

CURRENT AFFAIRS MONTH OF MARCH–2017

List of Important Days

- March 1 - Zero Discrimination Day. (Theme – “ Make Some Noise for Zero Discrimination”)
- March 1 - 41st Civil Accounts Day.
- March 3 - World Wildlife Day. (Theme – “Listen to the Young Voices”)
- March 4 - National Safety Day. (Theme - “Keep Each Other Safe”).
- March 4 to March 10 - National Safety Week.
- March 8 - International Women's Day. (Theme – “Be bold for change”).
- March 9 - (2nd Thursday of March) World Kidney Day.
- March 10 - The Central Industrial Security Force (C.I.S.F) Raising Day.
- March 12 - World Day against Cyber Censorship.
- March 13 - Commonwealth Day. (Theme - “A Peace building Commonwealth”)
- March 14 - World 'Pi Day'.
- March 15 - World Consumer Rights Day. (Theme – “Building a Digital World Consumers can Trust”)
- March 18 - World Sleep Day. (Theme – “Sleep Soundly, Nurture Life”)
- March 20 - World Sparrow Day.
- March 20 - International Day of Happiness.
- March 21 - World Poetry Day.
- March 21 - International Day of Forests. (Theme – “Forests and Energy”)
- March 21 - World Down Syndrome Day.
- March 21 - International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination.
- March 22 - World Water Day. (Theme – “Why waste water?”)
- March 23 - World Meteorological Day. (Theme – “Understanding Clouds”)
- March 24 - World Tuberculosis Day.
- March 25 - International Day of Solidarity with Detained and Missing Staff Members.

- March 25 – International day of Remembrance of the victims of Transatlantic Slave Trade. (Theme – “Remember Slavery: Recognizing the Legacy and Contributions of People of African Descent”)
- March 27 - World Theatre Day.
- The US state of Kansas has recognized March 16 as 'Indian-American Appreciation Day' to honor an Indian techie who was killed last month in a racially-motivated hate crime.
- Bangladesh has made all preparations to write to the United Nations seeking recognition of March 25 as International Genocide Day.
- The World Wildlife Fund for Nature (WWF) was observed the 10th anniversary of 'Earth Hour' on March 25.

Reserve Bank of India

- The RBI has asked bank-operated Financial Literacy Centers, FLCs and rural branches to organize special camps starting from April 1 to educate public about digital payments through Unified Payments Interface, UPI and Unstructured Supplementary Service Data-based, USSD, “*99#” service code platforms.
- The RBI will soon issue Rs. 10 denomination notes with enhanced security features for circulation. The RBI said the banknotes in the Mahatma Gandhi series-2005 would carry an inset letter ‘L’ on both number panels, bearing the signature of Governor Urjit Patel.
- ICICI Bank topped the list of banks that witnessed most number of frauds, with State Bank of India taking the second spot, during April-December 2016 period, RBI data revealed.
- The government appointed B.P. Kanungo as a deputy governor of the RBI.
- The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) said that Kanungo will take charge on 3 April, after present deputy governor R. Gandhi’s retirement.
- The Reserve Bank of India has removed the cash withdrawal limits for the savings bank accounts starting from March 13.
- The RBI directed all public sector banks and some private banks to remain open on all days (including Saturday, Sunday and holidays) till April 1 to facilitate government receipt and payment functions.
- The All India Bank Officers' Confederation (AIBOC) is protesting against RBI's decision to keep banks open on all holidays till April 1 to facilitate tax collection.
- The Reserve Bank of India has issued a notification announcing that payment systems will remain closed on April 1.
- A MoU was signed in Guwahati between Assam government and State Bank of India to provide Housing and Educational Loan at subsidised interest rates to the employees of the state government.

State Bank of India

- SBI has decided to reintroduce penalty on non-maintenance of minimum balance in accounts from April 1.
- Failing to maintain monthly average balance in accounts will attract penalty up to 100 rupees plus service tax.
- The SBI launched a 'work from home' facility to enable employees to work while at home using mobile devices.
- SBI has announced a one-time farm loan settlement scheme worth 6,000 crore rupees primarily for tractors.
- Branches of all five associate banks, which are merging with parent State Bank of India, will begin functioning as SBI branches from April 1.
- The government announced the merger of the Bhartiya Mahila Bank (BMB) with the State Bank of India (SBI).
- The Bharatiya Mahila Bank (BMB) sanctioned loans to 1,000 women entrepreneurs for various income generating economic activities across the country on the eve of International Women's Day.
- SBI Card on 28 March 2017 launched the Unnati Credit Card to spread credit inclusion among masses.
- Odisha has become the first state in the country to carry financial inclusion and extend banking services to unbanked areas through Self Help Groups.
- The state government has signed an agreement with State Bank of India to provide banking facilities to people in unbanked areas.

Other Banks

- HDFC Bank, ICICI Bank and Axis Bank have started charging a minimum of Rs. 150 per transaction for cash deposits and withdrawals beyond four free transactions in a month.
- Union Bank of India will strengthen its loan portfolio under retail, agriculture and MSME (RAM) to achieve its growth in advances, said a top official.
- IDFC Bank officially launched its Aadhaar pay infrastructure meant for those without any mobile phone to carry out cashless transactions.
- Financial services major IDFC has decided to buy Natixis Global Asset Management's 25 per cent stake in IDFC Mutual Fund for over Rs 244 crore.
- HDFC Bank launched digital Loan against Securities (LAS) allowing customers to avail loans in less than 3 minutes.
- Bandhan Bank Ltd in March 2017 announced the signing of an agreement with Avenues India Pvt Ltd, the leading payment solution provider in India.
- ICICI India's largest private sector bank by consolidated assets, announced the launch of a mobile banking app 'Mera iMobile' for rural customers that allow them to access banking services as well as information on agri services.

- India's first multi-bank mobile payment platform Chillr was launched its Unified Payments Interface (UPI) facility by March-end, which will enable customers of nearly 45 banks to make payments on a single platform.
- IDFC Bank plans to build a network of more than one lakh points-of-presence in the next two years to enable people in the farthest corners of the country to transact digitally.
- Micro-finance platform Disha plans the formal launch of its small finance bank (SFB) in the next quarter, followed by 30-40 branches in the next three months.
- Axis Bank will open an international finance branch at Gujarat International Finance Tec-City (GIFT) in Gandhinagar, its CEO and MD Shikha Sharma.
- ICICI Bank has partnered with Truecaller to launch a UPI-based mobile payment service called 'Truecaller Pay'.
- Vijaya Bank entered into a MoU with Piaggio Vehicles for providing financial support for the purchase of vehicles under Small Road Transport Operators (SRTO) scheme in Bangalore.
- The Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) has temporarily halted all Aadhaar based transactions by Axis Bank, and two other firms, over a recent instance of misuse of biometric data.
- Private sector lender Kotak Mahindra Bank announced a strategy to double its existing customer base to 16 million in the next 18 months.
- Canara Bank to revise its base rate with effect from April 1. The bank plans to reduce its base rate by 10 basis points to 9.40 per cent from 9.50 per annum.
- Kotak Mahindra Bank said it planned to raise capital selling shares triggering speculation that it may raise as much as Rs. 10,000 crores for a possible buyout of a non-banking finance company, which may be Mahindra & Mahindra Financial Services Ltd.
- Axis Bank has tied up with Wells Fargo, the third largest American bank by assets, to offer real time remittances from the Indian Diaspora to their relatives back home.
- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) barred depositors of the Kapol Co-operative Bank, Mumbai, from withdrawing more than Rs 3000 from their savings and current bank accounts.

Insurance

- Canara HSBC Oriental Bank of Commerce Life Insurance Company plans to launch a pure term insurance product, with return of premium.
- The Maharashtra government has made Aadhaar mandatory to farmers for availing crop insurance schemes from the next Kharif season.
- General Insurance Corporation (GIC Re) is likely to be the first PSU insurer to tap the capital market as the Finance Ministry has started scouting for merchant bankers to manage its IPO.
- The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) has increased rates by up to 41 per cent across various categories of vehicles.

Supreme Court

- Chief Justice JS Khehar has said the Supreme Court will go paperless in six to seven months in a bid to save funds and make the judiciary eco-friendly.
- The Supreme Court ordered a ban on the registration and sale of vehicles compliant with the older Bharat Stage-III (BS-III) emission norms from April 1.

High Courts and Sessions Courts

- The Bombay High Court gave on its nod to an international power boat racing event slated from March 3 to 5 among seven teams along a 5.2-km course off the Marine Drive bay in south Mumbai.

Election Commission

- The Election Commission blocked the usage of AIADMK's name and 'twin leaves' poll symbol after it was claimed by the faction led by O Panneerselvam.
- The Election Commission has ordered the transfer of Chennai Police Commissioner S George following a complaint by DMK, ahead of the RK Nagar Assembly by poll in Tamil Nadu.

Central Government

- The Centre has decided to amend the rules to allow online filing of performance reports of IAS and IPS officers.
- The government has asked banks to link all savings accounts with mobile and Aadhaar numbers by March 31, 2017, and enable mobile banking for these customers.
- Centre has launched the first ever across-the-river survey in Ganga to determine the population of aquatic life, including that of the endangered Gangetic dolphin.
- The government has made having an Aadhaar card must for poor women to avail free cooking gas (LPG) connection under the Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana.
- Government said, the Bharat Net project has been launched in mission mode to connect all Gram panchayats to provide high speed internet services in the country.
- The Centre has initiated steps to implement the project of interlinking rivers in the country to make irrigation facilities available for non irrigated areas.
- The Centre has said, the interest cost of states participating in the Ujwal Discom Assurance Yojana (UDAY) has been reduced by 11,989 crore rupees for the first nine months of this year, as compared to the previous financial year.
- The Centre proposed to lower the limit of cash transactions to Rs. 2 lakh from the earlier proposal of Rs. 3 lakh in the Union Budget.
- The Cabinet approved a National Commission for Socially and Educationally Backward Classes as a constitutional body.
- The new panel will replace the National Commission for Backward Classes (NCBC) that looked into the inclusion and exclusion of OBCs for quotas, among other issues.

- The government has decided to train about 1.65 lakh teenagers in the age group 15-19 to share correct information about sexual health with their peers.
- The government has notified a law that makes the possession of more than 10 scrapped notes by individuals a criminal offence.
- The government lowered the interest rates on small savings deposits, including PPF, by 0.1% effective April 1.

States

- The Assam government has decided to appoint a teacher in all high schools to monitor cleanliness.
- The Assam government has decided to make Sanskrit compulsory up to Class 8 in all schools across the state.
- In Assam, the five day long elephant census was begun.
- The Delhi Government has extended the mid-day meal scheme for girls up to class 12, reportedly making it the first state in the country to do so, the city-state government claimed.
- The Himachal Pradesh government approved a proposal to make Dharamshala the second capital of the state.
- Haryana Government has decided to expand the facility of dialysis centers at affordable prices in the State.
- Andhra Pradesh State Cabinet took several decisions, including naming of Gannavaram Airport as NTR Amaravati Airport and Tirupati Airport as Sri Venkateswara Airport.
- Maharashtra government announced a draft defense and aerospace manufacturing policy to attract investment of 5 billion dollars over a period of five years.
- In Jammu and Kashmir, the anti militancy operation at a village in Shopian district was called off as no contact with the suspected hiding militants was established during a cordon and search operation.
- Bihar government has pegged the budget for the tourism sector for 2017-18 at Rs.109.87 crore, which is 84% less than the funds allocated last year.
- Maharashtra Transport Minister Diwakar Raote said retired defence personnel are being employed as security guards in the Maharashtra State Road Transport Corporation (MSRTC).
- Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal said, State Government is contemplating to grant pension to widowers on the pattern of widows, from the next year.
- Jammu and Kashmir Minister for Food, Civil Supplies, and Consumer Affairs Chowdhary Zulfkar Ali inaugurated the first smart tribal model village 'Hubbi' in Rajouri district of the state.
- In Nawada district of Bihar, Union Minister Giriraj Singh launched an Air Conditioned jacket made of cotton fabric.

