Mizo peace accord.
  - This Accord was signed by the Mizo National Front (MNF) leader Laldenga, Mizoram Chief Secretary Lalkhama, and Union Home Secretary R D Pradhan.
- The Assam government is going to raise a new Special Rhino Protection Force (SRPF) for better protection of the one-horned rhinos in Assam.
  - The cadre for the force will be selected from local youths hailing from the fringe areas of the Kaziranga national park.
- The Goa government has announced that it is discontinuing the Goa Yuva Samwad Yojana, a scheme through which people between 16 and 30 could avail free voice calls and internet data.
  - The scheme was supposed to operate till December 2019.
- The Haryana government has decided to run electric buses, each capable of saving nearly 4.25 lakh litres diesel and reducing carbon emissions by 1,150 tonnes in 10 years, in Gurugram.
- The Uttar Pradesh government launched a scheme on World Population Day (July 11), under which it will give a kit comprising condoms and oral contraceptive pills as 'shagun' to newlyweds.
- Jammu and Kashmir became the last state to implement GST, passing the resolution during a special session of the legislative assembly.
- H-Bots Robotics, a startup from Telangana's T-Hub incubator, is developing 'police robots' priced at about 3.5 lakhs.
- The Telangana government has issued an ordinance to curb the "social evils" caused by online rummy card games.

- Rajasthan has become the first State to lay down the minimum educational qualifications for contesting elections to village cooperative societies and various other cooperative bodies.
- In this regard, state government has amended State Cooperative Societies Rules, 2003.
- Delhi Police is the first state police to get 'super cop' belts which are widely used by the police in the UK, USA, and Russia.
- The Maharashtra government has launched a scheme to cover medical insurance of up to 10 lakh for legislators and their families.
- This scheme is aimed at curbing the use of fake bills in the medical reimbursement scheme the legislators were covered under earlier
- Karnataka government has recently formed a panel to design a separate flag for the state.
- The Kannada flag, which is divided into two equal horizontal stripes, a yellow strip for the top half and a red strip below, could become the official state flag of Karnataka.
- This flag was designed by Kannada writer and activist Ma Ramamurthy for a pro-Kannada political party.
- As of now, Jammu and Kashmir is the only state that has its own flag.
- The Maharashtra government is going to purchase a chopper for the VIPs of the state after private agencies were suspended from flying them.
- The Kerala government approved the construction of a Greenfield airport near pilgrim site Sabarimala.
- The Gujarat government has decided to celebrate the 'World Heritage City' status granted to Ahmedabad by UNESCO.
- The programme, starting on August 1, will include heritage walks, cultural events, lectures and seminars about the 600-year-old city.
- Uttar Pradesh Power Minister Shrikant Sharma launched free power connection schemes for BPL families at 624 places across the state.
- The Maharashtra government has lifted the ban on the sale of paan masala until a single member committee decides on the matter.
- Delhi government has announced plans to launch a mobile application which will allow people to check the status of government projects on a single platform.
- Maharashtra government approved bank guarantees and loan-related sanctions for four Mumbai Metro projects.
- This will help formalize the loan agreements with Asian Development Bank and Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank which are funding the projects.

- Telangana prisons department, citing Norway's example, has proposed to accommodate prisoners from overcrowded prisons in India at a rent of 10,000 a month per prisoner.
- Delhi civic agencies are going to launch a mobile app within the next two months to help locate all the 1800 public toilets run by Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD).
- Maharashtra government announced that integrated coaching will not be allowed in the state from the next academic year.
- Maharashtra government announced plans to make installation of GPS system mandatory in black-and-yellow taxis and auto rickshaws.
- The Haryana government banned the use of liquid nitrogen in drinks and food.
- Maharashtra has topped the list for the maximum number of applications for fresh registration under Goods and Services Tax with over 1.3 lakh applications.
- Maharashtra is followed by Gujarat and Uttar Pradesh with 90,000 and 87,000 registrations, respectively.

### **Place in the News**

- The UNESCO World Heritage committee has put the West Bank city of Hebron's Old Town on its list of world heritage in danger, drawing outrage from Israel.
- The decision was taken in Krakow, Poland, on a proposal from the Palestinian side.
- The central government has approved the renaming of two villages in Haryana, after complaints from villagers.
- The Ganda village has been renamed to Ajit Nagar and Kinnar has been renamed to Gaibi Nagar.
- The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) has voted to leave Australia's Great Barrier Reef off its "List of World Heritage in Danger" despite several reports claiming major coral bleaching at the 2,300-km-long ecosystem.
- Ahmedabad has become India's first World Heritage City after the UNESCO World Heritage Committee accepted India's official entry at a meeting in Poland.
- A total of 36 places in India are recognized as World Heritage Sites by UNESCO, with the latest addition being the city of Ahmedabad.
- With four of its sites recognized, Maharashtra tops the list in India.
- India's World Heritage Sites include West Bengal's Sundarbans, Maharashtra's Ajanta and Ellora Caves, UP's Taj Mahal, Goa's Churches and Convents, among others.
- Okinoshima, sacred Japanese island where women are banned and men must strip naked was declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site.
- The union cabinet has approved the establishment of the International Rice Research Institute (IRRI), South Asia Regional Center (ISARC) at campus of National Seed Research and Training Center (NSRTC) in Varanasi.

- India for the first time is going to host International Theatre Olympics, the greatest carnival of theatre in the world in 2018.

- The 7th edition was held in Poland in 2016.

- Vondaraguppe village in Karnataka's Ramanagara district has transitioned to a completely cashless system.

- The world's longest hanging pedestrian bridge, Europabrücke opened near the Swiss town of Zermatt.

- The bridge, which is 494 metres high, hangs 85 metres above the Grabengufer ravine.

## **Personalities**

- Shyam Saran Negi, independent India's first-ever voter, turns 100 years old.

- Negi, who belongs to Chini village in present day Kinnaur district in Himachal Pradesh, was the first to cast his vote in the country's first-ever general elections held in 1951.

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi is going to adopt Kakrahia, a village in Varanasi under the Sansad Adarsh Gram Yojana.

- Modi has adopted Jayapur and Nagepur in his Lok Sabha constituency of Varanasi.

- UK's first pregnant man, Hayden Cross, has given birth to a girl after putting his sex transition on hold to get pregnant by a sperm donor.

- Arpan Doshi, an Indian-origin man, who studied in Gujarat until he was 13, has become UK's youngest ever doctor.

- Nation remembered freedom fighters Chandra Shekhar Azad and Lokmanya Tilak, on their birth anniversaries of July 23.

## **Defence and National Security**

- India successfully test-fired its indigenously developed Quick Reaction Surface-to-Air short range Missile (QRSAM).

- After successfully test-firing its first intercontinental ballistic missile, North Korea claimed that it now has missiles capable of reaching anywhere in the world. The missile had a trajectory of 2,800 km and landed in Japanese waters.

- "Maitree 2017" a 14 day joint military training exercise between Indian Army and Royal Thailand Army commenced at Bakloh in Chamba district in Himachal Pradesh.

- Aim: To build and promote closer relations while exchanging skills and experiences between the two armies.

- Maitree 2016 was held at Krabi in Thailand in 2016.

- Pakistan has successfully tested fired short-range surface-to-surface ballistic missile 'Nasr'.

- 'Nasr' is a high-precision weapon system with the ability to be deployed quickly.
- Malabar Naval Exercise 2017, a weeklong trilateral joint naval exercise involving the United States, Japan and India has started at Chennai coast.
- The United States has deployed anti-aircraft missiles for the first time in the Baltics for use in NATO military drills in Lithuania.
- This comes ahead of the Zapad exercise by Russia and Belarus, which NATO allies believe could increase Russian presence.
- Ships carrying Chinese troops are headed to Djibouti to set up China's first overseas military base in an effort to enhance its global reach.
- The base will be used for peacekeeping and humanitarian aid in Africa and West Asia, China said.
- The government has extended financial powers to the Army Vice-Chief to make emergency purchases to keep the force ready for 'short intense wars'.
- The United States 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.
- US Navy successfully tested the world's first-ever active Laser Weapons System (LaWS).
- In the test, the LaWS deployed aboard the USS Ponce amphibious transport ship was able to destroy a drone in flight and moving targets on the Persian Gulf.
- Indian Navy's second LCU Mark IV L52 ship was formally launched in Kolkata, West Bengal.
- The LCU Mark-IV vessels are designed for multipurpose amphibious operations jointly carried out Indian Navy and Indian Army to ensure maritime security of Andamans and Lakshadweep islands.
- The US Navy officially inducted the world's largest aircraft carrier USS Gerald R Ford. The nuclear-powered carrier is worth over 83,000 crore (\$12.9 billion) and weighs 1 lakh tonnes.
- Iran announced the production of a New Defence Missile amid ongoing tensions with the US. This missile can target fighter planes, unmanned aerial vehicles, cruise missiles and helicopters.
- Sweden is going to hold its 'first and biggest' military exercise in over 20 years, involving all of its military branches as well as troops from several NATO countries.
- China and Russia held their First Joint Naval Drill in the Baltic Sea.
- This exercise involves anti-aircraft and anti-ship defence measures coordinated from the Baltiysk base in Russia's Kaliningrad enclave.
- The Defence Research and Development Organization (DRDO) has developed India's first unmanned tank Muntra, which has three tested and validated remote controlled variants - Muntra-S, Muntra-M, and Muntra-N.

- Reliance Defence and Engineering Limited (RDEL) launched the first two Naval Offshore Patrol Vessels (NOPVs) — Shachi and Shruti at their shipyard in Pipavav, Gujarat.
- Russian Navy paraded about 50 ships and submarines and over 40 planes and helicopters of the naval aviation in the city of St Petersburg to mark the 321st anniversary of the country's Navy.
- The Chinese Army displayed more than 600 pieces of military hardware, nearly half of which were displayed for the first time in public, in a parade to mark its 90th founding anniversary.
- The US military successfully tested the Terminal High Altitude Area Defence (THAAD) system by launching a ballistic missile over the Pacific Ocean.

### **Committees/Commissions**

- Virender Sehwal and P T Usha named in 12-member Committee which has been handed the job to pick this year's Khel Ratna and Arjuna Awardees.
- The Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC) has adopted 3 Codex standards for pepper (black, white and green), cumin and thyme.  
It is for first time pepper, cumin and thyme; spices will have such universal standards.

