

**NATIONAL**

- ✓ India will give Rs. 35 crore rupees to children of freedom fighters in Bangladesh under the new **'Muktijodha scholarship' scheme** in the next five years. Under the scheme, students at higher secondary level will get a one-time grant of Tk 20,000 (Rs 15,370) and students at the undergraduate level will get a grant of Tk 50,000 (Rs 38,430).
- ✓ **Indian Railways is set to make use of the radio-frequency identification tags (RFID)** for tracking of wagons, coaches and locomotives to ensure the effective and transparent functioning of the system. For this purpose, the RFID tags have been designed by the Centre for Railway Information System (CRIS) at an estimated cost of Rs 1000 per tag. For the first phase of implementation of this project, the Railways have sanctioned a sum of Rs 57 crore.
- ✓ **Indian Railways is expected to launch a new 20 coach premier train called the Tejas Express** connecting Mumbai and Goa in June. Once the Mumbai-Goa run becomes operational, the Railways is likely to extend the Tejas service in Delhi-Chandigarh route. The Tejas service was promised in the Union Railway Budget 2016-17. The Tejas Express will be the first train of Indian Railways to have automatic doors and secured gangways for all coaches. At present automatic doors are only operational in metro trains in the country. The coaches of Tejas Express would have integrated braille displays, digital

destination boards, and electronic passenger reservation charts. The fare of the Tejas Express would be fixed similar to that of Rajdhani and Shatabdi trains.

- ✓ The Minister for Human Resource and Development, Prakash Javadekar has launched Students for soldiers- a nationwide **Vidya - Veerta Abhiyan** to encourage Universities and educational institutions across the country to display portraits of **Param Veer Chakra-decorated soldiers. Param Veer Chakra (PVC)** is India's highest military decoration awarded to officers or enlisted personnel from all branches of the Indian military for displaying distinguished acts of valour during wartime. The Param Veer Chakra (PVC) is equivalent to the Medal of Honor in the United States and the Victoria Cross in the United Kingdom.
- ✓ The Department of Telecommunications has launched a web portal called the 'Tarang Sanchar' web portal that will allow tracking of radiation emitted from mobile towers within their locality and check for their compliance with the Electromagnetic field (EMF) emission norms defined by the government
- ✓ Uttar Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister Keshav Prasad Maurya has flagged off an **ambulance service that would cater to the needs of the cows. Under the 'Gauvansh Chikitsa Mobile Vans' service**, initially, 5 ambulances were flagged off to cover Lucknow, Gorakhpur, Varanasi, Mathura and Allahabad.
- ✓ **India's second tallest flag pole has been Inaugurated in Kolhapur.** The pole which is 303 feet

high has been constructed in the Police training academy garden as a part of the Kolhapur beautification project. The pole is 90 metres tall and 60 metres wide and weighs 24 tonne. Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis inaugurated the pole by unfurling a national flag of 5400sq ft as a part of the 'Maharashtra Din' celebrations in the state. **The country's tallest flag pole is located at the Indo-Pak Attari Border and is 360 feet high.**

- ✓ **Sualgiri and Swalgiri communities of Odisha have been notified as Scheduled Castes** Accordingly, the Sualgiri, Swalgiri communities have been notified as Scheduled Castes in the modified list for Odisha. Similarly, the Constitution (Pondicherry) Scheduled Castes Order, 1964 has replaced the term Union Territory of Pondicherry to Puducherry.
- ✓ **World's highest railway bridge which will be 35 metres taller than the Eiffel Tower is to come up over the Chenab River in Jammu and Kashmir** at a cost of around Rs. 1,100 crore in around two years from now. The bridge will connect Bakkal (Katra) and Kauri (Srinagar). The project is expected to be completed by 2019. After completion of the bridge it will surpass the record of the Beipan river Shuibai railway bridge (275 m) in China.
- ✓ India will organise Tagore cultural Festival in Egypt to mark the 156th birth anniversary of Rabindranath Tagore from May 8-12. Tagore Festival will be organised by the Maulana Azad Centre for Indian

Culture (MACIC), which is the cultural wing of the Indian Embassy in Cairo. .