- In Haryana, girl child ratio has increased to 938 per 1000 male children in February.
- Haryana Government has decided to enhance the rate of ex-gratia grant given to the family members of the Central Para Military Forces (CPMF), who die in harness or are disabled in performance of their official duties while serving in operational area in war or in terrorist attack, natural calamities and rescue operations the rate of assistance has been enhanced from 20 lakh to 50 lakh rupees.
- Tamil Nadu Chief Minister K Palaniswami launched a housing scheme estimated at Rs. 1,580 crore with Central assistance for the economically poor.
- Arunachal Pradesh Assembly has adopted a private member resolution to formulate a policy on recruitment and equitable distribution of teachers in schools in the state.
- The Uttar Pradesh legislative assembly is set to have 38 women MLAs, the highest number for the state since Independence.
- The Assam government is hopeful of achieving the target of Indian Rhino Vision 2020.
- As per Indian Rhino Vision, a target has been set to increase the number of rhino population to 3,000.
- The Karnataka government allocated Rs. 100 crore for setting up of Namma Canteens across the state to provide breakfast for Rs. 5 and lunch, dinner for Rs. 10 each.
- The Karnataka government has proposed to 'legalise' manual scavenging, which was banned by the Centre following a Supreme Court order.
- Jhalawar district administration in Rajasthan has launched an initiative offering 4G Android smart phones to men and sarees to women who opt for sterilization.
- A high-powered committee headed by Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis approved development plans of five pilgrimage destinations in the state.
- Chandigarh administration has declared the state highways as 'major district roads' in order to avoid closure of liquor vends in the city.
- The Assam government has approved the recommendation of the Seventh Pay Commission constituted for over 4 lakh employees.
- Punjab cabinet has decided to provide 33 per cent reservation for women in all government jobs.
- In a bid to end VIP culture in the state, the Punjab Cabinet has decided to ban the use of beacons on government vehicles.
- Haryana Government has notified Ayurveda, Yoga and Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha and Homoeopathy Medicine Procurement Policy, 2016.
- Newly-appointed Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath ordered police officials to enforce a complete ban on cow smuggling in the state.
- Assam CM Sarbananda Sonowal has launched an initiative to develop Majuli, the world's largest river island, as India's first carbon neutral district and a biodiversity heritage site.

- The Uttar Pradesh Police issued orders to constitute anti-Romeo squad in 11 districts of the Lucknow zone to prevent eve-teasing.
- Juri, a village in Jharkhand's East Singhbhum district, has initiated the practice of naming its lanes after its most educated girls.
- In Uttar Pradesh an intensive drive is being carried out across the state against slaughter houses and retail outlets being run illegally and in violation of the Municipal and Pollution control laws.
- The Bihar government launched a programme to provide free WiFi facilities in colleges and universities.
- The newly appointed Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath banned the consumption of gutkha, paan, and paan masala in all government offices across the state.
- National Commission for Schedule Tribes, NCST has approved the proposal for five additional seats for tribals in the Sikkim Assembly.
- Government has decided to open a Post Office Passport Seva Kendra (POPSK) at Nellore in Andhra Pradesh.
- The BJP-led Manipur government has decided to set up an anti-corruption cell at the Nongthombam Biren Singh's Secretariat in the state for gathering information on corrupt elements in public service.
- Ayodhya, Mathura, Varanasi and Gorakhpur, four holy cities for Hindus, will get 24-hour power supply, Uttar Pradesh Power Minister Shrikant Sharma said.
- The height of the ambitious Shivaji memorial off Mumbai coast will be raised from 192 meters to 210 meters.
- IndiGo launched a gym for police personnel in Dimapur, Nagaland.
- Nagaland Assembly passed a resolution seeking Centre to request Myanmar government to permanently drop the Indo-Myanmar border fencing project.
- In Chhattisgarh, Chief Minister Raman Singh announced to implement 7th pay commission recommendation for the benefit of more than 2.5 lakh government officers and employees in the state.

Place in the News

- During the excavation work to revive the Saraswati River, remnants of pre-Harappa civilization, which are presumed to be more than 6,000 years old, were found at Kunal village in Fatehabad district of Haryana.
- PM Narendra Modi inaugurated India's longest cable-bridge in Bharuch, Gujarat, which are 1,344 meters long and 22.8 meters wide.
- Citing security concerns, Hong Kong is forfeiting its Davis Cup tennis matches against Pakistan, scheduled for next month in Islamabad.

- The Bakshi Stadium in Srinagar is all set to be developed as a modern football facility as per FIFA norms at an estimated cost of Rs 48 crore.
- Gangadevipalli, a village in Warangal district of Telangana has claimed 100% literacy and complete prohibition of liquor.
- Kanha Tiger Reserve became the first tiger reserve in India to officially introduce a mascot, named Bhoorsingh the Barasingha.
- The Union Government on 22 March 2017 informed that five Indian cities were included in the Tentative List of UNESCO World Heritage Sites.
- The five Indian cities included in the list are Ahmadabad, Delhi, Jaipur, Bhubaneswar, and Mumbai.

Personalities

- 32-year-old Sridevi has become the first woman driver of Karnataka state government-owned North Western Karnataka Road Transport Corporation which runs buses in Hubli.
- Indian shuttler Saina Nehwal has decided to donate Rs. 6 lakh, Rs. 50,000 each, to the families of the 12 Central Reserve Police Force jawans killed in an attack in Chhattisgarh.
- Australian bowler Shaun Tait took to twitter to announce that he has become an Overseas Citizen of India.
- Egypt's former President Hosni Mubarak has been released from detention in a military hospital, six years after he was overthrown.
- Udaipur's Gauri Singhvi (14) has become the first girl to swim from Bandra–Worli Sea Link to the Gateway of India, which is a 36 km long route.
- The local airport in Cristiano Ronaldo's native Madeira Islands in Portugal was named after the

32-year-old Real Madrid.

The airport has been renamed to Aeroporto Cristiano Ronaldo.

- Former cricketer Sachin Tendulkar launched his own app titled '100MB' in Mumbai.
- The IPL Governing Council decided to felicitate five legends - Sachin Tendulkar, Sourav Ganguly, Rahul Dravid, VVS Laxman and Virender Sehwag, during the opening ceremony of cash-rich league.

Defence and National Security

- India successfully test-fired its indigenously developed supersonic interceptor missile capable of destroying any incoming enemy ballistic missile at low altitude.
- The Indian Navy successfully conducted the maiden firing of an anti-ship missile from first of the indigenously built Kalvari class submarines, during its test firing in the Arabian Sea.
- China says, it will increase military spending by about 7 percent this year.
- Iran successfully test-fired a sophisticated Russian-made air defence system.

- The report said the test of the S-300 system came during a recent military exercise named Damvand, the name of Iran's highest mountain.
- Indigenously-manufactured Indian Small Arms System (INSAS) rifles will 'retire' from the army after 20 years in service and be replaced by an imported rifle, according to reports.
- INS Viraat, the world's oldest aircraft carrier in active service, was decommissioned with a ceremonial send-off in Mumbai.
- A joint military exercise SURYA KIRAN-XI between India and Nepal was started in Pithoragarh area of Uttarakhand.
- In Jammu and Kashmir, in yet another incidence of ceasefire violation, Pakistani forces resorted to shelling and firing in Krishna Ghati sector along the Line of Control in Poonch district.
- South Korea and the United States started military exercises amid high tensions on the peninsula prompted by the recent North Korea missile tests.
- Japan is reportedly planning to dispatch its largest warship on a three-month tour through the South China Sea starting from May to test its capability.
- The US has declared that it will permanently station missile-capable 'Grey Eagle' drones in South Korea following North Korea's test of four ballistic missiles which were positioned to strike US bases in Japan.
- India and Mauritius held talks on expanding bilateral defence and security cooperation to effectively deal with the threat of terrorism.
- An Indian Navy team is set to scale Mount Everest as a part of its 'Sagar Tal se Sagar Matha (Seabed to Summit)' expedition.
- In a boost to India's maritime prowess, the Navy has successfully conducted the maiden trial firing of newly installed surface-to-air Barak missile system from its aircraft carrier INS Vikramaditya.
- Defence Minister Arun Jaitley handed over three naval systems, developed by premier defence research organization DRDO to the navy.
- Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh said that the Centre has chalked out a new roadmap to strengthen the border security and plans to seal the International Borders with Bangladesh and Pakistan.
- Northern Army Commander Lt Gen D Anbu has reviewed the overall security situation in the Kashmir Valley.
- INLCU L51, the first of the eight ships of the Landing Craft Utility MK IV Class, was commissioned into the India Navy by Vice Admiral Bimal Varma AVSM, Commander-in-Chief of the Andaman & Nicobar Command, at a ceremony in Port Blair.
- The Chief of the Indian Naval Staff Admiral Sunil Lamba inaugurated the first ever Integrated Automatic Aviation Meteorological System (IAAMS).
- It was inaugurated on 28 March 2017 at INS Rajali, which is informally known as Arakkonam Naval Air Station, in Tamil Nadu.

- The Defence Research and Development Organization (DRDO) formally handed over weapon locating radar 'Swati' to the Indian Army.

Committees/Commissions

- RBI announced setting up of the inter-disciplinary standing committee on cyber security to review the threats inherent in existing and emerging technology.

- Sports Minister Vijay Goel has constituted a high level committee to look in to the grievances of women players.

- The Central Board of Direct Taxes, CBDT has constituted a committee to identify those IRS and other junior-rank officers of the Income Tax department who are on unauthorized leave or are absconding.

Schemes/Initiatives

- The government launched an 'I am Trolled' app to help women internet users threatened with physical violence or trolled on social media.

- PM Narendra Modi released a postage stamp to commemorate 100 years of Yogoda Satsanga Society of India at a function in New Delhi.

- Water Resources Minister Uma Bharti inaugurated a national conference on Jal Kranti Abhiyan in New Delhi.

- India's first air-conditioned rail ambulance was unveiled in Mumbai.

- Commerce and Industry Minister Nirmala Sitharaman launched the Trade Infrastructure for Export Scheme (TIES).

- Union Science and Technology Minister Harsh Vardhan will inaugurate the 5th foundation day function of the Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council in New Delhi.

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi will launch Asia's longest bi-directional road tunnel on the Jammu-Srinagar National Highway on April 2.

- The Union Minister of Railways Suresh Prabhu on 22 March 2017 announced the scaling up of VIKALP Scheme for waitlisted passengers at a programme held in New Delhi

- Kerala, Tripura and Arunachal Pradesh have joined the Centre's power distribution company debt relief scheme, Ujjwal Discom Assurance Yojna.

- Union Minister Uma Bharti led a special cleanliness drive conducted by district-level officers at the Kedarghat, Manikarnika and Jad Bharat ghat in Uttarkashi.

Summit/Conference

- Two day Nepal Investment Summit 2017 has started in Kathmandu.

- President of the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank, Mr Jin Liqun has addressed the summit.

- A three-day international conference on e-governance 'ICEGOV 2017' was held in New Delhi.

- A two-day North-East Business Summit (NEBS) has started in New Delhi.
- India's key messages during the Commonwealth summit held in London focused on ease of doing business in the country and creating a strong export economy, a senior Indian diplomat said.
- In Bihar, three day International Buddhist conference began at Nava Nalanda Mahavihara, Rajgir in Nalanda district of the state.
- In the US, an American business group will organize a conference in Houston to discuss the latest developments and best practices of doing business in India.
- Bihar CM Nitish Kumar released the state's start up policy at the Bihar Entrepreneurship Summit.
- Arab leaders are set to meet in Jordan for their annual summit with no expected breakthrough on resolving conflicts or terrorism in the region.