### **Schemes/Initiatives**

- The Union Ministry of Science & Technology has launched National Biopharma Mission, a first ever Industry-Academia mission to accelerate biopharmaceutical development in India.
- Under this mission, the ministry also launched Innovate in India (i3) program to create an enabling ecosystem to promote entrepreneurship and indigenous manufacturing in the sector.
- The Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated Textiles India 2017 India's first ever mega textiles trade fair at Gandhinagar, Gujarat.
- The Union Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances & Pension has launched a new training programme titled Comprehensive Online Modified Modules on Induction Training (COMMIT) for State Government officials.
- Former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi's name from the scheme Indira Priyadarshini Puruskar Yojana, given to meritorious girls of Class 10 and 12 from Rajasthan Board, has been removed.
- From now, this scheme will be called 'Padmakshi Puruskar Yojana', based on the name of Goddess 'Saraswati'.
- Union Minister of State for Skill Development and Entrepreneurship Rajeev Pratap Rudi and Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan jointly laid the foundation stone of India's biggest Global Skill Park in Bhopal.
- Shivraj Singh Chouhan-led Madhya Pradesh government is setting up 'astro-OPDs' in Bhopal where astrologers and such soothsayers will provide consultation to patients facing diverse problems.
- A museum in honor of late President Dr APJ Abdul Kalam inaugurated on July 27 in Tamil Nadu's Rameshwaram.

- Earlier, another museum in memory of Dr Kalam was opened in Kerala's Thiruvananthapuram.
- The Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDA) has launched 'mAadhaar', a new app for syncing Aadhaar data on mobile phones.
- The much awaited pension scheme-Pradhan Mantri Vaya Vandana Yojana- for senior citizens aged 60 or above was formally launched by Finance Minister Arun Jaitley.
- The Union Ministry of Rural Development is going to launch Aajeevika Grameen Express Yojana (AGEY), a sub scheme under Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana – National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM).
- This scheme aims to provide an alternative source of livelihood to members of Self Help Groups (SHGs) by facilitating them to operate public transport services in backward rural areas.
- The Women and Child Development Minister Maneka Gandhi launched an online portal SHe-box (Sexual Harassment e-box) for the central government's women employees to file complaints related to workplace sexual harassment.
- The Union Ministry of Rural Development launched Aarambh mobile app for performance based maintenance contracting and community contracting for maintenance of rural roads.
- Government has implemented the “Seekho aur Kamao” scheme which encourages the youth from minority communities to learn employment skills.
- PM Narendra Modi inaugurated a Memorial built in Kalam's honour at Rameswaram in Tamil Nadu.
- India's first bullet train project, the Mumbai-Ahmedabad High Speed Rail, will be inaugurated this September by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his Japanese counterpart Shinzo Abe.
- On the occasion of its foundation day, the Union Ministry of Earth Science has launched a mobile application titled 'India Quake'.
- This app has been developed by the National Centre for Seismology (NCS) for automatic dissemination of earthquake parameter (location, time and magnitude) after the occurrence of earthquakes.
- The Union Ministry of Minority Affairs has launched Jiyo Parsi Publicity Phase-2 in Mumbai under the Jiyo Parsi scheme.

### **Summit/Conference**

- G20 Summit, the annual meeting of the G20 (an international forum for the governments and central bank governors from 20 major economies), was held at Hamburg Messe, in the city of Hamburg, Germany during 7th and 8th July 2017.
- The Karnataka government has announced a 3-day global conference on social justice from July 21-23 at the University of Agricultural Sciences in Bengaluru.

- It is aimed at commemorating the 126th birth anniversary of BR Ambedkar.
- Theme: 'Reclaiming Social Justice, Revisiting Ambedkar'.
- For the first time India is going to host Global Conference on Cyber Space (GCCS) 2017, the world's largest conference on cyber space and related issues in New Delhi in November 2017.
- This is the 5th edition of the conference.
- Theme of GCCS 2017 - 'Cyber4All : An Inclusive, Sustainable, Developmental, Safe and Secure Cyberspace'.

### **Agreement/Deal/Signed**

- Russian President Vladimir Putin signed a decree extending the embargo imposed on food products from the EU and other Western countries until the end of 2018.
- The move comes days after the European Union formally rolled out fresh economic sanctions against Russia.
- Rail Land Development Authority (RLDA) an arm of the Indian Railways for commercial exploitation of rail land has inked MoU with National Building Construction Corporation (NBCC) for redevelopment of 10 railway stations across the country on global standards.
- French oil and gas company Total S.A has signed an agreement of \$4.8-billion (over 31,000 crore) with Iran to develop one of the world's largest natural gas fields, Iran's oil ministry announced.
- The deal is to develop a gas field in Persian Gulf alongside China's CNPC and Iran's Petropars.
- During Prime Minister Narendra Modi's historical visit, India and Israel signed a total of 7 agreements in various areas like agriculture, space cooperation.
- The Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) has inked an agreement with 4 Private Sector Banks (ICICI Bank, HDFC Bank, Axis Bank and Kotak Mahindra Bank) and one Public Sector Bank (Bank of Baroda) for the purpose of collection of provident fund dues from the employers and payments to its subscribers.
- EPFO had tied up with five banks, namely, State Bank of India (SBI), Punjab National Bank, Allahabad Bank, Indian Bank and Union Bank of India.
- The United States and Qatar signed an agreement on combating terrorism and terror financing.
- 5 Indian States (Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Gujarat, Telangana and Arunachal Pradesh) and a Union Territory (Puducherry) have formally adopted the Centre's Government e-Marketplace (GeM) initiative.
- In this regard, these states/UT have signed MoU to join GeM initiative.
- American multinational retailer Walmart signed a MoU with the Maharashtra government to invest 900 crore for opening up of fifteen stores.
- Walmart already has two pilot stores in the state in Aurangabad and Amravati.
- The landmark India-Japan civil nuclear agreement came into effect.

- This deal would enable Japan to export nuclear power plant technology as well as provide finance for nuclear power plants in India.

· The Indian Army has signed MoU with Defence Research and Development Organization (DRDO) to raise one regiment of the advanced Medium Range Surface to Air Missiles (MRSAM) defence system.

· Iran and US-backed Iraq signed an agreement to boost military cooperation.

· The regulator for the securities market in India Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has signed an MOU with the European Securities and Markets Authority (ESMA).

· Sri Lanka has signed a US \$1.1 billion deal to sell a 70% stake of the strategic Hambantota deep-sea port to China.

### **Meet/Visit**

· Prime Minister Narendra Modi visited to Israel for his three-day historical visit.

- Modi meet Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and President Reuven Rivlin.

- PM Narendra Modi met Moshe Holtzberg, the now 11- year-old survivor of the 26/11 Mumbai attacks, in Jerusalem.

· Prime Minister Narendra Modi has visited a total of 49 countries in the last three years.

· National Security Advisor Ajit Doval was visited to China for attend the BRICS meeting in Beijing.

· The 2017 BRICS Labour and Employment Ministers' meeting was held at Chongqing (China).

### **Bills**

· The annual buffalo racing sport 'Kambala' has been legalized in Karnataka after President Pranab Mukherjee approved the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (Karnataka Amendment) Ordinance, 2017.

· The Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act (AFSPA) has been extended for six more months in Nagaland with effect from June 30.

· India recently-enforced Anti-Hijacking Act, 2016. This act prescribes death penalty for hijack conspirators in case of a casualty, and life imprisonment otherwise.

· The Uttar Pradesh government has decided to introduce an 'Anti-Copying' Bill in the upcoming assembly session to check for cheating in the state examinations.

· President Pranab Mukherjee has given his assent to Maharashtra Prohibition of People from Social Boycott (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Bill, 2016.

- Maharashtra is the first state in the country to formulate a law to punish social boycott.

- The US House of Representatives has passed a \$621.5 billion defence policy bill which includes proposals of boosting defence cooperation with India.
- To develop Bengaluru as the international hub of computer graphics technology, the Cabinet approved the Karnataka Animation, Visual Effects, Gaming and Comics Policy, 2017-22.
- The Lok Sabha has passed The Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (Amendment) Bill, 2017.
- This Bill amends the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act (RTE), 2009 to extend the deadline for teachers to acquire the prescribed minimum qualifications for appointment.
- Parliament has passed The Admiralty (Jurisdiction and Settlement of Maritime Claims) Bill, 2016.
- Finance Minister Arun Jaitley introduced the Banking Regulation (Amendment) Bill, 2017 in the Lok Sabha.
- Zimbabwe's Parliament passed a bill giving President Robert Mugabe power to appoint the country's top judges without consulting anyone.
- The bill is the first amendment to the Constitution since it was adopted by a referendum in 2013.
- PM Narendra Modi-led cabinet cleared the New Wage Code Bill which will ensure minimum wage to 4 crore employees across all sectors.
- The parliament has passed The Collection of Statistics (Amendment) Bill, 2017 after it was approved by the Rajya Sabha.

## **Fund**

- The Union Government and Asian Development Bank (ADB) have signed a \$220 million loan agreement for improving connectivity as well as transport efficiency and safety on State Highways of Rajasthan.
- China-based Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) approved a \$329-million (over 3,100 crore) loan to build access roads across 4,000 villages in Gujarat.
- The European Union has approved a \$6.1-billion (over 39,000 crore) state bailout for Italy's fourth largest lender, Monte dei Paschi di Siena.
- India and Israel jointly launched a \$40 million (over 258 crore) technology fund during PM Modi's visit to the country.
- The fund is aimed at encouraging Indians to invest in Israel's technology ecosystem and to open development centres in Israel.
- India has contributed an additional \$1 million to India-UN Development Partnership Fund launched to support sustainable development projects across the developing world.
- The Delhi government has released 100 crore for the completion of the Signature Bridge, which is twice the height of the Qutub Minar.

## **Economy**

- Syrian President Bashar al-Assad has appeared for the first time on the country's currency since taking office, with his portrait printed on a new 2,000-pound banknote that went into circulation.
- National Multi Commodity Exchange (NMCE), India's first demutualised online national multi-commodities exchange will merge with Indian Commodity Exchange (ICEX).
- The merged entity will create India's third biggest commodity exchange.
- The largest commodity exchange by volume is the Multi Commodity Exchange (MCX) followed by National Commodity and Derivatives Exchange (NCDEX).
- Restrictions on cash dealings of 2 lakh or more will not apply to credit card bill payments, the Revenue Department has clarified.
- China's biggest banks, including Industrial and Commercial Bank of China (ICBC) and Agricultural Bank of China, lost a combined \$15 billion (nearly 97,000 crore) in value in a week.