- ✓ **India has been unanimously elected as the President of the UN-Habitat.** UN-Habitat, an organ of the United Nations' Organisation (UNO) reports to the United Nations General Assembly. UN-Habitat promotes socially and environmentally sustainable human settlements across the world. India has been elected as the President of UN-Habitat after a gap of 10 years. This is only the third time that India has been elected as the President of UN-Habitat after 2007 and 1988. The UN-Habitat was established in 1978.
- ✓ A seven-judge Constitution bench of the Supreme Court headed by Chief Justice J S Khehar has sentenced the Calcutta High Court judge, **Justice C S Karnan to six months of imprisonment** for repeated incidents of contempt of court. This is the first time that the Supreme Court has sent a high court judge to jail on charges of contempt. Further, the bench also comprising Justices Dipak Misra, J Chelameswar, Ranjan Gogoi, M B Lokur, P C Ghose and Kurian Joseph has prohibited media, both print and electronic from publishing any further orders if any passed by Justice Karnan.
- ✓ **Kochi Metro will employ 23 members from the transgender community.** This is the first time a government owned company has formally appointed members of the transgender community. These 23 workers will be a part of the 530 Kudumbasree

workers to be employed at 11 stations in the Kochi Metro. While the better educated workers would be posted at ticket counters, the rest will be deputed for housekeeping works, customer relations, parking, gardening and to man the coach-depot canteen.

- ✓ The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet has **approved the appointment of 1982 West Bengal cadre IAS officer Sanjay Mitra as the next defence secretary**. He will have a fixed tenure of two years. Prior to this appointment, Mitra was the secretary in the ministry of road transport and highways.
- ✓ **India will skip the two day grand OBOR summit organised by China** to showcase its plans to build a network of trade routes under the One Belt, One Road (OBOR). OBOR is an ambitious China's ambitious development strategy and framework that aims to boost its connectivity and trade that will that will connect Asia, Africa, the Middle East and Europe.
- ✓ **Kerala and Tamil Nadu have secured first and second rankings for the second consecutive year in public affairs index (PAI) released by the Public Affairs Centre (PAC), Bengaluru.** Gujarat has been ranked third followed by Karnataka and Maharashtra at the fourth and fifth position respectively in governance indicators. The last four positions among the large states has been occupied by Bihar (18th), Jharkhand (17th), Odisha (16th) and Assam (15th). Among the 12 small states which have been categorised as small as they have population less than two crore, Himachal Pradesh has been ranked

first followed by Goa and Mizoram. Delhi which occupied third position in 2016 index has slipped to ninth position in 2017. The last four positions among small states have been occupied Meghalaya (12th), Arunachal Pradesh (11th) and Jammu and Kashmir (10th).

- ✓ Indian Railways will install 19,000 high definition CCTV cameras at over 983 stations across the country under the **Nirbhaya Fund** at an approved cost of Rs 500 crore in order to ensure round-the-clock security to passengers including women.
- ✓ **West Bengal State government has made Bengali mandatory in all schools, including private English medium schools.** Henceforth, it would be compulsory for all schools including English medium schools affiliated to boards other than West Bengal Board of Secondary Education to teach Bengali as an optional subject from Class I so that students can study it either as a second or third language.
- ✓ **Anshu Jamsenpa, a native of Bomdila in Arunachal Pradesh has scripted history by becoming the first Indian woman to scale Mount Everest for the fourth time.** Anshu Jamsenpa who is a mother of two children had already had ascended Mount Everest twice in a season that too taking only a gap of 10 days between the two climbs. She scaled the highest peak twice in May 2011. She again conquered the peak on May 18, 2013.
- ✓ The two organizations Afcons Transtonnelstroy and Kolkata Metro Railway Corporation Ltd (KMCR)

involved in implementing the East West Metro have completed boring the **India's first underwater tunnel under the Hooghly river to link Howrah and Kolkata**. The length of Kolkata's East West Metro is 16.6 km long. Out of which a length of 502 metres is under the Hooghly river.