Agreement/Deal/Signed

- To promote start-ups in the state, the Odisha government has signed an agreement with Invest India, the National Investment Promotion and Facilitation Agency of the Union ministry of commerce and industries.
- Online travel company Yatra.com has announced that it signed an agreement with the Madhya Pradesh government jointly to promote home stays in the state.
- Google India and Telangana government have signed a MoU aimed at supporting the digitization efforts of the state.
- The Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB) signed a MoU with the National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) and the National Skill Development Fund (NSDF) for execution of skill development programmes.
- Tata Motors announced the signing of a MoU for a long-term partnership with Volkswagen Group and Skoda to explore strategic alliance opportunities for joint development of products.
- China and Saudi Arabia signed MoU and letters of intent potentially worth about 65 billion dollars during Saudi King Salman's visit to Beijing.
- India and Brazil signed a social security agreement on 16 March 2017 in Brazil's capital Brasilia, exempting detached workers of the two countries from making social security contribution in either country.
- India signed two agreements with Russia for long-term maintenance and technical support for the Indian Air Force's Sukhoi-30 fighter jets.
- India has inducted 240 Su-30 MKI fighter aircraft out of the 272 contracted from Russia.
- India and Mauritius on 20 March 2017 signed a MoU to execute a USD 20 million social housing project in Mauritius.

· The Union Cabinet, presided by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, on 22 March 2017 was apprised of the MoU signed between the Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-In) and the US Homeland Security Department on cooperation in the field of Cyber Security.

· India and Nepal on 27 March 2017 signed an agreement to renew the supply of petroleum to Nepal for five years.

- State-run Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) signed an agreement to supply over 10 lakh tones of petroleum products annually to Nepal for the next five years, Chairman B Ashok said.

Meet/Visit

· Vice President Mohammed Hamid Ansari visited to Indonesian (Jakarta) for a 2 day visit, to attend the Summit of the Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA).

· Railway Minister Suresh Prabhu was visited to UAE with focus on seeking investment in Indian Railways and redevelopment of stations.

· Representatives of 23 Asian countries are meeting in Islamabad, Pakistan to talk about creating a regional block similar to the European Union, Pakistan officials said.

· The meeting of Finance Ministers and central bank chiefs from the Group of 20 economies was held in southwestern Germany.

- G-20 nations have dropped a long-standing anti-protectionist pledge and a vow on action against climate change, after opposition from the United States.

· President Pranab Mukherjee visited to Rajgir in Nalanda district of Bihar.

- During his visit, Mr Mukherjee addresses the closing ceremony of International Conference on Buddhism in the 21st century.

· The 113th meeting of Permanent Indus Commission between India and Pakistan began in Islamabad.

· The third meeting of the G20 Framework Working Group concluded on 29 March 2017 in Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh.

· Meeting held between Indian Army chief Rawat and Nepal PM Prachanda.

· The three Day annual meeting of the New Development Bank (NDB) has began in national capital with a focus on building a sustainable future.

· Malaysian Prime Minister Najib Razak visited India for a six day official tour.

Bills

· The Trade Mark Rules, 2017 have come into effect from March 7, which will replace the erstwhile Trade Mark Rules 2002 and streamline and simplify the processing of Trade Mark applications.

· An amendment to the Mumbai Municipal Corporation Act was approved by the Maharashtra

Legislative Assembly, paving way for construction of late Shiv Sena supremo Bal Thackeray's memorial in the Mayor's bungalow.

- Israel's parliament voted in favor of a bill to bar foreign nationals, who publicly support an anti-Israel boycott, from entering the country.
- Pakistan National Assembly has passed the Hindu Marriage Bill 2016, after amendments made by the Senate, to regulate marriages of Hindus in Pakistan.
- The Lok Sabha has taken up the Enemy Property (Amendment and Validation) Bill, 2016 for consideration and passage which was passed by the Rajya Sabha with some amendments.
- The UK Parliament passed the Brexit bill, paving the way for the government to trigger Article 50 so that it can leave the European Union.
- The Commerce and Industry Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on 14 March 2017 introduced the Footwear Design and Development Institute (FDDI) Bill, 2017 in the Lok Sabha.
- The Union Cabinet headed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi approved four supporting drafts for Goods and Services Tax (GST) Bills.
- The Lok Sabha has passed the Appropriation Bill, 2017 by voice authorizing certain payments and appropriation from and out of the Consolidated Fund of India for 2017-18.
- The Gujarat Assembly has passed bills for the establishment of four private and two government-run universities in the state.
- The Union Cabinet, chaired by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi, on 22 March 2017 approved the proposal for Amendments to the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) Act, 1981.
- Amendments to National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development Act, 1981 include provisions that enable Union Government to increase the authorized capital of NABARD from Rs. 5000 crore to Rs. 30000 crore.
- The Finance Bill 2017, which has been passed by the Lok Sabha, comes with a number of amendments, including imposing a limit of Rs. 2 lakh on cash transactions.
- The Bill also makes Aadhaar mandatory for filing Income Tax returns and for getting a PAN.
- Further, the Bill enables Income Tax officers to raid homes without providing any reason
- Human Resources Minister Prakash Javdekar introduced the Indian Institutes of Information Technology (Amendment) Bill, 2017 in the Lok Sabha.
- President Pranab Mukherjee has given his assent to the Maternity Benefit (Amendment) Act, 2017. Women employees will now get paid maternity leave of 26 weeks.
- Gujarat Assembly passed the Gujarat Animal Preservation (Amendment) Bill, 2017 unopposed in absence of opposition members.
- Pakistan government introduced a constitutional amendment bill in Parliament to revive the controversial special military courts for trying hardcore militants.

Fund

- On the occasion of International Women's Day, Karnataka's IT Minister Priyank Kharge announced a Rs. 10 crore fund for women entrepreneurs in the state.
- Jammu and Kashmir government has granted around 169 crore rupees plan outlay for the border district of Kathua for the financial year 2017-18.
- The Union Cabinet approved a special assistance package for Andhra Pradesh by way of funding the state's externally-aided projects and the irrigation component of Polavaram project.
- The Executive Committee (EC) of National Mission for Clean Ganga approved 20 projects worth nearly Rs 1900 crore.
- Elon Musk-led aerospace startup SpaceX has won a Rs.630 crore contract from the US Air Force to launch its third GPS III satellite in 2019.
- The World Bank Group (WBG) approved USD 210 million loan to strengthen gram panchayats (GPs) in West Bengal.
- The World Bank Board on 16 March 2017 approved the USD 175 million National Hydrology Project to strengthen capacity of institutions to assess water situation in their regions.
- World Bank has announced 57 billion US dollar financing for sub-Saharan Africa over the next three fiscal years.
- US President Donald Trump signed a bill authorising 19.5 billion US dollar funding for the NASA programmes and setting a new goal to send humans to Mars.
- The Centre approved projects to construct National Highways in Meghalaya and Mizoram at the cost of Rs.6, 721 crore.
- India has signed Financing Agreement with World Bank for 100 million US dollars for Uttarakhand Health Systems Development Project.
- The Pune Metropolitan Region Development Authority approved a budget of nearly Rs. 800 crore for its various projects.
- The government will borrow from markets about 3.72 lakh crore rupees in the first half of next fiscal beginning April which is 64% of the borrowing target for full financial year.
- India on 30 March 2017 signed loan agreement with the New Development Bank (NDB) of USD 350 million for development and up gradation of major district roads project in Madhya Pradesh.

Economy

- The price of digital currency bit coin surged to around \$1,282, making it worth more than an ounce of gold (worth \$1,227.6) for the first time ever.

- India's foreign exchange reserves increased by USD 63.7 million to USD 362.79 billion in the week ended 24th February 2017.
- Global rating agency Fitch said, Indian economy will grow by 7.1 per cent in the current fiscal before stepping up to 7.7 per cent in the next two financial years.
- Wholesale inflation shot up to a 39-month high of 6 point 55 per cent in February this year, on account of costlier food and fuel items.
- Retail inflation rose to 4-month high of 3.65 per cent in February this year, mainly due to an increase in the prices of food items.
- US Federal Reserve has raised its benchmark interest rate by 0.25 per cent for only the third time in a decade. The central bank voted to raise its key rate target to a range of 0.75 per cent to 1 per cent.

Companies/Industry

- Technology blogger '314Reactor' has created a smart watch powered by Windows 98.
- Paytm has withdrawn the 2 per cent fee on adding money to mobile wallets using credit cards, a merely two days after introducing the levy.
- US-based food robotics startup Chowbotics, led by IIT Madras graduate Deepak Sekar, has raised \$5 million (Rs. 33 crore) for its salad-making robot 'Sally'.
- Uber has launched a real-time ID check for drivers in India that prompts drivers to share a selfie of their selves before going online.
- Snapdeal-owned digital payments startup FreeCharge raised Rs. 30 crore in funding from its existing investor Jasper Infotech.
- Flipkart is acquiring eBay India in a deal that is part of a \$2 billion fundraising, according to reports.
- India's largest operator Bharti Airtel announced that it will buy internet service provider Tikona Digital Networks' 4G business in a deal worth Rs. 1,600 crore.
- Bajaj Auto said it has agreed with Japan's Kawasaki to end their eight-year old alliance for sales and services in India from April 2017.
- Amazon, the USA based e commerce giant made its entry in UAE by acquiring Souq.com, the Middle East's largest online retailer.
- Google has doubled up the Gmail attachment size from 25 MB to 50 MB for incoming emails, allowing users to receive and open up to 50 megabytes of attachments directly in their inbox at once.
- India's third largest Internet Service Provider ACT Fibernet announced the launch of 1 Gbps wired broadband internet service for Hyderabad, making it the first Indian city to offer such a service.

Stock Market

- State-run housing finance company Housing and Urban Development Corporation Limited (HUDCO) has received Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) approval to raise funds through an IPO.

- Securities and Exchange Board of India has banned Reliance Industries and 12 other entities from equity derivatives trading for one year.

Exports/Imports

- Government imposed a 10 per cent import tax on wheat with immediate effect, sources said, reinstating the tariff after a gap of nearly four months that saw large overseas purchases.

- Mexico has canceled existing sugar export permits to the US to avoid penalties in a dispute over the pace of shipments.

- Vietnam has announced it will suspend the import of five agricultural products from India after several consignments were found to be contaminated with peanut beetle.

Taxation/Trade

- The GST Council approved the final draft of Central GST and Integrated GST laws in its meeting headed by Finance Minister Arun Jaitley in New Delhi.

- The government proposed to make Aadhaar card mandatory for filing Income Tax Returns (ITR) for all those who submit their returns after July 1, 2017.

- Iceland is considering ways of raising taxes in the tourism sector or limiting visitors' access to popular tourist destinations.

- Finance Minister Arun Jaitley has approved the re-organization of the field formations of the Central Board of Excise and Customs for the implementation of GST. The CBEC is being renamed as the Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs, CBIC after getting legislative approval.

Agriculture/Production

- Centre will launch pilot project on ornamental fisheries with total outlay of over 61 crore rupees.

- Agricultural growth rate expected to remain at 4.4% during this financial year.

Space

- European Union launched the fifth satellite of the Copernicus observation program, which will cut the time of imaging the earth by half.

- The US Congress has passed a funding bill for a probable human spaceflight mission to Mars by 2033.

- NASA is testing whether its Mars 2020 rover can drill for samples and look for signs of life at the same time.

- After postponing its first attempt to launch communications satellite due to high winds, Elon Musk-led space startup SpaceX successfully deployed the satellite through its Falcon 9 rocket.
- Japan launched a new satellite to track land and maritime movements in North Korea.
- NASA paid tribute to late American singer-songwriter Chuck Berry by including his song 'Johnny B Goode' to 'Music from Earth' in the deep-space Voyager mission.
- ISRO commissioned a one-metre hypersonic wind tunnel and shock tunnel, the world's third largest such facility, at the Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre in Thiruvananthapuram.
- The Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) in March 2017 announced that it has sent four teams to install stakes on ice for Differential Global Positioning System (DGPS) to validate the glacier surface velocity. The teams will mount the stakes around Indian station known as Bharati and Maitri.
- SpaceX is poised to launch its first recycled rocket, using a booster that sent food and supplies to the astronauts living at the International Space Station in April.