## **Companies/Industry**

- Jio announced the launch of the 25,000-kilometre Asia-Africa-Europe (AAE-1) submarine cable system.
- 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.
- Fast-moving consumer goods (FMCG) major ITC became the 4th Indian company to cross market capitalization of 4 trillion.
- Earlier, Tata Consultancy Services (TCS), Reliance Industries and HDFC Bank have achieved this milestone with TCS being the most valued company with market capitalization of 4.64 trillion.
- The government has approved e-commerce giant Amazon's proposed \$500 million (over 3,200 crore) foreign direct investment (FDI) in retailing of food products in India.
- Microsoft has ended support for Windows Phone 8.1 just over 3 years after its April 2014 debut, marking the end of the Windows Phone OS.
- Patanjali Group founder Baba Ramdev launched a private security firm called 'Parakram Suraksha Private Limited' in Haridwar.
- Mukesh Ambani-led Reliance Industries crossed 5 lakh crore in market capitalization for the first time in its trading history, making it the second Indian company to do so after TCS.
- Adobe announced that it will stop updating and distributing Flash Player plug-in by the end of 2020.
- Flash technology was once one of the most widely used ways to watch videos and play games online.

- Facebook TV is set to launch online in mid-August.
- The social media giant has partnered with media companies like Group Nine Media, BuzzFeed, ATTN, and Vox Media which would provide inexpensive, five to 10- minute shows.
- Microsoft has announced its long-standing basic graphics editing program 'MS Paint' will no longer be available with the next Windows 10 update called the Autumn Creators Update.
- The MS Paint program was first released with the very first version of Windows 1.0 in 1985.
- Facebook has shut down one of its Artificial Intelligence systems after chatbots programmed to converse in English started speaking in their own language.

### **Exports/Imports**

- India, the world's third-largest oil importer, for the first time will import crude oil from the United States.
- India is the world's third-largest beef exporter and is expected to retain the spot in 2026, according to the OECDFAO Agricultural Outlook 2017-2026 report.
- Brazil was ranked top beef exporter and Australia came second.

### **Taxation/Trade**

- The government launched the Goods and Services Tax (GST) regime, effective from July 1, 2017.
- The Income Tax Department has released a list of people who are exempted from linking their Aadhaar card with the PAN for now.
- This list includes: Residents of Assam, Meghalaya and Jammu & Kashmir, All Non-Residential Indians (NRIs), Citizens of Foreign Nations, Individuals aged 80 years or more.
- Finance Ministry along with the Central Board of Excise and Customs launched GST Rates Finder app for consumers to verify the accurate tax rates on commodity and services under the Goods and Services Tax.
- The Income Tax Department has started sending text messages to people who have made big investments in the past two years, but have neither paid income tax nor filed I-T returns.
- Revenue Secretary Hasmukh Adhia has said that if property is rented out for shop, office, or other commercial purposes then it will be taxable under GST in case of earnings over 20 lakh.
- The government clarified that all free food supplied at religious institutions is exempt from the Goods and Services Tax (GST).
- The Union Finance Ministry has launched a new tax payer service module titled Aaykar Setu.
- Traders and businesses will have to display the Goods and Services Tax (GST) registration number on their business sign boards and the registration certificate on the premises.
- The GSTIN is a 15-digit number which taxpayers get after registering with GST Network portal.

- Income tax authorities have added a provision in the tax return form (ITR2), which will require all non-residents to disclose details of their bank accounts outside India.
- Earlier, NRIs were allowed to claim funds lying in foreign accounts as lawful income earned abroad.
- Individuals selling old jewellery to traders or hostel accommodation provided to students by educational institutions will not be subject to GST, the government has clarified.
- Further, GST will also not apply on sale of old cars or two-wheelers.
- The government's 'Project Insight', which was built over seven years at a cost of \$156 million, will enable catching tax evaders by keeping a tab on their social media posts.
- The Finance Ministry announced that people can link their Aadhaar to their Permanent Account Number (PAN) till August 31, 2017.

### **Agriculture/Production**

- Hotels and food outlets, including restaurants, will have to declare the kind of oil or fat used in cooking each of the food items on their menus if a proposal by the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) is passed.
- FSSAI also wants to make it mandatory for restaurants to buy raw materials only from licensed or registered vendors.
- India tripled its milk production in the first quarter of the 21st century and is expected to become the world's biggest milk-producing nation, according to an OECD-FAO report.
- It will be one-third more than second-placed European Union.

### **Space**

- The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) is developing Double Asteroid Redirection Test (DART), the first-ever mission that will deflect a near-Earth asteroid.
- European and Japanese space agencies are building a joint mission to solar system's smallest and "least explored" rocky planet Mercury.
- Two spacecraft, one each for ESA (European Space Agency) and JAXA (Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency), are scheduled to launch in October 2018 and would reach Mercury's orbit seven years later, enduring 350°C temperature.
- NASA's James Webb Telescope, the largest space telescope ever built, has been locked in a vacuum vault for testing at sub-zero temperatures to simulate its working in deep space.
- Scientists from University of Cambridge, UK have discovered the smallest star in the universe.
- It has been named as EBLM J0555-57Ab.
- The star was identified by a planet-finding experiment run by several universities titled SuperWASP.

- Astronomers at Pune-based IUCAA and IISER have discovered a super cluster of galaxies, which they named 'Saraswati'.
- Russian space agency Roscosmos successfully launched 'Kanopus-V-IK' Earth-imaging satellite and 72 microsattellites into orbit on a single rocket.
- China is going to build its first Mars simulation base on the country's Tibetan plateau as it aims to send the first mission to the red planet by 2020 after the US, India and Russia.
- The world's smallest spacecraft ever launched have successfully been placed in low Earth orbit by ISRO's PSLV rocket.  
Named Sprites, the 3.5cmx3.5cm space probes weigh 4 grams each and run on sunlight.

### **Science and Technology**

- The Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion (DIPP) will establish India's first Technology and Innovation Support Center (TISC) at Patent Information Centre, Punjab.
- The TISC will be set up under the World Intellectual Property Organization's (WIPO) TISC program.
- US-Russia research collaboration at Harvard has created the world's most advanced quantum computer with 51 quantum bits, or qubits– the fundamental unit of information in a quantum computer.

### **Health/Diseases/Drugs**

- 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).
- Tamil Nadu has reported its first case of Zika virus, bringing the tally of the mosquito-transmitted infection in India to four.  
The previous three cases were confirmed in May, all coming from Ahmedabad.
- Maharashtra has become the first Indian state to provide free injectable contraceptives to women under the state's family planning programme, Antara.
- The Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare J P Nadda launched the National Strategic Plan for Malaria Elimination (2017-22).
- The Union Ministry of Science and Technology has launched SOHUM, an indigenously developed low-cost hearing screening device for newborns.
- The report by the Joint UN Programme on HIV/AIDS, UNAIDS, 'Ending AIDS: Progress towards the 90-90-90 targets', revealed that India, China and Pakistan are among the 10 countries that accounted for more than 95 per cent of all new HIV infections in the Asia and the Pacific region in 2016.
- The government has said that India has less than 1 doctor for every 1,000 people, which is less than the World Health Organization standard.

- The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) has banned the use of stapler pins in tea bags from January 2018.

## **Energy/Gas/Oil**

- A consortium including India's oil and gas company ONGC has announced that it is willing to invest \$11 billion in Iran to develop a natural gas field and build the infrastructure to export the fuel.
- Vietnam has granted ONGC Videsh a two-year extension to explore oil block 128 in the South China Sea.
- Venezuela's state-owned oil firm Petroleos de Venezuela has offered a 9% stake in an oil field to ONGC Videsh, the international arm of India's state-owned Oil and Natural Gas Corporation.
- The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) has approved sale of government's 51.11% stake along with management control in HPCL (Hindustan Petroleum) to ONGC.
- "Hywind", the world's first full—scale floating wind farm is being built off the coast of Scotland in the North Sea.

## **Environment**

- The National Zoological Park, New Delhi is going to launch an Animal Adoption Scheme.
- The National Green Tribunal (NGT) directed a complete ban on 'manja' (kite strings) made of or coated with any synthetic material that is non-biodegradable.
- The National Green Tribunal (NGT) ordered that a penalty of 50,000 will be imposed for dumping waste in river Ganga on the stretch between Haridwar and Unnao.
- Over 8.3 billion tonnes of plastic, enough to cover the entire country of Argentina, has been generated by humans since the material's mass production started in 1950s, a US based research has revealed.

## **Education**

- The Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU) has announced that it will waive off the fees for transgender students, in all the courses that it offers.
- Hyderabad is planning to establish India's first university only for Dalit students by 2018.
- “JIGYASA”, a student- scientist connect programme was officially launched in Delhi.
- Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), has joined hands with Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan (KVS) to implement this programme.
- President Pranab Mukherjee on the occasion of Guru Purnima launched 4 major digital initiatives in to push e-education.
- They are: Swayam, Swayam Prabha, National Academic Depository, and National Digital Library.

- The All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) has made it mandatory for engineering students to participate in one of five extracurricular activities; otherwise they won't be awarded a degree.

- The activities include yoga, National Service Scheme (NSS), National Cadet Corps (NCC), Unnat Bharat Abhiyan and sports.

- Public schools in Saudi Arabia will start offering physical education for girls from the next academic year, in the government's latest reform to open opportunities for women.

- The Telangana School Education Department issued an order capping the weight of school bags for students in primary, upper primary and high schools.

- The order directed school managements to ensure that the weight of a bag does not exceed 5 kilograms for class 10 students.

- The Delhi government announced a 'merit cum means' scholarship for students from low and middle income groups studying in state universities.

- Human Resource Development Minister Prakash Javadekar announced that they will soon give approval for the 20 world-class research and teaching institutions that will be called 'Indian institutes of eminence'.

- Delhi Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia has directed the Art, Culture and Languages department to prepare a proposal for the formation of 12 language academies promoting the language and culture of different regions.

### **Transport/Cars/Scooters**

- Indian Railways is set to introduce 'Economy AC coaches' in trains which will have fares lower than the existing third AC class.

- The trains with the new proposed three-tier class will be fully air-conditioned, and have the existing AC-3, AC-2 and AC-1 classes also.

- The Maharashtra State Road Development Corporation has received the approval to create a 12-km 'missing link' between Khopoli and Kusgaon, which will allow motorists to drive at 100 kmph.

- Karnataka's Urban Land Transport Directorate has proposed the introduction of 4,000 GPS-equipped public sharing bicycles at a cost of about 60 crore in Bengaluru.

- The Railways is going to install automatic flap-gates with barcode scanners at stations in order to check tickets faster and ease the pressure on ticket collectors.

- The new system will first be made operational at Delhi's Brar Square station as a pilot project.

- The Indian Railways has launched RailCloud, a virtual server with an inbuilt security system that will enable faster connectivity at a reduced cost.