- ✓ Prime Minister Narendra Modi has inaugurated India's longest river bridge – **the Dhola-Sadia Bridge in Assam. He has also renamed the bridge as Bhupen Hazarika Bridge**. The construction of the bridge began in 2011. The cost of the project is about Rs 2056 crores.
- ✓ The Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT) has appointed **Anurag Tripathy**, a 1998 batch officer of Indian Railway personnel Service (IRPS) as the new secretary of the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE). He will hold the post for a period of five years.
- ✓ The Prime Minister Narendra Modi has laid the Foundation Stone of the Indian Agricultural Research Institute at Gogamukh in Assam's Dhemaji district located on the Assam-Arunachal Pradesh border. This will be the third Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI). **Apart from IARI in the national capital, the work on setting up of second IARI in Ranchi, Jharkhand has commenced.**
- ✓ Maharashtra's chief minister Devendra Fadnavis has inaugurated **India's first multi-modal electric vehicle project at the Nagpur Airport Complex**. The pilot project will have a fleet of 200 electric vehicles

including taxis, buses, e-rickshaw and autorickshaws. All these electric-powered public transport vehicles will be fully owned by cab aggregator Ola. For the project Mahindra & Mahindra has manufactured 100 e2o electric taxis. Similarly, vehicles have been sourced from other manufacturers like Tata Motors, Kinetic, BYD and TVS, among others. In addition, four electric charging station has also been built by Ola in various places of Nagpur including the Nagpur airport.

- ✓ The Minister of State for Minority Affairs (Independent Charge) **Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi has appointed a renowned social and educational activist George Kurian as Vice-Chairman of National Commission for Minorities.**
- ✓ **India Mobile Congress 2017 (IMC 2017)** is scheduled to be held as a three day event from 27th to 29th September 2017 in New Delhi. This was announced by the Union Minister for Communications Manoj Sinha. This is the first time India is all set to host its own mobile mega show. The Indian telecom market is the second-largest in the world after China. India has a total subscriber base of over 1.18 billion subscribers.

**SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY**

- ✓ Scientists at IIT Roorkee have used Indian summer fruit, **Jamun, to create low cost and more efficient solar cells.** To create the solar cells, the researchers made use of naturally occurring pigment present in jamun as an inexpensive photosensitizer for Dye Sensitised Solar Cells (DSSCs) or Gratzel cells. Gratzel cells are nothing but thin film solar cells made of a porous layer of titanium dioxide (TiO<sub>2</sub>)
- ✓ **Facebook has launched its “Express Wi-Fi”** commercially in India and the service is now available via 700 hotspots across four states of Uttarakhand, Gujarat, Rajasthan and Meghalaya. Express Wi-Fi is a part of Facebook’s global initiative to expand internet connectivity. For the expansion of service, Facebook has announced a partnership with Bharti Airtel for setting up an additional 20,000 hotspots covering millions of Indians over the next few months. Apart from India, “Express Wi-Fi” services are currently active in Indonesia, Kenya, Nigeria, and Tanzania.
- ✓ **The Science Express is 16 coach AC mobile train science exhibition of Department of Science & Technology (DST).** The objective of the Express is to arouse interest of the young people in the field of science and technology. Since its inception, the programme is being managed by Vikram A Sarabhai Community Science Centre (VASCSC). The Science Express was launched from Delhi Safdarjung Railway station on October 30, 2007. The Express has so far

completed 8 phases by travelling 1,41,800 km, with 455 halts, and 1602 exhibition days. Thus, it has become the largest, longest running and the most visited mobile science exhibition with six entries in the Limca Book of Records. Since its inception, over 1.61 crore people had visited Science Express