Science and Technology

- Columbia University scientists managed to store a full computer operating system and a short film among four other files on DNA molecules and were able to retrieve them error-free.
- In a first, French researchers have successfully reversed sickle-cell anaemia in a 13-year-old boy using gene modification.
- New York-based startup Sencity has built a smart dustbin for streets called 'TetraBIN' that makes throwing garbage a game.
- Chinese researchers have developed an 'artificial throat' using graphene (a carbon form) which can both generate and detect sound.
- In China, scientists have assembled four synthetic yeast chromosomes, making it the second country after the US capable of designing and building eukaryotic genomes.
- A Class 11 student from Arunachal Pradesh, Anang Tadar, has invented a gadget called 'Goggle For Blind' (G4B).
- Germany is to begin testing new voice recognition software that can tell which country migrants without documentation come from.
- German scientists are testing an 'artificial Sun', a massive light array for making hydrogen fuel by dissociating water molecules.
- An MIT team led by Indian researcher Subramanian Sundaram has 3-D printed a device that responds to mechanical stresses by changing the color of some spots on its surface.

Health/Diseases/Drugs

- With over 1.1 crore affected people, Uttar Pradesh has the maximum number of patients of rare disease in India, according to a report. Sikkim has the lowest number of affected people.

- The Employees State Insurance Corporation (ESIC) on 26 March 2017 launched Mobile Clinic Services for Andhra Pradesh and Telangana.
- Maharashtra Government has said, non-bailable cases will be registered for overcharging medicines and medical equipments in the state.
- Union Shipping Minister, Mr Nitin Gadkari inaugurated a residential facility for child cancer patients in Mumbai.

Energy/Gas/Oil

- State-owned oil companies raised the price of non-subsidized cooking gas (LPG) by a steep Rs. 86 per cylinder.
- Urban Development Minister Venkaiah Naidu inaugurated the country's largest waste-to-power plant at Narela-Bawana in New Delhi.
- The NTPC Ltd installed India's largest Floating solar photo voltaic plant at the Rajiv Gandhi Combined Cycle Power Plant (RGCCPP) Kayamkulam in Kerala.
- State-controlled Bharat Petroleum (BPCL) is planning to enter the travel business with the launch of a startup called 'Happy Roads', that would help travelers plan and execute road trips.
- The Competition Commission of India has slapped a Rs. 591 crore penalty on Coal India for unfair conditions in fuel supply agreements.
- India has become Net Exporter of Electricity from a Net Importer of Electricity for the first time, Central Electricity Authority has stated.

Environment

- In a first for the country, the Haryana Forest Department is planning to release eight vultures bred in captivity, fitted with satellite transmitters into the wild.

Education

- Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal has clarified that the State Government is setting up two health institutes, a Medical College named after Astronaut Kalpana Chawla and a Medical University named after Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhaya in Karnal district.
- Centre has approved over 4,000 Post Graduate seats in medical colleges and hospitals across the country for the academic session 2017-18.
- Tripura government has sent a proposal to the Centre to set up the All India Institute of Ayurveda, AIIA in the State.
- The Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) has released a mobile application, Exam Locator, to help students locate their examination centre.

- The CBSE has made it mandatory for the students appearing for Class 10 board exams from next year to study six subjects instead of five.
- However, it will be compulsory for Class 10 students to study a vocational subject from 2017-18 academic year.
- An All India Institute of Ayurveda, Yoga and Naturopathy will be opened at Mata Mansa Devi complex in Panchkula, Panchkula district, Haryana.
- The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA), chaired by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi, on 15 March 2017 approved the proposal for setting up around 50 new Kendriya Vidyalayas (KVs) under Civil or Defence Sector in the country.
- The CBSE-affiliated schools will now follow a uniform assessment scheme by introducing a two-semester system from Class 6 onwards.

Transport/Cars/Scooters

- The Railways will soon start Aadhaar-based online ticketing system to prevent touts from blocking tickets in bulk and fraudulent bookings, a senior official said.
- Noida get its first bike taxi service with the launch of Baxi.
- Metro stations in Noida are set to offer commuters the chance to rent bicycles for short trips, Noida Metro Rail Corporation officials have said.
- SpiceJet has announced that it will reserve its fourth row on all flights for female passengers travelling alone.
- Braille maps and platform indicators were unveiled at the Bengaluru City railway station, making it the second blind-friendly station after Mysore railway station in India.
- French aerospace giant Airbus will set up India's first full flight simulator and training centre near the Delhi Airport.
- The first fully made-in-India train, Medha was flagged off at Dadar station on 18 March 2017 for its maiden run to Borivali at Lokmanya Tilak Terminus.
- Aadhaar has not been made mandatory for senior citizens to avail concessions in train tickets, Railway Minister Suresh Prabhu informed the Lok Sabha.
- Starting from April 1, Railways will let waitlisted passengers travel in the next alternative train going towards the same destination the ticket is booked for.
- State-run Air India has blacklisted Shiv Sena MP Ravindra Gaikwad for hitting its staffer, Delhi Airport Manager Harinder Singh said.
- Union Minister Jayant Sinha said Surat Airport will soon become an international airport.
- Aiming to provide connectivity in remote areas, the Indian Railways will set up Wi-Fi hotspot kiosks at about 500 stations.

- Named 'Railwire Saathi', the Wi-Fi kiosks will enable people to use services like e-commerce, online banking, e-ticketing for train and bus services among others.
- Government announced regional aviation routes and airlines after the first round of bidding under UDAN.
- Railway Minister Suresh Prabhu inaugurated high speed rail wire Wi-Fi facility in National Rail museum.
- The Railways will spend over Rs. 10,000 crore on the renewal of tracks and adopt the latest technology to detect rail fracture, Railway Minister Suresh Prabhu said.

Films and Film Festival

- Amitabh Bachchan won the Best Actor award for 'Pink' and Alia Bhatt was named the Best Actress for her role in 'Uda Punjab' at Zee Cine Awards 2017.
- 'Pink' was declared the winner in the Best Film category while Ram Madhvani won the Best Director Award for 'Neerja'.
- Further, Jim Sarbh was named the Best Debutant (Male) for 'Neerja'.
- The Union government launched 'e-CinePramaan', the Online Film Certification System of the Central Board of Film Certification.

Festival

- Uttarakhand Governor K K Paul inaugurated the 29th edition of the International Yoga Festival at Rishikesh on March 1.
- Two day International Yoga Day fest has started in New Delhi.
- BSE Institute was organized a two-day 'Dalal Street Lit Fest 2017' at its premises in Mumbai.
- In Egypt, the mega cultural festival 'India by the Nile' started at the foot of the Pyramids in Cairo with a Crafts Mela, showcasing joint handicraft exhibition of India and Egypt.
- The festival of colors Holi was celebrated and the festival signifies the victory of good over evil and the arrival of spring.
- The Union Minister of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare Radha Mohan Singh on 15 March 2017 inaugurated the Krishi Unnati Mela 2017 in New Delhi.
- National Theatre Festival begins in the capital city of Kerala, Thiruvananthapuram.
- In Haryana, the first ever three-day Haryana Sahitya Sangam at Indradhanush Auditorium, Panchkula.
- IIT Kanpur's annual technological and entrepreneurial festival Techkriti, themed "Factualising Fictions" was held from March 23 to 26.

- The 105th Bihar Diwas was celebrated with enthusiasm. It is to commemorate the foundation day of the state. Bihar was carved out of united Bengal on March 22, 1912.
- The Fifth Rashtriya Sanskriti Mahotsav (RSM) – 2017 was organized in North Eastern Region of India from 23 March to 31 March 2017 by the Union Ministry of Culture.
- Gudi Padwa, the first day of the Marathi New Year was celebrated with enthusiasm and joy all over Maharashtra.
- In Himachal Pradesh, the Chaitra Navratri festival was celebrated with full devotion and enthusiasm.
- The biggest river festival of India, Namami Brahmaputra, was started in 21 districts of Assam.

Media /I.T / Telecommunication

- Telecom operator, Idea Cellular announced free incoming calls for both Pre-paid and Post-paid customers on domestic roaming.
- A parliamentary panel has suggested the merger of state-run telecom firms Bharat Sanchar Nigam (BSNL) and Mahanagar Telephone Nigam (MTNL) for their long-term survival.
- The Telecom Disputes Settlement and Appellate Tribunal, TDSAT, refused to stay Reliance Jio's free promotional offer, asking regulator TRAI to re-examine issues relating to the approval granted to the operator to continue with the freebies.
- Idea Cellular's board approved merger with Vodafone India to create country's largest telecom company both in terms of revenues and subscribers.
- The Centre has made it mandatory to link Aadhaar cards with all mobile connections, both new and old, by February 2018.

Appointments/Election (or) Latest who is who?

- Culture Secretary NK Sinha was given additional charge of the post of Secretary, Ministry of Tourism.
- Senior IAS officer Sumit Mullick was appointed as the Chief Secretary of Maharashtra.
- Telecom Secretary J S Deepak was named India's next Ambassador to the World Trade Organization (WTO) from June, 2017.
- Sudanese President Omar Hassan al-Bashir named his first Vice President and long-time ally Hassan Saleh to the newly-created post of Prime Minister.
- The AIFF appointed Portugal's Luis Norton de Matos as the head coach of the India Under-17 team for the FIFA Under-17 World Cup.
- Prof Dr K Srinath Reddy has been appointed as the adviser to advise the Odisha government on proper implementation and smooth delivery of the ongoing health programmes in the state.

- In US, former Utah Republican Governor Jon Huntsman has accepted President Donald Trump's offer to be Ambassador to Russia.
- The International Cricket Council (ICC) appointed Indian cricketing legend Sachin Tendulkar as the UNICEF and Cricket For Good Ambassador for the ICC Women's World Cup 2017, scheduled to start from June 24.
- European Union leaders confirmed Donald Tusk for a second term as council president.
- Home Minister Rajnath Singh's son and BJP leader Pankaj Singh posted a win from the Noida constituency in Uttar Pradesh.
- Goa Governor Mridula Sinha appointed Defence Minister Manohar Parrikar as the Chief Minister of Goa.
- A day after Manipur threw up a hung verdict, state CM Okram Ibobi Singh was elected as the leader of Congress legislature party.
- Congress party's Okram Ibobi Singh resigned as Manipur's Chief Minister after refusing to quit claiming that the party had enough support to form the government.
- Manipur got its first BJP-led government as N Biren Singh took oath as the Chief Minister of the state in Imphal.
- Union Finance Minister Arun Jaitley has been given the additional charge of the Defence Ministry after President Pranab Mukherjee accepted Manohar Parrikar's resignation.
- Narendra Kumar was appointed as the new chairman of the Central Water Commission (CWC).
- The US Senate confirmed President Donald Trump's pick, Indian-American Seema Verma, to run the government's centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services.
- Justice Rajendra Menon took oath as the chief justice of Patna high court.
- Congress leader Mallikarjun Kharge is set to become the next chairman of the Public Accounts Committee (PAC).
- Captain Amarinder Singh of Congress was sworn in as the 26th Chief Minister of Punjab.
- The newly appointed Chairman of National Commission for Safai Karamcharis Manhar Valji Bhai Zala along with two members Manju Diler and Dalip Kallu Hathibed assumed his office in New Delhi.
- India's most successful Badminton Doubles specialist Jwala Gutta has been appointed a member of the governing body of Sports Authority of India (SAI).
- Senior IAS officer Karan Avtar Singh appointed as the Chief Secretary of Punjab.
- Senior BJP leader Trivendra Singh Rawat was sworn-in as the new Chief Minister of Uttarakhand; Governor KK Paul administered the oath of office and secrecy to Mr Rawat and his council of ministers at a function in Dehradun's Parade Ground.