- The Mumbai Metropolitan Region Development Authority (MMRDA) is going to introduce a second underground metro in the city by extending the Wadala Metro 4 route by 8 kilometres, up to General Post Office.
- In a bid to promote environment-friendly system, Indian Railways launched first 1600 HP solar-powered DEMU train from the Safdarjung railway station in Delhi.
- DEMU - Diesel Electric Multiple Unit
- Matunga suburban railway station in Mumbai has become the first station in India to be run by an all women staff.
- The Mumbai railway is going to introduce software which will help commuter's book tickets through Unstructured Supplementary Service Data (USSD) codes.
- 'Yara Birkeland', the world's first ever self-driving ship worth 162 crore will set sail along a 60 km route in southern Norway without any crew member in 2018.
- Minister of Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari announced that the driverless cars and any technology that takes away jobs will not be allowed in India.
- To cut down the distance to the China border through Tawang by 10 km, the Border Roads Organization (BRO) is going to construct 2 tunnels through Arunachal Pradesh's Sela Pass.
- The Delhi Metro Railway Corporation (DMRC) has become the world's first completely 'green' Metro system for adhering to green building norms for its residential colonies.

### **Films and Film Festival**

- 'A Billion Colour Story', co-produced by Bollywood actor Padmakumar Narasimhamurthy won the Audience Award Festival.

Satish Kaushik and directed by at the 2017 London Indian Film

- Shahid Kapoor and Alia Bhatt won the Best Actor and Best Actress awards respectively for the film 'Uda Punjab' at the 2017 IIFA Awards.
- Sonam Kapoor's 'Neerja won the best picture award.
- Music composer AR Rahman was honoured for 25 years of his musical contribution.
- Actress Taapsee Pannu was named the Woman of the Year at the 18th edition of the IIFA Awards held in New York.
- Actress Alia Bhatt was given the Style Icon of the Year Award for 2017.
- The Tamil Nadu government has announced the State Film awards for six consecutive years from 2009-2014.
- Winners of Best Picture Category Pasanga (2009), Myna (2010), Vaagai Sooda Vaa (2011), Vazhakku En 18/9 (2012), Ramanujan (2013), and Kutram Kadithal (2014).
- Music composer AR Rahman has been nominated at the World Soundtrack Awards for his music in the film 'Viceroy's House'.

· Actress Priyanka Chopra has been nominated at the Teen Choice Awards 2017 in the 'Villain' category for her Hollywood debut film 'Baywatch'.

- This is Priyanka's second nomination after she bagged one for her role in American television series 'Quantico' in 2016.

· 6th Big Zee Entertainment Awards 2017 (ZEA 2017):

- Winners Best Actor (Male) - Shahid Kapoor (Udta Punjab)

- Best Actor (Female) - Alia Bhatt (Udta Punjab)

- Most Entertaining Actor in Drama (Male) - Amitabh Bachchan

- Best Action Hero - Tiger Shroff (Baaghi)

- Most Entertaining Actor in Drama (Female) - Aishwarya Rai Bachchan

- Most Entertaining Dancer - Tiger Shroff (Beat Pe Booty)

- Most Entertaining Actor Comedy - Abhishek Bachchan (Housefull 3)

## **Festival**

· Environment Minister Dr Harsh Vardhan launched a month-long plantation drive to mark Van Mahotsav.

- Objective of Van-Mahotsav: To keep local people involved in plantation drives and spread environmental awareness.

## **Media /I.T / Telecommunication**

· The Delhi government launched an online portal for citizens to file Right to Information (RTI) applications related to 172 state departments, including the chief minister's office.

- With this, Delhi has become 2nd state to launch online portal to file RTI.

- Maharashtra was the first state to accept e-RTI applications.

· The Telecom department has made it mandatory for all phones, including feature phones, to install Global Positioning System (GPS) from January 1, 2018.

- The order aims to ensure consumers' safety as GPS can help locate them in emergency situations.

· The Competition Commission of India approved the merger of Vodafone India and Aditya Birla Group's Idea Cellular.

## **Appointments/Election (or) Latest who is who?**

· Senior lawyer KK Venugopal has been appointed as the new Attorney General of India.

- He is going to replace Mukul Rohatgi.

· Senior IPS officer R K Pachnanda took charge as the new Director General of the Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP).

- Syndicate Bank has appointed Melwyn Rego as its new Chief Executive Officer (CEO) and Managing Director (MD).
- Serbian Parliament elected Ana Brnabic as the country's Prime Minister.
- With this, Ana became Serbia's first female and first openly gay Prime Minister.
- Carrie Lam was sworn in as the 1st female Chief Executive (CE) of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR), an autonomous territory of China on the Pearl River Delta.
- Tata Global Beverages Limited (TGBL) appointed Tata Sons head N Chandrasekaran as Chairman with immediate effect.
- Senior IPS officer Sanjay Kumar was appointed as Director General (DG) of National Disaster Response Force (NDRF).
- He is going to replace R K Pachnanda who has been appointed as the DG of the Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP).
- RP Sanjiv Goenka Group Chairman, Sanjiv Goenka has been nominated as the Chairman of the Board of Governors of Indian Institute of Technology - Kharagpur.
- Mongolia's opposition candidate and ex-martial arts star Khaltmaa Battulga has won the country's first-ever presidential runoff elections.
- Britain's Queen Elizabeth II has appointed her first black equerry, a senior staff member in charge of assisting the royal household.
- The Ghana-born Afghan war veteran, Major Nana Kofi Twumasi-Ankrah, had moved to the UK in 1982.
- Ned Segal, a longtime Goldman Sachs banker and the former Senior Vice President of Finance at Silicon Valley's financial software company Intuit, has been appointed as the new Chief Financial Officer at Twitter.
- He will take over the CFO role from Anthony Noto, who was promoted to COO post last November.
- Farzaneh Sharafbani appointed as the CEO of Iran National Airline. With this she became the 1st female to lead the organization.
- Canadian PM Justin Trudeau has appointed former astronaut Julie Payette as the next Governor General.
- The Governor General is Canada's ceremonial commander-in-chief.
- Tata Sons announced that it has appointed TCS Executive Director Aarthi Subramanian as group's Chief Digital Officer.
- An 18-year-old ragpicker Bilal Dar has been appointed as Srinagar's civic ambassador.

- Indo-Canadian YouTube personality Lilly Singh, also known as Superwoman, has been named UNICEF's Goodwill Ambassador.
- Union Textile Minister Smriti Irani was given the additional charge of the Information & Broadcasting Ministry after M Venkaiah Naidu resigned.
- Tesla has added two new independent directors to its board, namely James Murdoch, CEO of 21st Century Fox, and Linda Johnson Rice, Chairman of Johnson Publishing.
- Vikram Limaye has taken over as the Managing Director and CEO of the National Stock Exchange.
- Britain's 1st woman Sikh MP, Preet Kaur Gill elected to influential cross-party panel in UK Parliament that examines workings of Home Office.
- Actor Kamal Haasan has been appointed as the Ambassador of the new Kabaddi team Tamil Thalaivas for the fifth season of Pro Kabaddi League.
- The team Tamil Thalaivas is co-owned by Sachin Tendulkar.
- TR Zeliang, the former Chief Minister of Nagaland, was appointed to the post again.
- Nagaland Chief Minister TR Zeliang won the vote of confidence in the state assembly, garnering the support of 47 out of 59 MLAs.
- Ministry of External Affairs Spokesperson Gopal Baglay was appointed as Joint Secretary in the Prime Minister's Office (PMO).
- He will have the tenure of 3 years. He is going to replace Vinay Mohan Kwatra, who has been named as India's Ambassador to France.
- Sanjay Kothari, a 1978-batch IAS officer of Haryana cadre, has been appointed as the Secretary to President-elect Ram Nath Kovind.
- Senior journalist Ashok Malik has been appointed as the Press Secretary to Kovind.
- The Deputy President of the UK Supreme Court, Brenda Hale has been appointed as the first female president of the UK Supreme Court.
- Raveesh Kumar is going to be the next spokesperson of the Ministry of External Affairs.
- Actor Amitabh Bachchan's role as UNICEF Goodwill Ambassador has been extended for two more years.
- He will now be working on spreading awareness regarding vaccination for MR (measles and rubella) infections for children.
- Ram Nath Kovind was sworn-in as India's 14th President.
- He was administered the oath of the office by the Chief Justice of India JS Khehar.
- Former Chief Marketing Officer of furniture e-tailer Urban Ladder Sanjay Gupta has joined Uber as its Head of Marketing in India.

- Janata Dal (United) leader Nitish Kumar took oath as the Chief Minister of Bihar (for the Sixth time), a day after resigning from the post due to a rift in the Congress-RJD(U) alliance.
- BJP leader Sushil Kumar Modi took oath as the Deputy Chief Minister of Bihar.
- Bihar CM Nitish Kumar won floor test in the State Legislative Assembly with 131 trust votes in his favour.
- India's third largest private lender Axis Bank has reappointed Shikha Sharma as Managing Director and CEO for a term of 3 years starting June 2018.
- The Andhra Pradesh government issued orders appointing badminton star and 2016 Rio Olympics silver medallist PV Sindhu as Deputy Collector.
- Pakistan's ruling party has nominated Shahid Khaqan Abbasi as the interim Prime Minister for a period of 45 days after Nawaz Sharif was disqualified from the position.
- The Board Of Control For Cricket In India (BCCI) appointed former Tamil Nadu Ranji team captain Sunil Subramaniam as the Administrative Manager of the Indian Cricket Team.

### **Resignation/Dismissed/Retired/Quit**

- Italian football legend Francesco Totti announced his retirement from football after spending his 25-year-long playing career with Serie A club Roma.

### **Deaths**

- Actor Minaketan Das (56), known for his roles in Odia films and television series, passed away.
- Bollywood Actress Sumita Sanyal (71), who worked in the 1971 Amitabh Bachchan-Rajesh Khanna starrer 'Anand', passed away.
- India's noted cartoonist Mangesh Tendulkar (83) passed away.
- Chinese Nobel Peace laureate Liu Xiaobo (61) who was recently released from prison on compassionate grounds passed away.
- Maryam Mirzakhani (40), the world's first woman as well as the first Iranian to win the Fields Medal for mathematics died of breast cancer.
- Oscar-winning Hollywood actor Martin Landau (89) passed away.
- American rock band Linkin Park's lead vocalist Chester Bennington (41) died by committing suicide.
- Bhiku Daji Bhilare (98), who claimed to have saved Gandhi from an earlier assassination attempt by Nathuram Godse in 1944, passed away.
- Hollywood actor John Heard (71) passed away.
- Former chief of the Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO), Udupi Ramachandra Rao (85) passed away.

- He served as ISRO's chief from 1984 to 1994 and is widely known as the man behind India's first satellite Aryabhata.
- Renowned scientist Professor Yash Pa (90) passed away.
- Former Karnataka Chief Minister Dharam Singh (80) passed away.
- Bollywood actor Inder Kumar (43) has passed away due to cardiac arrest.
- Freedom fighter K.E. Mammen (96), who had participated in the Quit India Movement, passed away.