- ✓ NASA has named a **new bacteria discovered on the filters of the International Space Station, ISS, as Solibacillus kalamii** to honour the late president Dr A P J Abdul Kalam. The genus is Solibacillus and the species name is kalamii. Researchers at the Jet Propulsion Laboratory has found that the bacteria remained on board the International Space Station for 40 months. The new organism is found only on the ISS and has not been found anywhere on the earth. In 1963, Dr. Kalam had his early training at NASA before setting up India’s first rocket launching facility at Thumba in Kerala. **A.P.J. Abdul Kalam Avul Pakir Jainulabdeen (A.P.J)** Abdul Kalam was born on 15 October 1931 in Rameswaram, Ramanathapuram District of Tamil Nadu. In 1960, he had joined Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) as a scientist and started his career by designing a small helicopter for the Indian Army. In 1969, he had joined India Space Research Organisation (ISRO) as the project director for India’s first indigenous satellite launch vehicle programme. Under his leadership and vision, India entered into the elite space club after Rohini satellite was placed into the orbit in 1980. He was a pioneer and

instrumental in development of the Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV), India's space workhorse. In 1980, he was appointed Chairman of Integrated Guided Missile Development Program (IGMDP) and was brain behind developing Agni and Prithvi missiles. Thus he came to be known as the Missile Man of India for his work on the development of ballistic missile. He was Chief Project Coordinator of Pokhran II Nuclear Test (Operation Shakti) which was conducted on 11 May 1998. He was the 11th President of India and was in office from 2002 to 2007. He was India's most popular President and famously known as People's President. He has been awarded with Bharat Ratna (1997), Padma Vibhushan (1990), Padma Bhushan (1981).

- ✓ **Construction works for building Extremely Large Telescope (ELT) has commenced in Chile.** After completion, the Extremely Large Telescope will become the world's largest optical telescope which will be five times larger than the top observing instruments that are in use today. The telescope will be constructed at a 3,000 meter-high mountain in the middle of the Atacama desert. The telescope is scheduled to commence its operations in 2024.

## ENVIRONMENT

- ✓ Maharashtra chief minister Devendra Fadnavis has inaugurated the state's **first automatic weather station at Dongargaon in Nagpur.** The state government proposes to install around 2,065 such

weather stations across the state on a public private partnership (PPP) mode in this year and 1,000 in next year.

- ✓ Union Urban Development Minister M. Venkaiah Naidu has announced the Cleanest Cities in the Country and the fastest moving cities on sanitation ladder under **Swachh Sarvekshan-2017**. Indore has been adjudged as the cleanest city in India while Gonda in Uttar Pradesh has been ranked as the dirtiest city among surveyed. In total, 434 cities and towns with a population of one lakh and above were surveyed. Last year survey had surveyed only 73 cities with a population of 10 lakh and above. Cities and towns in West Bengal did not take part in the survey as the Mamata Banerjee government did not participate in the Swachh Sarvekshan.

*The top ten highly ranked cities are: Indore (1st), Bhopal (2nd), Visakhapatnam (3rd), Surat (4th), Mysuru (5th), Tiruchirapally of Tamil Nadu (6th), New Delhi Municipal Council (7th), Navi Mumbai (8th), Tirupati of Andhra Pradesh (9th), Vadodara (10th). Overall, Jharkhand and Chattisgarh have emerged as the best performing states in Swachh Sarvekshan, 2017. States like Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh and Andhra Pradesh have performed well in sanitation rankings*

*The worst performing cities are: Gonda of Uttar Pradesh (434th), Bhusawal of Maharashtra (433rd), Bagaha of Bihar (432nd), Hardoi of Uttar Pradesh (431st), Katihar of Bihar (430th), Bahraich of Uttar*

*Pradesh (429th), Muktsar of Punjab (428th), Abohar of Punjab (427th), Shahjahanpur of Uttar Pradesh (426th), Khurja of Uttar Pradesh (425th).*