- BJP leader Yogi Aditya Nath was sworn-in as the Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh, governor Ram Naik will administer the oath of office and secrecy to Aditya Nath and his Cabinet at a function in Lucknow's Kanshiram memorial ground.
- Following the announcement of the merger between Vodafone India and Idea, Kumar Mangalam Birla has been appointed as the entity's Chairman.
- Snapdeal has committed to invest \$20 million in online recharge platform FreeCharge and appointed Snapdeal's Chief Strategy and Investment Officer Jason Kothari as the CEO of FreeCharge.
- Justice Navniti Prasad Singh took oath as the Chief Justice of the Kerala High Court.
- International Cricket Council has appointed Air Asia's former Chief Financial Officer Ankur Khanna as its new CFO.
- IDBI Bank said it has appointed Mahesh Kumar Jain as its new managing director and chief executive officer.
- BJP leader Dr Pramod Sawant was elected as the speaker of Goa Assembly.
- Madhabi Puri Buch was on 21 March 2017 appointed as the Whole Time Member of Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI).
- Upendra Tripathy, the former secretary at Ministry of New and Renewable Energy, was appointed as the full-time interim Director General (IDG) of the International Solar Alliance.
- In Uttar Pradesh, three-time BJP MLA Fateh Bahadur has been appointed as Protem Speaker of the newly-constituted Assembly to administer the oath to newly elected MLAs.
- BJP legislator Michael Lobo was elected the deputy speaker of Goa assembly.
- Renowned pulmonologist Randeep Guleria on 24 March 2017 was the Director of the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS).
- Indian-American Vanita Gupta, who headed civil rights division in the Department of Justice in the Obama Administration, has been appointed as President and CEO of 'The Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights', becoming the first woman to head the prestigious organization.
- Congress nominee Rana Kanwar Pal Singh was unanimously elected speaker of Punjab Assembly.
- US Senate has voted overwhelmingly to approve Montenegro as NATO's 29th member.
- United Nations Chief Antonio Guterres has appointed former South Carolina Governor David Beasley to head the Rome-based World Food Programme.
- Pakistan's Amjad Hussain B Sial has assumed the charge as the Secretary General of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC).

Resignation/Dismissed/Retired/Quit

- Maharashtra Legislative Council suspended independent MLC Prashant Paricharak from the House for one-and-a-half years for allegedly making derogatory remarks against families of soldiers.
- The Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) upheld a lifetime ban levied against Sergei Portugalov, former chief of the Russian Athletics Federation's Medical Commission for his role in providing illicit substances to Russian athletes.
- ICC Chairman Shashank Manohar has resigned from his post with immediate effect.
- ICC Chairman Shashank Manohar has deferred his resignation and will continue to remain in the post, the Board announced.
- He will reportedly remain Chairman till ICC's 2017 Annual Conference in June.
- Double Olympic gold medalist Joanna Rowsell Shand on 14 March 2017 announced her retirement from international cycling.
- United Nations Under-Secretary General and Executive Secretary for the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA), Rima Khalaf, announced her resignation at a news conference in Beirut after UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres asked for the report to be taken off the ESCWA website.
- Two associate vice presidents at Snapdeal's innovation centre in Bangalore, Balaji Hariharan and Hemanth Kota, have quit the e-commerce major.
- Brian McClendon, the Vice President of maps at Uber, has quit the ride-hailing start-up almost two years after joining it.
- Nishant Rao, COO of customer support software startup Freshdesk, has announced his departure from the company.

Deaths

- Gujarati writer Taarak Mehta, best known for his columns which were adapted for TV sitcom 'Taarak Mehta Ka Ooltah Chashmah', died in Ahmadabad at the age of 87 after a prolonged illness.
- Congress leader and Rajya Sabha MP Haji Abdul Salam passed away in Imphal.
- Former Indian Foreign Services officer and politician Syed Shahabuddin passed away following prolonged illness, a close aide said.
- French football legend Raymond Kopa who won the European Cup three times with Real Madrid in the 1950s, died in Paris after a long illness.
- Bengali folk singer Kalikaprasad Bhattacharjee, known for his band 'Dohar', passed away aged 56 in a road accident in Hooghly, West Bengal.
- Eminent socialist leader, former Union Minister and former Speaker of Lok Sabha Rabi Ray passed away.

- Former Pondicherry Minister M Chandrakasu passed away in a private hospital in Chennai after prolonged illness. He was 65.
- Desam Party MLA Bhuma Nagi Reddy passed away due to a heart attack.
- National racing champion Ashwin Sundar and his wife died in a car accident in Chennai.
- Rock and roll legend Chuck Berry has died aged 90.
- Pyari Mohan Mohapatra, former bureaucrat turned politician succumbed to a brain haemorrhage late in Mumbai.
- Noted Gujarati poet and ghazal writer Chinu Modi passed away in Ahmadabad.
- A noted Tamil litterateur, Thiagarajan, popularly known as Asokamitran passed away in Chennai after a brief illness.
- Gurdev Singh Badal, former Punjab minister and senior Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) leader passed away at Dayanand Medical College and Hospital in Ludhiana on March 28, 2017.
- Senior Advocate and eminent jurist Tehmtan R Andhyarujina passed away on 28 March 2017.
- Indian-origin anti-apartheid activist Ahmed Kathrada passed away on 28 March 2017.

Awards/Honours

- Singer Rihanna has been honored with the 2017 Harvard Humanitarian of the Year award.
- The Union Government felicitated Dipa Karmakar, besides six other Olympians from northeast states, as part of their outreach to sportspersons from those states.
- They are women's hockey team captain P Sushila Chanu, archer Bombayla Devi and boxer Shiva Thapa.
- RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat was conferred honorary degree of Doctor of Science (DSc) by the Nagpur-based Maharashtra Animal and Fishery Sciences University.
- Indian-origin female officer Usha Evans and the first Muslim policewoman to be awarded an honor by the Queen Elizabeth II, Nighat Hubbard, have reportedly sued Scotland Yard, the metropolitan police over claims of racism and sexism.
- Actress Priyanka Chopra has featured on the cover of the April issue of magazine 'Marie Claire' America.
- Indrani Das, an Indian-American high school student, in second week of March 2017 won the 2017 Regeneron Science Talent Search bagging the top award.
- Hollywood actor Ryan Gosling, who starred in Oscar-winning film 'La La Land', has featured on the cover of the March issue of men's magazine 'GQ India'.
- UN Under-Secretary-General Rima Khalaf was awarded the highest Palestinian honor over her report accusing Israel of imposing apartheid on Palestinians.

- Actor Anupam Kher was honored with the Kala Ratan Award from Panjab University with the Vice President of India Mohammad Hamid Ansari giving away the award.
- Indian Army Chief General Bipin Rawat will be conferred the honorary rank of General of the Nepal Army by country's President Bidhya Devi Bhandari.
- Indian off-spinner Ravichandran Ashwin received the Sir Garfield Sobers Trophy from former Indian cricketer Kapil Dev for being named the ICC Cricketer of the Year as well as the ICC Test Cricketer of the Year.
- Music icon Bob Dylan will finally receive his Nobel Literature Prize at a meeting with the Swedish Academy in Stockholm.
- Indian cricket captain Virat Kohli was conferred with the Padma Shri Award by President Pranab Mukherjee at a ceremony at the Rashtrapati Bhavan.

Sports/Game

- Indian shooter Jitu Rai won the gold medal in the 50-metre air pistol event at the ISSF World Cup in Delhi, with a world record finals' score of 230.1.
 - India's 15-year-old para shooter Avani Lekhara shot a junior world record score of 244.4 at the World Shooting Para Sport World Cup in Al Ain, UAE, winning a silver medal at the competition. Another Indian shooter, Pooja Agarwal, also won a silver medal at the tournament.
 - India captain Virat Kohli was nominated for the prestigious Polly Umrigar award while all-rounder Ravichandran Ashwin named for the Dilip Sardesai award.
- 21
- Indian grandmaster Harika Dronavalli has won a bronze medal at the 2017 Women's World Chess Championship in Tehran.
 - Five-time Grand Slam champion Maria Sharapova has been given a wildcard to play in the Italian Open in May.
 - Switzerland's Elias Ambuhl set a world record for the fastest speed attained while skiing backward, after he managed to ski switch (backward) at the speed of 131.23 kmph at the Arosa ski resort in Switzerland.
 - India's Rohan Bopanna and his Polish partner Marcin Matkowski have lost to fourth seeded duo of Romanian Tecau Horia and Dutchman Rojer Jean-Julien in the Dubai Duty Free Tennis Championships.
 - Ravichandran Ashwin overtook Anil Kumble to become the bowler with most balls bowled in a Test cricket season.
 - Unseeded American Sam Querrey has won the ATP Mexico Open hard court tennis tournament.
 - The Indian men's Rugby team defeated Pakistan to secure the 7th rank at the Asia Men's Rugby Sevens Trophy, at Aspire Rugby Field in Doha, Qatar.
 - The Indian duo of Ravichandran Ashwin and Ravindra Jadeja became the first set of spinners to

be jointly ranked number one in the ICC Test rankings for bowlers.

Among batsmen, India captain Virat Kohli conceded the second rank to England's Joe Root.

- The Indian women's ice hockey team registered its first ever win in an international ice hockey match by beating Philippines at the Challenge Cup of Asia in Bangkok.

- Former hockey captain Ritu Rani has shunned retirement to make a comeback in the Indian team after a seven-month sabbatical.

- The BCCI has awarded Rs. 1 crore to the Indian blind cricket team that won the Twenty20 World Cup last month by beating arch-rivals Pakistan in the title clash in Bangalore.

- The Indian football team slipped two places to be at 132nd in the latest FIFA rankings issued.

- World number one Andy Murray was defeated by world number 129, Canada's Vasek Pospisil, at the BNP Paribas Open at Indian Wells.

- Afghanistan spinner Rashid Khan has become the youngest to be awarded 'Man of the Series' in T20Is, winning the award in the three-match T20I series against Ireland.

- Golfer Shiv Chawrasia became only the second Indian golfer and the third golfer overall to successfully defend his Indian Open title.

- Lee Chong Wei of Malaysia has lifted the Men's Singles crown at the All England Open badminton championships.

- Hockey India has roped in four scientific advisors from abroad to work with the fitness aspects of the senior and junior national teams.

- Ranchi's JSCA Stadium has become India's 26th Test venue, hosting the third Test between India and Australia.

- Organizers of the 2020 Tokyo Olympics and Paralympics say the International Olympic Committee has approved their plan to add a stadium in Fukushima for newly added baseball and softball events.

- Brazilian surfer Italo Ferreira recorded a 540-degree mid-air spin at the World Surf League in Gold Coast, Australia, to get a perfect score.

- Supreme Court-appointed Committee of Administrators has removed 41-time Ranji winners Mumbai as Full Member of BCCI and granted it Associate status.

- Swiss tennis player Roger Federer defeated compatriot Stan Wawrinka to win the Indian Wells Masters for the fifth time, tying Novak Djokovic's tournament record.

- With the win, 35-year-old Federer became the oldest player to win an ATP Masters 1000 title.

- National record holder K T Irfan clocked an impressive timing to win a bronze in the 20 kilometre men's event in the Asian Race Walk Championships in Japan.

- Korea's Kim Hyun-Sub took the gold in while Georgiy Sheiko of Kazakhstan bagged the silver in the event.

· Indian cueist Vidya Pillai won a silver medal at the Women World Snooker Championship in Singapore.

- Vidya, an eight-time women's national snooker champion, lost the final to Hong Kong's Ng On Yee, a former world champion.

· Tamil Nadu has won the Vijay Hazare Trophy after beating Bengal in the final of the 2017 edition.

- With the win, Tamil Nadu has become the only team to win the tournament five times (one of them was shared with Uttar Pradesh in 2004-05).

- Dinesh Karthik was adjudged Man of the Match for his century.

· In Jammu and Kashmir, 3 Day Jashne Nauroze Archery Tournament 2017 organized by District Police Kargil started off at the premises of Tourist Facilitation Center, Kargil.