### **Awards/Honours**

- IPS officer Mahesh Bhagwat has been given the US government's 2017 Trafficking in Persons Hero award for his 13 year-long fight against human trafficking.
- Technology major Adobe's CEO Shantanu Narayen and former US Surgeon General Vivek Murthy are the two Indian-Americans among 38 individuals who will be honored with the Great Immigrants award in the US this year.
- The CISF security cover at the Delhi Airport has been rated the best service in the world by quality rating agency World Quality Congress (WQC).
- A new Israeli Chrysanthemum flower has been named 'MODI' as a gesture to mark Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Israel.
- India's The Energy Resources Institute (TERI) has been ranked as the second best climate think tank in the world.
- For the third consecutive year, Tata Steel Ltd has bagged Prime Minister's trophy for 'Best Performing Integrated Steel Plant'.
- Singer Ariana Grande has been made the first honorary citizen of Manchester city in UK.
- Former India captain Sourav Ganguly inaugurated an 8-foot tall bronze statue of himself at the Balurghat Stadium in West Bengal.
- The statue has been installed by the South Dinajpur District Sports Association as a tribute to the former player.
- Vallabhbhai Vasrambhai Marvaniya, a man from Gujarat's Junagadh has won the 9th National Grassroots Innovation Award for introducing carrots to the people of Gujarat in 1943.
- Former Union Minister Ashwani Kumar was conferred with the Japan's imperial decoration 'Order of the Rising Sun' award for his contribution to fostering Japan-India ties.

### **Sports/Game**

- MS Dhoni has become India's fourth highest run scorer in ODIs, after reaching the 15-run mark in the second ODI against Windies.
- Top 5 - Sachin Tendulkar - 18426 Runs, Sourav Ganguly - 11363 Runs, Rahul Dravid - 10889 Runs, Mahendra Singh Dhoni - 9442 Runs, and Mohammad Azharuddin - 9378.

- Mumbai-based 18-year-old racing driver Jehan Daruvala has become the 1st Indian to win the FIA Formula 3 European Championship after winning the third race at the Nuremberg circuit.
- Four-time FIFA World Cup winner Germany won its maiden FIFA Confederation Cup Football title by defeating Copa America Champion Chile in the final match held at St Petersburg, Russia.
- The All India Football Federation (AIFF) has submitted an expression of interest to host the Under-20 FIFA World Cup in 2019.
- The 22nd edition of the Asian Athletics Championship is all set to be kicked off by Odisha CM Naveen Patnaik at Kalinga Stadium in Bhubaneswar.
- The Pankaj Advani-led Indian snooker team defeated Pakistan in the final of the Asian Team Snooker Championship.
- Indian National Football has managed to secure 96th spot at the latest FIFA world football rankings.
- Top 10: Germany, Brazil, Argentina, Portugal, Switzerland, Poland, Chile, Colombia, France, and Belgium.
- India's Manpreet Kaur bagged Gold medal in women's shot-put on the opening day of the Asian Athletics Championships 2017 in Bhubaneswar.
- Meanwhile, Vikas Gowda won the bronze medal in the men's discus throw finals but failed to qualify for World Championships.
- India's Harinder Pal Sandhu has defeated Rhys Dowling of Australia to lift South Australian Open squash title.
- Thailand's Atthaya Thitikul has become the youngest known winner of a professional golf tour event after claiming the Ladies European Thailand Championship at the age of 14 years, 4 months and 19 days.
- Thitikul, who ended the championship at the final hole, replaced Canada's Brooke Henderson as the youngest winner in ladies' professional golf.
- Indian athlete Sudha Singh bagged a Gold in women's 3000m steeplechase event of the Asian Athletics Championships.
- The Indian Polo team clinched a Polo World Cup spot after defeating Pakistan in a qualifying match in Tehran.
- Mercedes' Formula One driver Valtteri Bottas, has won the Austrian Grand Prix.
- India bagged a total of 29 medals including 12 golds to top the medals tally at the Asian Athletics Championships for the first time ever.
- Former cricketer Ravi Shastri has been named the new coach of Team India on a two-year contract.

- Indian women's cricket team captain Mithali Raj has become the all-time highest run-scorer in women's ODI cricket.
- She also became the second player after Charlotte Edwards to score over 500 runs in four different calendar years in women's ODI cricket.
- Following Angelo Mathews' resignation as Sri Lanka's captain from all three formats, the country's cricket board has named : Dinesh Chandimal as the Side's Test captain.
- Upul Tharanga as the limited-overs captain.
- The Indian cricket team has played its first ODI 43 years ago on this day (13th July) in the year 1974.
- India has played the most ODIs in cricket history.
- Indian Para-athlete Sundar Singh Gurjar became only the second Indian to win a gold at the World Para Athletics Championships, winning one in javelin at the 2017 edition in London.
- Rio gold medalist Devendra Jhajharia was the first Indian to win a gold in 2013.
- Spain's Garbine Muguruza has won the Wimbledon Women's singles title. With this she became only the second Spanish women's player in the history of tennis to win the Wimbledon single's title.
- Indian hammer thrower Damneet Singh won a silver medal in the boys' hammer throw event to give India their first medal at the IAAF World U-18 Athletics Championships in Nairobi.
- Swiss tennis star Roger Federer won a record 8th Wimbledon men's singles title. With this he also became the oldest male player to win The Championships in Open Era.
- Switzerland's Martina Hingis won the Wimbledon mixed doubles title alongside Andy Murray's brother Jamie Murray.
- Women's Singles: Garbine Muguruza (Spain)
- Men's Doubles: Lukasz Kubot (Poland) / Marcelo Melo (Brazil)
- Women's Doubles: Ekaterina Makarova (Russia) / Elena Vesnina (Russia)
- Mixed Doubles: Jamie Murray (United Kingdom) / Martina Hingis (Switzerland)
- Indian squash player Harinder Pal Sandhu won his second title in two weeks after winning the Victorian Open by beating top-seed Rex Hedrick of Australia.
- Mercedes' British Formula One racer Lewis Hamilton equaled Jim Clark and Alain Prost's record of 5 British Grand Prix titles after winning the race.
- The BCCI named former Indian cricketer Bharat Arun as the Indian cricket team's bowling coach. Sanjay Bangar and R Sridhar will remain the batting and fielding coach respectively.

- Former national-level hockey player Amit Saroha, who met with an accident in 2007, clinched the Silver medal in the club throw event in the F-51 category at the World Para Athletics Championships.
- India's top-ranked female shot putter Manpreet Kaur has been suspended by the Athletics Federation after she failed dope test.
- He is also set to lose her gold medal which she won at the 22nd Asian Athletics Championships.
- India's women's cricket team defeated defending champions Australia by 36 runs to reach the World Cup final for the second time in history.
- Cricketer Harmanpreet Kaur scored 171, the highest WWC score by an Indian. With this she became only the second player in women's World Cup history to score a century in the knockout stage.
- Taking India's medals tally to three, the Indian paraathlete Karamjyoti Dalal won a Bronze Medal in discus throw at the World Para Athletics Championships.
- Indian tennis player Vishnu Vardhan won the Men's doubles event at ATP Astana Challenger with Japanese partner Toshihide Matsui.
- India's para athletes Sharad Kumar and Varun Singh Bhati clinched the Silver and bronze medals respectively in High jump at the World Para Athletics Championships.
- Indian Super League side Atletico de Kolkata has been renamed to 'Aamar, Tomar Kolkata' (ATK) after the team's partnership with Spanish football club Atletico Madrid ended.
- Indian shuttler HS Prannoy won the US Open Grand Prix Gold tournament after defeating Parupalli Kashyap in an all India final.
- British cyclist Chris Froome won his third consecutive and fourth overall Tour de France, finishing the race in 86 hours 20 minutes 55 seconds in Paris.
- World youth boxing champion Sachin Siwach clinched a Gold medal at the Commonwealth Youth Games in the Bahamas.
- The Indian contingent at the World Para Athletics Championship ended its campaign with five medals (1 gold, 2 silver and 2 bronze).
- England's women's cricket team defeated India by 9 runs at Lord's Cricket Ground to clinch their fourth World Cup title.
- India is going to host the Men's World Boxing Championship for the first time in 2021 and the Women's World Championship in 2018.
- India will host its 1st WTA tournament in five years when the city of Mumbai stages the 80 lakh (\$125,000) Mumbai Open in November.
- Maharashtra State Lawn Tennis Association had recently bagged the hosting rights of Chennai Open which is India's only ATP World Tour event, and re-branded it as "Maharashtra Open", to be held in Pune.

- Indian golfer Diksha Dagar won a Silver medal in the women's individual golf event at the Deaflympics in Samsun, Turkey.

- Diksha is the only Indian golfer (Under-18) to be ranked in the top 500 worldwide.

- Former Russian chess champion Garry Kasparov is set to come out of retirement to play in a US tournament next month.

- Kasparov, who retired from professional chess in 2005, will compete against nine top players at the Sinquefeld Cup in Missouri.

- Ferrari's Formula One racer Sebastian Vettel won the Hungarian Grand Prix title, finishing ahead of teammate Kimi Raikkonen and Mercedes' Valtteri Bottas.

- Indian shuttler C Rahul Yadav and the men's doubles pair of Manu Attri and B Sumeeth Reddy clinched the Men's singles and men's doubles title respectively at Lagos International challenge in Nigeria.

- The Indian boxing contingent at the 48th Grand Prix Usti Nad Labem in the Czech Republic claimed five gold medals, two silver and one bronze medal at the event.

## **Report**

- India has slipped by one spot to become the 4-largest foreign investor into the UK.

- The US remains on the top, investing in 577 projects in the UK, followed by China (including Hong Kong) in second place with 160 projects.

- A UN survey has revealed that Singapore is the Most cyber secure country in the world, followed by the US, Malaysia, Oman, and Estonia.

- India ranked 25th in the list.

- Top 9 in 2017 Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) Index

- Sweden, Denmark, Finland, Norway, Czech Republic, Germany, Austria, Switzerland, and Slovenia.

- India has been ranked 116 on the index with a score of 58.1, behind countries such as Nepal, Iran, Sri Lanka, Bhutan and China. Pakistan is ranked 122.

- With 24.1 crore active users, India has overtaken the United States to become Facebook's largest country audience, according to data shared by the platform for July.

- Swami Vivekananda Airport of Raipur was ranked first in Customer Satisfaction Index (CSI) Survey among 49 airports in the country.

- It was followed by Udaipur (2nd), Amritsar (3rd) and Dehradun (4th) airports.

- Baba Ramdev-led Patanjali Ayurved has been featured among the Top 10 most influential brands in India along with Mukesh Ambani-led Reliance Jio, according to research firm Ipsos.

- Google has been ranked at the top, while Microsoft and Facebook are ranked second and third, respectively.

- The State Bank of India (SBI), the only financial institution on the list, moved up four ranks to the fifth position.

· San Miguel de Allende in Mexico has been named the World's Best City in a survey by Travel and Leisure magazine.

- India's Udaipur has been ranked 14th in the list.

- Top 5: San Miguel de Allende (Mexico), Charleston (US), Chiang Mai (Thailand), Kyoto (Japan), and Florence (Italy).

· India has ranked 4th among world's fastest growing economies. According to recently released World Bank's Global Economic Prospects.

- India has been placed behind smaller economies of Estonia, Uzbekistan, and Nepal in growth rate.

· For a 4th consecutive year, US retail giant Walmart has topped the 2017 Fortune Global 500 list with a revenue of \$486 billion.

- 7 Indian companies were featured in this list.

- Indian Oil, with revenues of over \$53 billion in previous fiscal, is the highest ranked Indian company and placed 168th globally.

· A US state department has recently revealed that India in 2016 replaced Pakistan as the world's third largest terror target after Iraq and Afghanistan.

- It added that out of the 11,072 terror attacks across the world in 2016, 927 took place in India.

· According to a National Commission for Protection of Child Rights' report, Maharashtra and Rajasthan recorded the highest number of cases of child marriage.

· According to the government data, out of India's population of 132 crore people, only 6.8 crore or 5.15%, have a valid passport.

- India is now third in terms of issuing passports, after China and US.

· According to National Centre for Seismology, 29 Indian cities and towns including Delhi fall under 'severe' to 'very severe' seismic (earthquake) zones.

### **National Parties/Regional Parties**

· The BJP-led NDA announced Union Information and Broadcasting Minister M Venkaiah Naidu as its candidate for the Vice Presidential elections.

- He will contest against the Congress-led Opposition's candidate Gopalkrishna Gandhi

(Mahatma Gandhi's grandson).

### **General - National**

· India's tallest Air Traffic Control (ATC) tower at the Delhi Airport is going to start operations by December, Airports Authority of India Chairman Guruprasad Mohapatra announced.

- The new 101.9-metre tower is the seventh tallest ATC tower in the world.
- Mumbai's 'Vikrikar Bhavan' was renamed as 'GST Bhavan' after the Goods and Services Tax regime was rolled out June 30 night.
- The United States of America (USA) has rolled out Global Entry programme (GEP), a pre-approved expedited entry clearance programme for low-risk Indian travellers.
- To facilitate trade and to improve communication between the two countries, India and Bangladesh have decided to construct a bridge over Mizoram's Khawthlangtuipui River (also known as Karnaphuli River).
- India is emerging as a front runner in the global fight against climate change, the World Bank has said, noting that the solar power is gradually displacing coal as an energy source in the Asian country.
- India is going to invite the 10 leaders of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) as Chief Guests for 2018 Republic Day celebrations.
- 10 Member Countries of ASEAN are Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam.
- Expanding its outreach to the Arab world, External Affairs Ministry is going to make its website available in Arabic.
- After French and Spanish, Arabic will be the third foreign language that will be available on the ministry's website.
- India will soon join Global Foreign Exchange Committee (GFXC), a newly-constituted forum of central bankers and experts working towards promotion of a robust and transparent foreign exchange (Forex) market.
- India and European Union (EU) have established Investment Facilitation Mechanism (IFM) for EU Investments in India.
- Union Minister MJ Akbar said that the government is working towards setting up a passport centre every 50 kilometres in the country.
- The Union Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) issued instructions to all states to stop using bouquets during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's tours within India.
- Instead of bouquets, states can offer PM Modi a flower along with a Khadi handkerchief or a book to welcome him.
- According to new regulations, the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI) has powers to start probe against service providers registered with it without intimating them.
- IBBI, which is implementing the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC), has notified the regulations for inspection and investigation of service providers registered with it.
- Finance Minister Arun Jaitley said that the Financial year may soon begin from January in sync with the calendar year.

- In May, Madhya Pradesh became India's first state to shift its financial year format to January-December from the present April-March cycle.

· The Lucknow Metro becomes India's first to have its own FM radio station, which will provide entertainment and information on metro safety.

· Mumbai Metro One announced plans to launch India's first mobile ticketing system by mid-

- Commuters will be able to buy tickets using the Mumbai Metro app, which will generate a QR code that can be used to get access through automated fare collection gates.

· Minister of State for Finance Santosh Gangwar has announced that shifting the financial year from April-March cycle to January-December will not happen next year (2018).

### **General - International**

· Warren Buffett's Berkshire Hathaway is set to become the largest shareholder of Bank of America surpassing Vanguard Group by exercising its warrants to buy 700 million common shares.

· The UK Parliament has scrapped a requirement for male lawmakers to wear ties and jackets in the House of Commons, breaking a long-standing tradition requiring the MPs to wear ties as a part of rules governing conduct and courtesy.

· Canada celebrated the 150th anniversary of the day it officially became a country and the self-governing dominion of Britain.

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau launched the celebrations outside the Parliament.

· Vietnamese capital Hanoi approved a proposal to ban motorbikes, the city's most popular mode of transport, from its central streets by 2030.

· The French government has announced that the country will end sales of petrol and diesel vehicles by 2040 as part of an ambitious plan to meet its targets under the Paris climate accord.

· The United Nations adopted a Global Draft Treaty banning nuclear weapons amid opposition from all nuclear weapon states which boycotted the negotiations.

· The UN Human Rights Council has announced that it will undertake a two-day review of Pakistan's human rights record in light of the deteriorating human rights situation, particularly in the country's Sindh province.

· Mother Teresa's Blue-bordered Sari was recognized as an Intellectual Property of the Missionaries of Charity after she was canonized last year.

· The Chinese government has ordered telecommunications firms to completely block access to Virtual Private Networks (VPNs) by February 2018, in a crackdown aimed at suppressing dissent over the legitimacy of the ruling Communist Party.

· The Roman Catholic Mediterranean island Malta became the 24th country in the world to legalise same-sex marriage.

- UK PM Theresa May published the landmark 'Brexit repeal bill' to end the supremacy of EU laws and the jurisdiction of the European Court of Justice in the UK.
- The repeal bill is a largely technical measure to copy all existing EU legislation into domestic UK law to ensure a smooth transition after Brexit.
- Indonesia renamed part of the South China Sea as the North Natuna Sea.
- Nepal will get Internet services through Chinese optical fibre starting next month, ending its reliance on India for the service.
- France and Germany announced plans to develop a "new generation" European fighter jet, in an effort to strengthen the European Union and increase cooperation between the two countries.
- The US House of Representatives has voted for three legislative amendments to impose tougher conditions for reimbursement of defence funding to Pakistan.
- The amendments make it conditional for Pakistan to show satisfactory progress in its fight against terrorism.
- Pakistan has launched a military operation in the Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA) targeting the Islamic State.
- Somalia has entered the 4 week of internet blackout after a ship cut an undersea cable connecting the country to global data networks.
- With this, the Somalian economy has been losing \$10 million a day in business without internet.
- Thailand has amended a royal property law to formally give King Maha Vajiralongkorn full control of the agency which manages royal assets worth more than \$30 billion.
- Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte offered self-rule to the country's Muslim minority in an attempt to defeat militants loyal to Islamic State who have besieged the city of Marawi for nearly two months.
- The Bank of England unveiled a new polymer £10 note featuring 19th century novelist Jane Austen, in a move to replace paper £5, £10 and £20 with secure plastic notes.
- This makes Austen the only woman other than Queen Elizabeth to be featured on a polymer British banknote.
- China announced that it would stop accepting shipments of garbage such as waste plastic and paper as part of a campaign against "foreign garbage".
- The ban will come into force by the end of this year.
- The United States has imposed new economic sanctions against Iran over its ballistic missile programme and for contributing to regional tensions.
- Facebook-owned WhatsApp has been partially blocked in China following a censorship crackdown by the government. China operates world's largest censorship system, called the 'Great Firewall', blocking platforms like Facebook, Google, and Instagram.

- Uruguay has become the 1st country in the world to allow the sale of marijuana for recreational use. The move comes four years after a law was passed under which cannabis trade was fully legalized.
- The United States has ended a four-month ban on flyers carrying laptops on US-bound flights from airports in North Africa and the Middle East.
- The UK continues to enforce a similar electronics ban on flights from several Middle Eastern airports.
- The United States announced that the government will ban citizens from traveling to North Korea due to "the serious risk of arrest".
- The US Defence Department announced that it will not make military reimbursements to Pakistan for 2016 fiscal.
- This comes after US Defence Secretary Jim Mattis said that Pakistan had not taken sufficient action against the Afghan insurgent group Haqqani Network.
- Saudi Arabia, UAE, Bahrain and Egypt blacklisted 9 charity groups and 9 individuals with ties to Yemen, Qatar and Libya, labeling them "terrorist" over suspected ties to Islamist extremism.
- Bolivia's President Evo Morales has declared "total independence" from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and World Bank.
- The US House of Representatives voted to approve new sanctions on Russia for its interference in the 2016 presidential elections, despite President Donald Trump objecting to the legislation.
- The bill would also levy new sanctions against North Korea and Iran over the nations' ballistic missile programs.
- The UK will ban the sale of all new petrol and diesel cars from 2040 as part of the government's efforts to tackle air pollution by making "almost every car" zero-emission by 2050.
- Australia has sent its first uranium shipment to India for testing purposes ahead of possible commercial sales.
- Officials of India and Bangladesh agreed to construct gates along the border to allow free and safe passage for wild elephants.
- Japan has approved a plan to reduce working hours to lower the country's suicide rate by 30% by 2025.
- Russian President Vladimir Putin has signed a law ratifying a deal with the Syrian government allowing Russia to keep its air base in Syria for almost 50 years.

## **Books and Authors**

### **Book's Name Author's Name**

- Narendra Damodardas Modi : The Making Bindeshwar Pathak of a Legend (Chief of Sulabh International)
- Mandela's Last Years Vejay Ramlakan

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi is set to write a book for the youth of the country wherein he will address issues like overcoming examination stress, keeping one's composure and what to do after the exams.

- The book, a first-of-its-kind initiative by a serving prime minister, will be out later this year in multiple languages.

- Defence Minister Arun Jaitley released a Coffee Table Book titled 'Ganga Avahan – The Epic Tale of a Historic Swim'.

- The 'Ganga Avahan' was a pioneering and historic exploratory open-water swim expedition on the Ganga River.

### **TO THE POINTS: JULY-2017**

- Rajkiran Rai G has assumed charge as Managing Director & CEO of Union Bank of India.

- Senior diplomat Shamma Jain was appointed as India's ambassador to Greece.

- Infosys has appointed D Sundaram as an independent director on the board of the company.

- Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited 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.