· Indian shooter Ankur Mittal equalled the world record in the double trap event, winning the gold medal at the International Shooting Sport Federation World Cup in Mexico.

· The Indian football team registered its first away win in an international friendly since 2005, after their 3-2 win over Cambodia in Phnom Penh.

· Indian Para-athletes in the third week of March 2017 bagged eight medals, including three gold medals, in the 9th Fazza International Paralympic Committee (IPC) Athletics Grand Prix in Dubai.

· Indian Para shuttler Sukant Kadam won the singles and doubles bronze medals in the recently-concluded Spanish Para-Badminton International 2017 held in Mallorca, Spain.

- Kadam lost to the top seed Lucas Mazur of France in the singles semis while in doubles, Kadam and compatriot Umesh Vikram Kumar lost to English pair Daniel Bethell and Bobby Griffin.

· Indian tennis star Mahesh Bhupathi has been named captain, while his former doubles partner Leander Paes upcoming Davis Cup match against Uzbekistan.

Indian Davis Cup team's non-playing has been included in the squad for the The Indian women's hockey team led by striker Rani to take part in the World League Round 2 starting on 1st April in West Vancouver.

· India's para athletes won 13 medals in the season opening 9th Fazza International IPC Athletics Grand Prix in Dubai.

· The 7th National Inter Zonal T20 cricket tournament for the differently-abled is to be held in Mumbai from March 30 to April 1.

· A FIFA delegation expressed happiness at the preparedness of the facilities at D Y Patil stadium in Navi Mumbai for the Under-17 Football World Cup.

· India's men's archery team won a gold medal in the men's compound event at the 2017 Asia Cup

Stage 2 in Bangkok.

India's women's recurve team won the silver at the competition.

· India won 73 medals, including 37 gold, at the 2017 Special Olympics World Winter Games, held in Austria from March 14-25.

· West Bengal has lifted the Santosh Trophy for the 32nd time by defeating Goa One-Nil in the final of the premier domestic football tournament at Bambolim.

· Shuttlers Purva Barve and Varun Kapur handed India double delight by winning their respective age group sections in the Li Ning-Israel Open 2017 badminton tournament held in Israel.

· Kashmiris in UAE organized an IPL-like T20 league called the Kashmir Super League, the second edition of which concluded recently.

· Team India was given the ICC Test mace and a \$1 million cheque (Rs. 6.5 crore) by former cricketer Sunil Gavaskar for being the number one Test team.

· Promising Indian men's doubles pair of Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty has clinched the Vietnam Open International challenger badminton title.

· India defeated Australia in the fourth Test at Dharamsala to reclaim the Border-Gavaskar Trophy.

· Kolkata's iconic Salt Lake Stadium has been selected by FIFA to host the final of the Under-17 World Cup on October 28.

· Odisha's capital Bhubaneswar will host the men's Hockey World League Final 2017 and World Cup 2018, the International Hockey Federation (FIH) confirmed.

· In India Super series Badminton tournament, the main draws event held in New Delhi. The qualifying rounds were played yesterday.

· Argentina forward Lionel Messi has been banned from their next four competitive internationals starting with the World Cup's qualifier in Bolivia for swearing at a match official.

· Tamil Nadu defeated India 'B' by 42 runs in the final to clinch the Deodhar Trophy and have become the first state to win all BCCI senior trophies after winning the Deodhar Trophy.

· Srinath Narayanan from Chennai has become India's 46th chess Grandmaster after defeating Spanish Grandmaster David Anton Guijarro at the Sharjah Masters.

· Turkish runner Elvan Abeylegesse was stripped of two Olympic silver medals and one world silver after a re-analysis of an in-competition doping test dating back to 2007.

· Indian forward S V Sunil on 30 March 2017 was named the Asian Player of the Year 2016 by the Asian Hockey Federation (AHF).

- On the other hand, drag-flicker Harmanpreet Singh was named the Asian Promising Player of the Year.

· International Cricket Council (ICC) CEO Dave Richardson said that ICC will submit an application this year for including cricket in the 2024 Olympics.

Report

- Indian Institute of Science (IISc) Bangalore has become India's first university (8th Place) to be ranked among the world's top 10.
- The top university continues to be the California Institute of Technology, widely known as Caltech.
- GMR Hyderabad International Airport has been ranked first in the world in the highest passenger handling capacity category by the Airports Council International's Airport Service Quality survey.
- The second position has been held by Delhi's Indira Gandhi International Airport.
- Hyderabad has been ranked as the city with the highest quality of living among Indian cities, as per Mercer 2017 Quality of Living Index.
- Further, New Delhi continued to be ranked the lowest among the Indian cities on the list for the second straight year.
- The Changi Airport in Singapore has been rated the world's best airport for the fifth consecutive year in a survey by research firm Skytrax.
- The Haneda Airport in Tokyo, Incheon Airport in South Korea, Munich Airport in Germany and Hong Kong Airport complete the top five.
- The airports in Delhi, Mumbai, Bangalore and Hyderabad are listed among the top 100.
- The Times Higher Education's Asia University Rankings 2017 released listed Bangalore's Indian Institute of Science at 27, Indian Institute of Technology Bombay at 42, and Chennai's Veltech University at 43.
- Sandeep Mathrani, the Indian-American CEO of property firm General Growth Properties, has been ranked fourth among the top 25 overpaid CEOs in the US, by non-profit organization 'As You Sow'.
- Italy has been ranked the world's healthiest country by Bloomberg Global Health Index, with a citizen expected to live up to 89 years.
- Italy is followed by Iceland, Switzerland, Singapore and Australia.
- Americans, Canadians, and Brits were found to be suffering from higher blood pressure, cholesterol, and poorer mental health compared to the Italians.
- Five Indians have made it to the World Economic Forum's list of 100 Young Global Leaders less than 40 years of age.
- These include Paytm Founder Vijay Shekhar Sharma, Blippar app's Founder Ambarish Mitra, journalist Hindol Sengupta, Swaniti Initiative's Rwitwika Bhattacharya and The Tamara Coorg hospitality's Shruti Shibulal.
- Norway has replaced Denmark as top in the world's happiest country list. Iceland, Switzerland and Finland completed top five, while the US and UK were ranked 14 and 19 respectively.

- India has been ranked 122nd in the world's happiest countries category, claimed a global report released.
- India is home to world's fourth highest number of billionaires with Reliance Industries chief Mukesh Ambani leading the club of more than 100 super rich Indians, according to a new list released by Forbes magazine.
- Microsoft Co-founder Bill Gates has been ranked first on Forbes' 2017 Billionaires list with a fortune of \$86 billion, and has been the world's richest person for 18 out of past 23 years.
- Warren Buffett reclaimed the second slot after two years, while Amazon's Jeff Bezos was ranked third.
- Further, Mark Zuckerberg has been ranked fifth for the first time.
- India has been ranked 131 among the 188 countries surveyed for human development, according to the UN's Human Development Report for 2015.
- Coal India, ONGC and Indian Oil Corp emerged as star financial performers among India's central public sector enterprises in 2015-16.
- SAIL, BSNL and Air India incurred most losses, a government survey has showed.
- SBI chief Arundhati Bhattacharya (26th Place) and Indian-origin physician Raj Panjabi (28th Place) have been named by Fortune magazine among the world's 50 greatest leaders who are transforming the world and inspiring others to do the same.
- The list has been topped by President of Baseball Operations at Chicago Cubs Theo Epstein, followed by Alibaba Group Executive Chairman Jack Ma on the second spot, Pope Francis (3), Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation Co chair Melinda Gates (4) and Amazon Founder and CEO Jeff Bezos (5).
- India has become the third largest aviation market in terms of domestic passenger traffic, which is only behind the US (719 million) and China (436 million).
- HDFC Bank's Managing Director Aditya Puri has featured on the list of world's 30 best CEOs, published by American financial magazine Barron's.
- Notably, the list also features Amazon's Jeff Bezos and Facebook's Mark Zuckerberg, among others.
- India had highest bribery rate among the 16 Asia Pacific countries surveyed between July 2015 and January 2017.

General - National

- Retailers in Tamil Nadu prohibited global cola giants Pepsi and Coca-Cola, along with all their other soft-drink products, from March 1, citing health and environmental concerns.
- Following Tamil Nadu, traders in Kerala have decided to stop sale of drinks produced by Coca-Cola and PepsiCo, to promote local beverages like lime soda.

- Employees' Provident Fund Organization, EPFO has clarified that furnishing of Aadhaar is mandatory for final settlement of pension claims.
- The Indian Railways launched a Roll-on Roll-off (Ro-Ro) service to carry loaded trucks on wagons from Gurugram to Muradnagar in Uttar Pradesh.
- The Centre has made Aadhaar number mandatory for students to avail mid-day meals and has given time till June 30 to those without an Aadhaar number.
- Chandigarh host a three-day long 'Destination North East' 2017 event showcasing North East as a potential destination for investment.
- Punjab Cabinet Minister Anil Joshi inaugurated India's largest tricolor on the tallest flag post at Indo-Pakistan Attari Border on Indian side just stone throw distance from Pakistan.
- The BCCI announced Chinese smart phone manufacturer OPPO Mobiles as the new sponsor of Team India.
- Fifty-three Indian fishermen were released from a Sri Lankan jail, days after the two countries decided to release fishermen in each other's custody.
- IIT Kanpur has sanctioned a seed funding of Rs. 50 lakh to Decentrik Technologies, a Lucknow-based startup that makes mobile water ATMs.
- To restrict immigration and smuggling, India has built a 2,700kilometre bar bed wire fence around Bangladesh.
- The government proposes to open more Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Pariyojna-PMBJP Kendra in the country including tribal areas.
- In one of the biggest Unified Payments Interface (UPI) frauds till date, state-run Bank of Maharashtra lost Rs. 25 crore after a few people moved money illegally exploiting a bug in government's UPI app.

General - International

- US President Donald Trump said he has ordered Homeland Security to create an office called VOICE – Victims Of Immigration Crime Engagement.
- The United States announced that from April 3 it would temporarily suspend the 'premium processing' of H-1B visas that allowed some companies to jump the queue as part of its efforts to clear the backlog.
- Russia and China have vetoed a UN resolution to impose sanctions against Syria over its alleged use of chemical weapons, according to reports.
- Malaysia has decided to cancel visa-free entry for North Koreans.
- Somalia's Prime Minister Hassan Ali Khaire has announced the deaths of at least 110 people due to hunger and diarrhoea in the country over the past 48 hours amid a drought in the Bay region, the southwest part of the country.

- Bahrain Parliament has approved a constitutional change allowing military courts to try civilians.
- US President Donald Trump signed a revised executive order imposing a 90-day travel ban on visitors to the United States from six Muslim-majority countries from March 16, 2017.
- The Georgian nationals will be allowed to visit countries of the European Union for a period of up to 90 days in any 180-day period without a visa starting from 28th March.
- Iceland became the first country in the world to force companies to prove they pay all employees the same, regardless of gender, sexuality or nationality.
- Member of the European Union have reached a deal to create headquarters for military training operations, a move aimed at developing a foreign and security policy independent of NATO and the United States.

· The British government faces a €2 billion criminal gangs to flood European black investigators have said.

fine (over Rs. 14,000 crore) for negligence that allowed markets with illegal Chinese goods, EU anti-fraud

- In Pakistan, national census was conducted after 19 years.
- Africa has got its own domain name '.africa' for the continent 32 years after the world's first domain name was registered.
- Saudi Arabia launched its first-ever Girls Council in an event that appeared to have been attended only by men.
- The European Court of Justice (ECJ) in Luxembourg, the highest court in the European Union recently passed a ruling, allowing companies to ban staff from wearing visible religious symbols including Islamic headscarves at work.
- UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres is proposing to shut down the UN peacekeeping mission in Haiti by October and replace it with a much smaller UN presence.
- The UK has announced a ban on electronic devices larger than mobiles, including laptops and tablets, from cabin baggage on flights from six Middle Eastern countries.
- In Pakistan, a court ordered authorities to ensure separate counting of Sikhs in the nationwide census.
- Sri Lanka unveiled a new Peace Education and Reconciliation Unit (PERU) to create awareness on reconciliation among children.
- United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC) has granted Sri Lanka a two-year extension to fulfill obligation relating to reconciliation and accountability on war crimes during the civil war which ended in 2009.
- United Nations Security Council strengthened its protection of global cultural heritage sites threatened by armed conflicts, saying perpetrators of unlawful destruction could be prosecuted for war crimes.