- India has contributed \$500,000 to the UN Peace-building Fund.

- Svatantira Microfin, microfinance institution launched an app, an end-to-end cashless solution called Saathi.

- Asian Development Bank committed USD 10 billion supports for infrastructure building and immediate development needs of less-developed states in India.

- China's Nanjing city became the first Asian city to be getting a vertical forest (by 2018).

- Reliance Jio has launched the Asia-Africa-Europe (AAE-1) submarine cable system.

- Preeti Shenoy was honored with the Indian of the Year award by the Brands Academy.

- Ana Brnabic is the new Prime Minister of Serbia.

- Rajeev Pratap Rudy & Shivraj Singh Chouhan laid the foundation stone of country's biggest Global Skill Park in Bhopal.

- GST Council reduced the tax rate on fertilizer to 5 percent from previously decided 12 percent.

- Madhya Pradesh sets new Guinness World Record by planting over six crore saplings in 24 districts of Narmada basin in just 12 hours.

- Telangana announced will have a separate budget for Agriculture from next year.

- FINO Payments Bank has commenced operations as a payments bank with effect from 30th June 2017; Rishi Gupta is the MD and CEO of FINO Payments Bank.
- Australia government has created a new information warfare unit which will be tasked with defending the country's military assets from cyber attacks.
- India successfully test fired its indigenously developed Quick Reaction Surface-to-Air (QRSAM) short-range missile from a test range off the Odisha coast.
- The Indian Railways has decided to allow foreigners to book train tickets 360 days in advance, extended from the current 120 days.
- Germany passed a controversial law under which Facebook, Twitter, and other social media companies could face fines of up to €50 million (\$57 million) for failing to remove hate speech.
- Ritika Thaker won the Ivory Coast International badminton title in women's single category.
- Jehan Daruvala became the first Indian driver to win in the FIA Formula 3 European Championship, claiming victory in Race 3 at the Nuremberg Circuit.
- Ravinder Randev who passed away recently was a Journalist.
- N Gurusamy who passed away recently was a Freedom fighter.
- Nagaland has been declared as "disturbed area" for six more months under the Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act.
- Achal Kumar Jyoti has been appointed as the new Chief Election Commissioner (CEC).
- The Financial Stability Board (FSB), an international body for global financial system, has placed India in the league of countries that are 'compliant or largely compliant' on implementation of priority area reforms.
- India has slipped to the 88th place in terms of money parked by its citizens with Swiss banks, while the U.K. remains on the top.
- Narendra Modi will become the first Indian prime minister to visit Israel.
- Pradeep Kumar Rawat, presently Joint Secretary in the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) here, has been appointed as the next Ambassador of India to Indonesia.
- Sanjay Kumar has been appointed as the new chief of the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF).
- Karnataka government has launched the 'Elevate 100' scheme to identify and nurture innovative start-ups.
- The Haryana government will set up an environment-friendly transportation system in Gurugram.
- Swayam Shikshan Prayog has been awarded the United Nations Development Programme's Equator Prize for devising an ecologically sustainable agriculture model to combat the adverse impacts of drought.

- Ministry of Power launched a portal for optimum utilization of domestic coal by independent power producers.
- The environment minister has launched a month-long tree plantation drive to mark Van Mahotsav. The first tree planting campaign started in New Delhi.
- 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.
- Yes Bank has signed a MoU in London with Santander to promote India-UK trade and business opportunities.
- Jammu and Kashmir became the last state to implement GST, passing the resolution during a special session of the legislative assembly.
- A 14-day joint military training exercise between India and Thailand “Exercise Maitree 2017” started in Himachal Pradesh.
- Meeting of BRICS Ministers of Education was held in Beijing, China.
- Jharkhand government decided to treat All India Council for Technical Education approved diploma holders, equivalent to intermediate (10+2) pass.
- Microsoft India has signed an agreement with National Independent Schools Alliance (NISA) to offer Microsoft Aspire School Program (MASP) Pro Plus to over 55,000 member schools.
- Gowra Srinivas has been unanimously elected as President of the Federation of Telangana & Andhra Pradesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FTAPCCI) for the year 2017-18.
- The National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) approved bankruptcy proceedings against Jyoti Structures Limited.
- India and Israel signed a total of seven agreements in various areas like agriculture, space cooperation.
- The Dree Festival of Arunachal Pradesh is an agricultural festival celebrated with the traditional pomp & gaiety.
- Telangana government announced setting up of 16 task force teams to curb food adulteration in the State.
- The 10th India-Jordan Morocco Trade and Economic Joint Committee (TEJC) Meeting was held in New Delhi.
- Pakistan Cricket Board chairman Shaharyar Khan named Sarfraz Ahmed as Test team captain.
- Guruswamy Jayraman has been awarded Order of Australia for community work, the highest civilian award in Australia.
- Sandeep Chakravorty has been appointed as the head of the Indian consulate in New York; he is an India’s Ambassador to Peru.

- The European Parliament overwhelmingly approved a first-ever cooperation deal between the EU and Cuba.
- Kewal Handa was appointed as non-executive chairman of Union Bank of India.
- 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.
- India has declared itself free from Bird Flu (highly pathogenic Avian Influenza – H5N1 and H5N8) and notified it to the World Organization for Animal Health.
- Siemens has opened its first digital factory in India, also the third globally after one each in Germany and China.
- India, Japan and USA involved in Malabar naval exercise.
- John Joseph has been appointed Director General of Goods and Services Tax Intelligence (DG GSTI).
- Raninder Singh has been re-elected as president of the National Rifle Association of India (NRAI) for a period of four-year term.
- West Bengal Government to celebrate Kanyashree Utsav on July 25.
- Chhattisgarh will become the country's logistic hub following the implementation of the goods and services tax (GST).
- Punjab cabinet has approved the new transport policy to streamline the issuance of permits and licenses across commercial and private transport vehicles.
- The government will set up 'Garib Nawaz' skill development centres in 100 districts of the country to offer employment-oriented training to the youth from minority communities.
- President Pranab Mukherjee has launched digital initiatives – Swayam, Swayam Prabha and National Academic Depository in New Delhi to push e-education in the country.
- Uttar Pradesh government has decided to introduce an 'anti-copying' bill in the upcoming assembly session to check for cheating in the state examinations.
- American tech giant Oracle has said it is opening its first digital hub in Asia Pacific, which will be based in Bangalore.
- Saima Wazed Hossain has been appointed as the WHO's goodwill ambassador for autism in the world body's south-east Asia region.
- Chhattisgarh has topped the list among all the states in the country for having issued over 43 lakh soil health cards (SHCs) to farmers in the past two years.
- India's first university only for Dalit students to come up in Hyderabad by 2018.
- Jigyasa, a student- scientist connect programme was officially launched in New Delhi.

- 122 countries approved the first-ever treaty to ban nuclear weapons at the UN meeting boycotted by all nuclear-armed nations.
- Private life insurance company Canara HSBC Oriental Bank of Commerce Life Insurance has entered into an alliance with the Dhanlaxmi Bank for marketing various life insurance products.
- The Supreme Court asked the Tamil Nadu government not to force farmers to repay loans.
- Nepal SBI Bank, a subsidiary of the State Bank of India, has launched its fully automatic digital banking services in Kathmandu.
- 12th G20 summit held in Hamburg, Germany.
- Danfoss India has been conferred with the 'Golden Peacock Award' for Environment Management.
- 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 first International Aviation Security Seminar held in Haryana.
- The Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FICCI) Kerala State Council will send a business delegation to Vietnam to attend 'Vietfood & Beverage'.
- India bagged a total of 29 medals including 12 golds to top the medals tally at the Asian Athletics Championships for the first time ever.
- Naresh Chandra who passed away recently, he was a Former Indian Ambassador to USA.
- Actor Ji-Tu Cumbuka who passed away recently, he was from USA.
- Subhash Chandra Garg assumed charge as Secretary of the Department of Economic Affairs (DEA) in the Finance Ministry.
- Rajeev Dubey has been elected to the International Labor Organization (ILO) Governing Board on June 12 at Geneva.
- Maharashtra government has announced the setting up of a 24X7 call centre to address passengers' queries regarding the schedule of State Road Transport Corporation Buses.
- Ministry of Health and Family Welfare signed a 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.
- Axis Bank has entered into collaboration with Inter-American Investment Corporation (IIC) to facilitate trade with Latin America and the Caribbean.
- Maharashtra has become the first state in the country to provide women an injectable contraceptive for free.
- Cabinet approved MoU between India and Bangladesh for cyber security cooperation.
- The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs chaired has given its approval for 4 Laning of Solapur-Bijapur Section of New NH-52 (formerly NH-13) in Maharashtra and Karnataka.

- The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs chaired has given its approval for up gradation and widening of 65 kms of Imphal-Moreh Section of NH-39 in Manipur at a cost of Rs.1630.29 crores.
- Google has acquired Bengaluru-based artificial intelligence startup Halli Labs for an undisclosed sum.
- A Pikachu-themed train was launched in Japan as a disaster relief project after 2011 earthquake and tsunami.
- BCCI confirmed the Ravi Shastri as the new coach of the Indian cricket team.
- P. V. Sindhu has been with the Sportsperson of the Year award during the 'Maruti Suzuki Sportsperson of the Year' Charity Gala Awards.
- Ray Phiri who passed away recently, he was a famous Musician in South Africa.
- Debi Prasad Dash has taken over as the Director General of the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI).
- The President of India, Shri Pranab Mukherjee inaugurated the 'Ashiana Annexe' in Uttarakhand.
- National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) celebrated its 36th foundation day on July 12 2017.
- GMR Goa International Airport to get Rs.1330 crore loan from Axis Bank for Mopa project.
- Chhattisgarh has decided to merge all the branches of the district central cooperative banks (DCCBs) with the state cooperative banks.
- Union Cabinet approved MoU between India and Palestine on cooperation in the field of Health, Medicine, Information Technology and Electronics.
- Cabinet approved Joint Declaration of Intent (JDI) between India and Germany on cooperation in the field of Health.
- The Union Cabinet has given its approval for the Joint Interpretative Notes (JIN) on the Agreement between India and Bangladesh for the Promotion and Protection of Investments.
- Malala Day was observed on July 12.
- Mithali Raj became the first women's player to reach 6000 ODI runs.
- Iran has appointed a female CEO to lead its national airline for the first time since it was established in the 1940s.
- The Board of Directors of Indian Broadcasting Foundation (IBF) appointed Vikramajit Sen as the new chairperson of Broadcasting Content Complaints Council (BCCC).
- Andra Pradesh is topped the charts in ease of doing business and providing electricity to rural households.