- Thousands of people took to the streets in London to protest against the UK's decision to leave the European Union.
- The conference to negotiate a legally binding treaty to ban nuclear weapons begins at the United Nations headquarters in New York.
- British Prime Minister Theresa May on 28 March 2017 signed the letter that will trigger Britain's exit from the European Union (EU).

Books and Authors

- The Chief of the Army Staff (COAS) General Bipin Rawat on 27 March 2017 released a book titled Home of the Brave at the South Block in New Delhi. The book is authored by Nitin A Gokhale, defence and security analyst, and Brig S K Chatterji (Retired).

TO THE POINTS: MARCH–2017

- Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has recently announced setting up of the inter-disciplinary standing committee on cyber security to review the threats inherent in existing and emerging technology. Meena Hemchandra is the head of this committee.
- Retailers of Tamil Nadu have recently boycotted global cola giants Pepsi and Coca Cola, along with all their other soft drink products.
- The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology has asked banks to get all the accounts enabled with net banking by 31st March this year.
- India has successfully test fired its indigenously developed supersonic interceptor missile capable of destroying any incoming enemy ballistic missile at low altitude.
- Russia and China have vetoed a UN resolution to impose sanctions against Syria over its alleged use of chemical weapons.
- The 29th International Yoga Festival was recently held at Rishikesh. This festival was inaugurated by KK Paul, Governor of Uttarakhand.
- Gujarati writer Taarak Mehta was recently passed away. He was best known for his columns which were adapted for a TV sitcom that was Taarak Mehta Ka Ooltah Chashmah.
- Assam government has decided to make Sanskrit compulsory up to Class 8 in all schools across the state.
- To restrict immigration and smuggling, India has built a 2,700 kilometer barbed wire fence around

Bangladesh.

- Singer Rihanna has been honored with the 2017 Harvard Humanitarian of the Year award.
- Indian shooter Jitu Rai has won the Gold medal in the 50metre air pistol event at the ISSF World Cup in Delhi.

- Virat Kohli has been named India's best international cricketer of the year by the BCCI, making him the first player to win the top honor three times.
- Delhi is the first state to extend the midday meal scheme for girls up to class 12.
- The Andhra Pradesh government is going to launch an airline, named after the state's capital Amaravathi.
- According to RBI's new clarification, any bank branch that refuses to exchange soiled or scribbled currency notes from people will have to pay a penalty of Rs. 10,000.
- World Wildlife Day is observed on 3rd March and it was proposed by Thailand.
- The Indian Navy has successfully conducted the maiden firing of an anti-ship missile from first of the indigenously built Kalvari class submarines, during its test firing in the Arabian Sea.
- The Anthem for the 2017 edition of the Indian Premier League (IPL) 10 Saal Aapke Naam was released.
- HDFC Bank, ICICI Bank and Axis Bank have started charging a minimum of Rs. 150 per transaction for cash deposits and withdrawals beyond four free transactions in a month.
- Pakistan's Amjad Hussain B Sial has recently assumed the charge as the Secretary General of SAARC (South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation).
- The government has notified a law that makes the possession of more than 10 scrapped notes by individuals a criminal offence.
- Penguin Random House, publishing company, which has signed a deal to publish two forthcoming books by former US President Barack Obama and the former first lady Michelle Obama, who plan to write about their time in the White House.
- Jawaharlal Nehru University has won the annual Visitor's Award for the 'Best University', 2017.
- Dr. Deepak Pant has won the Visitor's Award for 'Innovation'. He is from Central University of Himachal Pradesh.
- Harika Dronavalli, Indian grandmaster, who has won a Bronze medal at the 2017 Women's World Chess Championship in Tehran.
- The Himachal Pradesh government has approved a proposal to make Dharamshala the 2nd Capital of the state.
- The properties bought by an individual, not under his or her name are known as Benami properties.
- Sweden has recently announced that it will reintroduce Compulsory Military Service for both Men and Women to respond to global security challenges including those from Russia.
- National Safety Week 2017 is observed during 4th March 2017 to 10th March 2017.

- Theme of National Safety Day / Week 2017 was Keep Each Other Safe.
- While presenting the state budget, Kerala government has announced that free internet connection would be provided to 20 lakh poor families in the state.
- Online travel company Yatra.com has recently announced that it signed an agreement with Madhya Pradesh government to jointly promote home stays in the state.
- Following pressure from citizens and green activists, the Karnataka government has recently abandoned a controversial Project in Bangalore, saving at least 800 trees from being cut. That name is Steel Flyover Project.
- West Bengal has given official language status to the endangered tribal language Kurukh.
- Virgin Group's billionaire Founder Richard Branson has launched a new company to launch small satellites into space using its Launcher One orbital launch vehicle Virgin Orbit.
- India is going to participate in the meeting of Permanent Indus Commission. This meeting was held in March at Lahore, Pakistan.
- Delhi government has tied up with as many as 41 private hospitals to facilitate 30 types of surgeries free of cost for patients.
- The Defence Research and Development Organization (DRDO) have formally handed over weapon locating radar (Swati) to the Indian Army.
- The French football legend Raymond Kopa won European Cup three times with Real Madrid C.F. in the 1950s, was recently passed away.
- Indonesia is hosting the 20th Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) summit 2017.
- IORA was established on 6th March of 1997.
- K. V. Bhagirath (India) is the Secretary General of Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA).
- 21 member states are there in IORA.
- Thiruvananthapuram has topped in city governance ranking of the Annual Survey of India's City Systems (ASICS) 2016.
- China has announced that its Military Budget this year will grow by about 7%, which is the country's slowest defence budget rise since 2010.
- The 4th edition of India – CLMV Business Conclave was recently held at Jaipur (Rajasthan).
- CLMV - Cambodia, Laos PDR, Myanmar and Vietnam.
- India is hosting the ICEGOV 2017 (International Conference on Theory and Practice of Electronic Governance) for the first time.
- Government appointed 18 members 'Working Group on Migration' has recently submitted its report stating that the migrant population makes substantial contribution to economic growth and so it is necessary to secure their Constitutional rights. Partha Mukhopadhyay is the head of this group.

- Andhra Pradesh Government has renamed Tirupati Airport as Sri Venkateswara Airport and Gannavaram Airport as NTR Amaravati Airport.
- The government is going to launch an app I am Trolled to help women internet users threatened with physical violence or trolled on social media.
- The states Punjab and Jammu and Kashmir have signed a Secretary level fresh pact for the fast track completion of the much delayed 206 megawatt (MW) Shahpur Kandi dam project on Ravi River.
- Vietnam has announced it will suspend the import of five agricultural products from India after several consignments were found to be contaminated with peanut beetle.
- Recently, the Union Government has signed a Financing Agreement with World Bank for IDA credit of \$63 Million for the Tejaswini Socioeconomic Empowerment of Adolescent Girls and Young Women (AGYW) Project.
- Odisha has achieved highest decline in Infant Mortality Rate (IMR) for the first time in 16 years. [It was 96 per 1000 births in 2000 has been reduced to 40 in 2015-16]
- INS Viraat holds a Guinness world record for being the oldest surviving aircraft carrier in the world, retired from service on 6th March 2017.
- INS Viraat was first commissioned in the Indian Navy on 12th May of 1987.
- INS Viraat had earlier served The United Kingdom's Royal Navy for 27 years.
- The 1st smart tribal model village 'Hubbi' was recently inaugurated in Rajouri district of Jammu and Kashmir.
- The American physician and researcher Thomas Starzl, performed the world's first human liver transplant in 1963, was recently passed away.
- Haryana has announced Tirtha Darshan Scheme under which senior citizens above 60 years of age in the state will be able to go on a pilgrimage within the country at government expense.
- India's tallest national flag, measuring 360 feet, was recently hoisted at the AttariWagah joint check post in Punjab.
- Hamid Ansari has represented India in Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) summit 2017.
- According to the consulting firm Nomad Capitalist, the Swedish passport has been rated the worlds most valuable.
- Indigenously manufactured INSAS rifles will 'retire' from the army after 20 years in service and be replaced by an imported rifle. INSAS - Indian Small Arms System.
- The State Bank of India (SBI) has recently announced that it will start charging its account holders a penalty if they fail to maintain a minimum balance in their savings account. According to the new rules effective from April 1, it is mandatory for accounts to maintain a balance of Rs 5,000

in metropolitan areas, Rs 3,000 in urban areas, Rs 2,000 in semi urban areas and Rs 1,000 in rural areas.

- Theme of International Women's Day 2017 - Be bold for change.
- China's banking system has surpassed that of the Euro zone to become the world's largest by assets.
- Zimbabwe has recently banned corporal punishment for children prohibiting parents and teachers from spanking, hitting or subjecting children to any type of physical punishment.
- Ravichandran Ashwin became India's fifth highest wicket taker in Tests.
- AlNagahII 2017, the joint military exercise between India and Oman was recently held at the Dhauladhar Ranges in Bakloh belt of Himachal Pradesh.
- PM Narendra Modi has recently inaugurated India's longest Cable Bridge (1.4 kilometer) on Narmada River at Bharuch (Gujarat).
- Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bangalore has become India's first university to be ranked among the world's top 10.
- Bengali folk singer Kalikaprasad Bhattacharjee (56) was recently passed away. He was best known for his band Dohar.
- Kamran Akmal, Pakistani cricketer, who was named the best batsman, the best wicketkeeper and the best player of the Pakistan Super League 2017.
- The Union Cabinet has approved signing of the Definitive Agreement on Oil Storage and Management between ISPRL and UAE's Abu Dhabi National Oil Company (ADNOC). ISPRL - Indian Strategic Petroleum Reserve Ltd.
- Former Brazilian footballer Ronaldinho is set to be a part of the coaching staff at China's upcoming youth football academy.
- Anupam Kher, bollywood actor, who has been nominated as the nonofficial member of NCC's Central Advisory Committee.
- GMR Hyderabad International Airport has been ranked first in the world in the highest passenger handling capacity category by the Airports Council International's Airport Service Quality survey.
- IBM has announced an industry first initiative to build commercially available universal quantum computing systems.
- Surya Kiran 2017, the 11th edition of joint military exercise between India and Nepal was recently held at Pithoragarh area of Uttarakhand.
- State Bank of India (SBI) has recently launched the 'work from home' facility to enable employees to work while at home using mobile devices.

- China is going to build a 1,000 kilometer pipeline connecting the drought hit city of Lanzhou the deepest freshwater lake (Lake Baikal (Russia)) on earth.
- India had highest bribery rate among the 16 Asia Pacific countries surveyed between July 2015 and January 2017.
- The National Conference on Jal Kranti Abhiyan organized by the Union Ministry of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation, was recently held at New Delhi.
- Odisha Government has appointed K Srinath Reddy as an adviser to the state government on health matters with cabinet minister's rank.
- European Space Agency (ESA) successfully launched Sentinel2B, 5th of its Sentinel Earth observation satellites part of its multibillion euro Copernicus observation program.
- The Union Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas has announced new policy titled OALP for oil and gas exploration. This new policy will allow bidders to carve out areas where they want to drill. OALP - Open Acreage Licensing Policy.
- Ashleigh Barty, Australian cricketer turned tennis player, who won her first Women's Tennis Association singles title, the WTA Malaysian Open, in Kuala Lumpur.
- According to recently released Hurun Global Rich List, India has 100 billionaires led by Reliance Industries Chairman Mukesh Ambani with a net worth of \$26 billion.
- Mexico has cancelled existing sugar export permits to the US to avoid penalties in a dispute over the pace of shipments.
- Narendra Modi has emerged as the most popular Indian leader on Facebook, followed by UP former CM Akhilesh Yadav.
- The Commonwealth of Nations has launched Peace in the home programme to help member states tackle domestic violence which still remains a "stubborn stain" on communities, disproportionately impacting women.
- The 2day International Yoga Festival organized by Morarji Desai National Institute of Yoga in association with the Indian Yoga associations, was recently held at Talkatora stadium in New Delhi.
- Ashwin and Jadeja become first spinners to be jointly ranked number one in ICC Test rankings for bowlers.
- The government has recently launched a Aadhaar Pay service that allows people to do away with debit and credit cards and make payments through their fingerprints.
- IDFC Bank has become the first bank to launch Aadhaar Pay service.
- The President of India, Pranab Mukherjee has recently inaugurated the 12th CII-EXIM Bank Conclave on India Africa Project Partnership at New Delhi.