- Uttarakhand has started to provide free coaching for meritorious students of the state for admissions into IIT with the launch of Super-30 scheme.
- Meghalaya government launched the Livelihood Intervention and Facilitation of Entrepreneurship (Life) programme in Songsak in the East Garo Hills.
- Union minister for earth sciences Dr Harsh Vardhan inaugurated Kerala's first doppler radar in Kochi.
- Yes Bank along with YES Global Institute has launched YES GST program for MSMEs (Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises) under its MSME CSR initiative.
- The 22nd World Petroleum Congress, the largest gathering for the oil and gas industry, held in Istanbul, Turkey.
- Kishore Sansi has been conferred with the 'Personality of the Year' award by Skoch Consultancy Services; he is the present MD and CEO of Vijaya Bank.
- The country is set to get its first high-speed rail training centre in Gujarat.
- The government launched a national strategic plan for the elimination of malaria and pledged to eradicate the vector-borne disease by 2027.
- India has the Second highest number of adults planning to migrate to other countries with the US and the UK among the most favored destinations.
- A group of Indian astronomers have discovered a massive super cluster of galaxies, and have named it Saraswati.
- India and Sri Lanka Air Forces have concluded a joint exercise in Colombo.
- Sandeep Patil has been named as the brand ambassador of the Indian Indoor Cricket Team.
- Misbah-ul-Haq has been awarded honorary life membership by the Lord's based-Marylebone Cricket Club (MCC).
- James Anderson became the first fast bowler in Test cricket history to take 300 wickets at home.
- Mukesh Kumar Jain has been appointed as the managing director and chief executive officer of Oriental Bank of Commerce.
- Subra Suresh has been chosen as the fourth President of Nanyang Technological University (NTU), Singapore.
- 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).
- Indian Railways launched first solar-powered DEMU (diesel electrical multiple unit) train from the Safdarjung railway station in New Delhi.

- Centre forms panel to enhance cyber-security framework of rural programmes. The panel is headed by Kiran Karnik.
- The book, 'President's Lady' (Pranaber Preyosi), was released by vice president Hamid Ansari, the book written by Sangeeta Ghosh.
- Yes Bank has received \$ 150 million funding from the US government and Wells Fargo to increase lending to support women entrepreneurs and small and medium-sized enterprises in India.
- Matunga suburban railway station in Mumbai has become the first station in India to be run by an all-women staff.
- The US House of Representatives has passed a \$USD 621.5 billion defence policy bill that proposes to advance defence cooperation with India.
- A Model United Nations Regional Conference held at Kathmandu, Nepal.
- The government has launched a GST training programme to skill around 2 lakh youths in six months to handle tax compliance issues like invoice making.
- Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) celebrated the 89th Foundation Day on July 16.
- Singapore Airlines has been rated the world's best airline in a survey by the Travel and Leisure magazine.
- Maharashtra has more than doubled the monthly pay of elected representatives to municipal bodies in the state, after considering inflation.
- Digital payments company MobiKwik has partnered Samsung Pay, under which consumers will be able to make payments with a single tap using select Samsung handsets.
- I H Manudev won the first National Masters snooker tournament title in Chennai.
- Nar Bahadur Bhandari who passed away recently, he was a former chief minister of Sikkim.
- Justice Gopal Prasad Parajuli to be the new Chief Justice of Nepal.
- Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL) signed a MoU for 2017-18 with the Ministry of Defence and set a revenue target of Rs 9,000 crore from operation.
- 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.
- The spectacular Dal Lake here hosted first ever 'Culture of Cruise', a weekly cultural programme organized by the Jammu and Kashmir government aimed to bring artists from various fields on one stage.
- USA 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.
- Smriti Irani is the new Information and Broadcasting Minister.

- Narender Singh Tomar is the new Urban development Minister.
- Amartya Sen released a book titled "Future of Indian Universities: Comparative and International Perspectives" at Rashtrapati Bhavan.
- India and Sri Lanka have signed a MoU to develop a village in Anuradhapura District at a cost of 30 crores Sri Lankan rupees.
- India has ranked Fourth among world's fastest growing economies.
- The Centre for United Nations Peacekeeping (CUNPK) is conducting jointly with the US, the second edition of United Nations Peacekeeping Course for African Partners (UNPCAP-02) in New Delhi.
- State Bank of India, the country's largest commercial bank, has launched SBI Realty — a one-stop integrated website [www.sbirealty.in](http://www.sbirealty.in) for Home buyers.
- Harinder Pal Sandhu won the Victorian Open Squash title 2017.
- Three Indian woman judokas won Bronze medals in their respective categories at the recently-concluded Asian Junior Judo Championships in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan.
- World football body FIFA has lifted a ban imposed on Sudan for government interference in the sport.
- BCCI has appointed Bharat Arun as the Indian cricket team's bowling coach.
- Amit Saroha clinched Silver medal in the club throw event in the F-51 category below waist paraplegic category at the ongoing World Para Athletics Championships in London.
- A 101-year-old woman just set a new record for her age group by completing the 100-meter race in just over 40 seconds. She belongs to USA.
- Martin Landau who passed away recently, he won an Oscar award as an Actor in 1994 film "Ed Wood".
- Tamil Nadu has almost doubled the salary of MLAs in the state from Rs.55,000 to Rs.1.05 lakh recently.
- Cabinet approved MOU in respect of tax matters between India and BRICS countries.
- The Union Cabinet has been apprised of the MoU between India and Netherland on cooperation in the exploration.
- The Maharashtra government has decided to increase the compensation for rape and acid attack survivors from Rs.3 lakhs to 10 lakhs.
- Gujarat government launched a pilot programme to provide subsidized meals to laborers for Rs. 10, once a day, under 'Shramik Annapurna Yojana'.
- Uber has launched a nationwide campaign called "Decongest India", starting with New Delhi, to curb congestion and pollution.

- First woman Sikh MP Preet Kaur Gill has been elected to an influential cross-party panel in the UK Parliament.
- A group of seven Indian students has bagged two awards at the first global robotics Olympiad held in the USA where 157 countries participated.
- Indian Oil Corporation has bagged the WPC Excellence Award for its innovative and ground-breaking INDMAX technology at 22nd edition of the World Petroleum Congress in Istanbul.
- Jammu and Kashmir Tourism Department has received the award in the category of 'Best Adventure Tourism Destination and Eco-Tourism Destination'.
- Ram Nath Kovind has been elected as 14th President of India.
- National Bamboo Mission renamed as National Agro-Forestry & Bamboo Mission is being implemented as per the set objectives and targets of the Mission.
- Bangalore, Indian city to be developed as hub for gaming, animation.
- Gujarat as topped the list of states having the highest investment potential, according to a survey of the National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER).
- India has launched a solar project with state-of-the-art technology to electrify a remote village in Egypt.
- India's first Food Truck Park has opened in Mumbai.
- Karnataka will give free laptops to 1.5 lakh students from poor families, who are joining colleges in the state this academic year.
- Goa Shipyard Limited and Hindustan Shipyard Limited signed a MoU for the financial year 2017-18 with defence ministry.
- The Reserve Bank of India will soon issue a new batch of Rs.20 notes under the Mahatma Gandhi series-2005. The notes will have the inset letter S.
- 'Hamari Shala Kaisi Ho' and 'Shala Siddhi Karyakram' are being implemented by the School Education department in Government schools in Madya Pradesh.
- L.K. Advani received the Lifetime Achievement Award for his contributions as a parliamentarian in the Lok Sabha.
- Maharashtra government 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 Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) has launched the mAadhaar app, a digital tool that allows holders of Aadhaar numbers to carry their in their smart phones.
- Famous singer Barbara Weldens who passed away recently, she was from France.
- Divyanka Tripathi has been awarded Most Admired Leader in the field of Entertainment by Herald Global.

- The government cleared the second broadband connectivity to all 2.5 Lakh phase of BharatNet, its ambitious programme to bring gram panchayats in the country.
- Andhra Pradesh Skill Development Corporation launched 'Udyogaram', a digital technology-based employment van.
- Finance Minister Arun Jaitley has formally launched a pension scheme named Pradhan Mantri Vaya Vandana Yojana for senior citizens with an assured return rate of eight per cent.
- 7 Indian companies were featured in this year's Fortune Global 500 list.
- Jharkhand has set up a helpline for farmers that would become operational from 22.07.2017.
- Telangana is the first state to have eco-friendly bridges for the movement of tigers over a canal cutting across the tiger corridor.
- Meghalaya launched a statewide football grassroots development programme 'Mission Football' at Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium.
- The Government of India has setup a Central Monitoring Committee to monitor the impact of GST, the committee headed by the Cabinet Secretary.
- Google has launched Hire, a recruiting app for small- and medium-sized businesses that also integrates seamlessly with G Suite.
- Russia will sign three key agreements with Nuclear Power Corporation of India Ltd for Kudankulam units 5 and 6, by the end of this month.
- ICICI Bank will be selling personal loans of up to Rs.15 lakhs through its ATMs that can be availed of by select salaried customers even if they haven't previously applied for one.
- Morocco and Britain have signed a MoU on aviation security.
- Lord Davies has been appointed as Chair of the UK India Business Council (UKIBC).
- In the newly released Fortune Global 500 list, Apple has been named as the world's most profitable company, reaping in nearly \$45.7 billion in profit in the last financial year.
- Sanjay Kothari has been appointed as Secretary to President-elect Ram Nath Kovind.
- Shanmugh Natarajan has been appointed as the managing director (MD) for Adobe Systems in India.
- Kerala will be hosting the fifth edition of South India Writers Ensemble (SIWE).
- Bank of Baroda has entered into an agreement with Directorate General of Supplies & Disposal (DGS&D) for extending various banking services to Government e-Marketplace (GeM).
- India's first child-friendly police station coming up at Rajasthan.

· The President of India has inaugurated the “Bicentenary celebration of the heroic Paika Rebellion of Odisha, a valiant uprising of Paikas against the British rule” organized by the Ministry of Culture.

· India has presented its national review report on the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to the UN; the report was presented by Arvind Panagariya.

· Russia and Hungary will host two future editions of the world championships in short-course swimming.

· Vijay Goel and Nitin Gadkari flagged off the 10th Slum Yuva Daud at Khichripur in New Delhi.

· Union Minister of State for Home Kiren Rijiju inaugurated the Research Institution of World Ancient, Traditional, and Culture & Heritage (RIWATCH) Museum in Arunachal Pradesh.

· Kerala is getting ready to host a literary festival with tolerance as the core theme.

· Paradip would be developed into a smart port and smart city at an investment of Rs.40,000 crore.

· Delhi government has announced plans to launch a mobile application which will allow people to check the status of government projects on a single platform.

· Karnataka Bank in association with its PNB MetLife has launched Met Loan and Life Suraksha (MLLS), a single premium plan covering the loan liability of a customer.

· England won the Women’s cricket world cup 2017 title.