- Hawaii became the 1st US state to file a lawsuit against President Donald Trump's revised immigration ban.
- On the occasion of International Women's Day, Karnataka government has announced a 10 crore fund for women entrepreneurs in the state.
- China's Parliament has recently approved Xi Jinping as the core leader, elevating him to a status higher than others in the ruling Communist Party of China's collective leadership system.
- 'Strengthening Maritime Cooperation for a Peaceful, Stable and Prosperous Indian Ocean' is the theme of IORA Leaders Summit 2017.
- The International Cricket Council (ICC) has appointed Sachin Tendulkar as the UNICEF and Cricket For Good Ambassador for the ICC Women's World Cup 2017.
- The Scottish physicist Ronald Drever, who credited with key early experimental work leading to the discovery of gravitational waves, was recently passed away.
- Bollywood actor Salman Khan has recently announced that he is going to venture into the Smartphone business with Being Smart branded phones.
- The Centre has made Aadhaar mandatory for availing crop insurance policies from April 1st.
- India and other G4 nations have recently offered to forgo their veto power if granted permanent membership in a reformed Security Council. G4 - Brazil, Germany, Japan and India.
- Qatar Airways has recently announced that it is planning to set up an airline in India. Akbar Al Baker is the CEO of Qatar Airways.
- Virat Kohli has received the Polly Umrigar award 2017 for the best international cricketer, for the third time in his career.
- Ravichandran Ashwin was honored with Dilip Sardesai award 2017.
- BCCI Lifetime Achievement Award for Women 2017 was given to Shantha Rangaswamy.
- On the eve of International Women's Day, Bharatiya Mahila Bank (BMB) has sanctioned loans to 1,000 women entrepreneurs for various income generating economic activities across the country.
- North Korea has recently banned its overseas citizens from accessing mobile internet.
- To regulate marriages of minority Hindus, Pakistan has recently passed the much awaited landmark Hindu Marriage Bill, 2017.
- India Navy has recently commissioned a INS Tillanchang, Water Jet Fast Attack Craft (WJFAC) at Karwar, Karnataka.
- The Lok Sabha recently passed the Maternity Benefit (Amendment) Bill which raises the maternity leave for all working women from 12 weeks to 26 Weeks for the first two children.
- Tamil Nadu Chief Minister K Palaniswami has launched a housing scheme estimated at 1,580 crore with Central assistance for the economically poor.

- CISF - Central Industrial Security Force.
- OP Singh is the Director General of CISF.
- Pakistan has awarded two contracts worth over 11,000 crore to a Chinese firm for constructing the second phase of Dasu hydropower project on Indus river in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province.
- The US Congress has passed a funding bill for a probable human spaceflight mission to Mars by 2033.
- Delhi government has decided to bear the medical treatment expenses of victims of road accidents, burns and acid attacks in private hospitals.
- The Income Tax department has urged black money holders to make “honest” disclosures under a tax amnesty scheme, Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Yojana.
- Mahabaleshwar Sail, eminent Konkani writer, who was recently selected for the prestigious Saraswati Samman 2016.
- Mahabaleshwar Sail was selected for this year's Saraswati Samman for his novel Hawthian.
- The World Day against Cyber Censorship was observed on 12th March.
- Glenn Maxwell, Australian all rounder, who has been named the captain of Kings XI Punjab for the upcoming edition of the IPL (He is replacing Murali Vijay).
- Iceland, first country in the world to force companies to prove they pay all employees the same, regardless of gender, sexuality or nationality.
- For the first time in India, 4 states (Odisha, West Bengal, Chhattisgarh and Jharkhand) have decided to conduct a synchronized elephant census. This census will be held during May 2017.
- EU leaders have reelected Donald Tusk as President of the European Council.
- State run NTPC has recently announced that it has installed India's largest floating solar photovoltaic (PV) plant at Rajiv Gandhi Combined Cycle Power Plant at Kayamkulam of Kerala.
- Maharashtra CM Devendra Fadnavis has recently inaugurated the 1st floating hotel AB Celestial (also called as floatel) in Mumbai.
- Rajya Sabha has recently passed a bill to amend a 49yearold law Enemy Property Act, 1968, which allows the government to takeover properties owned by people who migrated to China or Pakistan.
- Chief Justice of the Madhya Pradesh High Court - Hemant Gupta.
- Chief Justice of the Chhattisgarh High Court - T B Radhakrishnan.
- Chief Justice of the Jharkhand High Court - P K Mohanty.
- Chief Justice of the Kerala High Court - Justice Navniti Prasad.

- IIT Madras University has won the 2017 IEEE Spectrum Technology in the Service of Society Award for its solar direct current (DC) inverter system.
- Former Argentina captain Diego Maradona has become the ambassador of the Chinese Super League.
- Manohar Parrikar has been recently appointed as the new Chief Minister of Goa.
- Arun Jaitley (Union Finance Minister) has been given the additional charge of the Defence Ministry now.
- According to the recently revealed RBI data, ICICI Bank topped the list of banks that witnessed most number of frauds, with State Bank of India taking the second spot.
- World 'Pi Day' was observed every year on 14th March.
- Pakistan has recently started its first national census in 19 years.
- Roger Federer has won the Men's Singles title in BNP Paribas Open 2017.
- Seema Verma, Indian-American, who was confirmed to head Trump government's health program for elderly, poor and disabled.
- The United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF) has recently announced 2016 was worst year yet for Syria's children.
- The UK Parliament has recently passed Brexit bill, paving the way for the government to trigger Article 50 so that it can leave the European Union.
- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has removed the cash withdrawal limits for the savings bank accounts starting from 13th March 2017.
- Africa (.africa) has recently got its own domain name, 32 years after the world's first domain name was registered.
- Europe's biggest bank HSBC Holdings Plc has recently appointed Mark Tucker as its Chairman.
- Narendra Kumar has been recently appointed as the new chairman of the Central Water Commission (CWC).
- Vienna, Austrian city has been rated the city with the highest quality of life for the eighth consecutive year by consulting firm Mercer.
- Punjab has won the 71st Santosh Trophy football tournament by defeating Railways by 21 goals.
- The Karnataka government has allocated 100 crore for setting up of Namma Canteens across the state to provide breakfast for 5 and lunch, dinner for 10 each.
- World Consumer Rights Day was observed on 15th March.
- World Bank's Chief Economist Paul Romer has praised India's biometric identifier programme Aadhaar, stating, "The system in India is the most sophisticated that I've seen."

- The Union Cabinet has recently approved a National Health Policy 2017 aimed at providing affordable healthcare to all.
- LinkedIn Cofounder Reid Hoffman has recently joined the board of directors at Microsoft.
- After the recent Assembly polls in 5 states, totally 16 states are being ruled by the BJP.
- Theme of World Consumer Rights Day 2017 - Building a Digital World Consumers can Trust.
- The Union Cabinet has recently approved a 2% hike in Dearness Allowance and Dearness Relief, which was due from January 2017.
- The world's first internet domain 'Symbolics.com' was registered 32 years ago, on 15th March in 1985.
- Karnataka government has capped the price of movie tickets at all cinema theatres, including multiplexes, in the state at Rs. 200.
- State run NTPC (National Thermal Power Corporation) Limited has recently installed India's largest floating solar photovoltaic (PV) plant at Rajiv Gandhi Combined Cycle Power Plant (RGCCPP) at Kayamkulam in Kerala.
- Odisha is going to host the Asian Athletics Championship to be held in the first week of July.
- Captain Amarinder Singh has been recently sworn in as the 26th Chief Minister of Punjab.
- Nongthombam Biren Singh is the new Chief Minister of Manipur.
- Trivendra Singh Rawat has sworn-in as Uttarakhand Chief Minister.
- Yogi Adityanath has been elected as Leader of UP BJP State Legislature Party.
- Setting up of 50 new Kendriya Vidyalayas approved by CCEA
- MoU signed between FTII and Canon to promote short courses in Film & Television
- Karan Avtar Singh appointed as Chief Secretary of Punjab
- International Buddhist Conference in Bihar inaugurated by Dalai Lama
- World Bank Group approved USD 210 million for strengthening gram panchayats in West Bengal
- G20 meet of finance ministers and central bank governors to begin in Germany
- World Bank Board approves USD 175 million for National Hydrology Project of India
- World's oldest red algae fossils found in India
- Japan launched satellite to Monitor North Korea
- India and Brazil signed agreement to protect Rights of detached workers
- Military Industrial Conference between India and Russia was held in New Delhi.

- Collaborative agreement for crop improvement was signed between ICAR and ICRISAT
- MoU signed between India and Mauritius to execute USD \$ 20 million for social housing project
- Parents can evict abusive children can be evicted from house as rule passed by Delhi High Court
- Hindustan Aeronautics Limited expected to deliver Tejas aircrafts to IAF by 2024
- World Sparrow Day 2017 observed globally on 20th March 2017
- Idea approves merger with Vodafone India
- International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination 2017 observed on 21st March 2017
- Roger Federer has won the ATP Indian Wells Masters title 2017.
- 5th Rashtriya Sanskriti Mahotsav being organized in North East Region
- Madhabi Puri Buch has been appointed as Full Time Member of SEBI.
- Upendra Tripathy has been appointed as Interim Director General of ISA.
- Top spot in ICC Test bowler rankings grabbed by Ravindra Jadeja.
- Ankur Khanna has been appointed as Chief Financial Officer of ICC.
- World's third largest hypersonic wind tunnel commissioned by ISRO
- Scaling up of VIKALP Scheme for Railway Passengers announced by Suresh Prabhu
- Proposal for amendments to NABARD Act, 1981 approved by Union Cabinet
- World Bank signs Health Care Deal for Uttarakhand
- French Mathematician Yves Meyer won Abel Prize 2017
- 4G business of Tikona Networks acquired by Bharti Airtel
- SaCReD Project to protect environment of Majuli Island launched by Assam
- Five Indian cities included in World Heritage List on 22nd March 2017
- Navy successfully test-fired Barak missile from INS Vikramaditya
- Maritime security products developed by DRDO handed over to Indian Navy by Arun Jaitley
- MoPNG e-Seva launched by Union Petroleum Ministry.
- 26 per cent declined in Indian student applications reported by US Universities
- In 2017 Special Olympics World Winter Games, India won 73 medals
- Earth Hour observed on 25th March 2017

- Garfield Sobers Trophy awarded to Ravichandran Ashwin
- Former Punjab minister Gurdev Singh Badal passed away.
- Rana Kanwar Pal Singh has been elected as Speaker of Punjab Legislative Assembly.
- Vietnam Open International Challenger Badminton Doubles title won by Satwiksairaj & Chirag
- Vanita Gupta has been appointed president of 'Leadership Conference'.
- Odisha, the first state to bring banking to remote areas.
- General Bipin Rawat has been granted with title of Honorary General of Nepalese Army.
- IAF launched Aviation Turbine Fuel Digital Issue and Payment
- Dr. B. C. Roy National Awards presented by President Pranab Mukherjee.
- United Nations appointed David Beasley to Run World Food Programme.