- ✓ Prime Minister Narendra Modi has launched the **Narmada Seva Mission** for the conservation of river Narmada, which is a lifeline of Madhya Pradesh. Prime Minister released a road map for the series of steps to be taken for the conservation of Narmada river.
- ✓ The Union Ministry of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation had constituted a committee to prepare guidelines for desiltation of Ganga River last year. The four member committee is headed by **Madhav Chitale** (Expert Member of National Ganga River Basin Authority)
- ✓ The Ministry of Environment and Forests have come up with new regulations that bans the sale of cattle for slaughter. The central regulation for cow protection has been notified at the backdrop of rising cases of violence against cow traders by Hindu vigilante groups. The rules have been notified under Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act of 1960. **Slaughter of cows are banned in most parts of the country except parts of the north-east India and Kerala.** The new rules will be implemented in the next three months
- ✓ A deep depression in the Bay of Bengal has been declared intensified into a **tropical cyclone named Mora.** This is second cyclone in the Bay of Bengal after Maarutha, which helped bring in the Monsoon earlier by a week over Andaman & Nicobar Islands. The tropical Cyclone Mora is likely to hit Bangladesh

coast in next 24 hours and expected to cause heavy rains in West Bengal and North East Indian states. It may also help to pull monsoon faster over mainland. About 2017 North Indian Ocean cyclone season Every year, the North Indian Ocean cyclone season extends roughly between April to December with two peaks in May and November. This season includes cyclones in Bay of Bengal and Arabian sea, apart from Indian Ocean in northern hemisphere. The first cyclone of 2017 season was Cyclone Maarutha which was formed in April, 2017 triggering heavy rainfall in Sri Lanka, Myanmar and India's Andaman & Nicobar Islands. Apart from other damages, three people were killed in Myanmar by Cyclone Maarutha. Cyclone Mora is second such cyclone in the Indian Ocean. *Naming of Tropical Cyclone Tropical cyclones are classified into three main groups, based on intensity: tropical depressions, tropical storms, and a third group of more intense storms, whose name depends on the region. If a tropical storm in the North-western Pacific reaches hurricane-strength winds on the Beaufort scale, it is referred to as a typhoon. If a tropical storm passes the same benchmark in the Northeast Pacific Basin, or in the Atlantic, it is called a hurricane. Neither "hurricane" nor "typhoon" is used in either the Southern Hemisphere or the Indian Ocean. In these basins, storms of tropical nature are referred to simply as "cyclones".*

- ✓ The **Goa State government has decided to ban buying and selling of plastic bags** below 50

microns. Goa has already banned the use of plastic bags below 40 microns.

- ✓ Gujarat Cooperative Milk Marketing Federation (GCMMF) which markets its product under the brand name **'Amul' has signed an MoU with ISRO** for fodder acreage assessment using satellite observation and space technology.

### INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

- ✓ **Dubai has become the first city in the world to have its own Microsoft-designed font.** The font will have typeface both in Latin and Arabic script. It will be made available in 23 languages– Afrikaans, Arabic, Basque, Britannic, Catalan, Danish, Dutch, English, Finnish, French, Gaelic, German, Icelandic, Indonesian, Italian, Norwegian, Farsi, Portuguese, Sami, Spanish, Swahili, Swedish and Urdu. The font was launched by the Crown Prince of Dubai Shaikh Hamdan Bin Mohammad Bin Rashid Al Maktoum. The font will be used by UAE's government bodies and also by 100 million Office 365 users around the world. Dubai is the largest city in UAE. It has the world's tallest tower, Burj Khalifa. Dubai has been taking a series of initiatives to broaden its appeal by investing in technology and culture. Dubai will play host to the six-month Expo 2020 under the themes of sustainability and mobility.
- ✓ **China plans to launch its own online encyclopaedia next year rivalling Wikipedia and Britain's Encyclopaedia Britannica.** The main

objective of this project is to guide public thought. China fears that its citizens who use Wikipedia are being corrupted by foreign influences. The project will be executed under the guidance of the state-owned China Publishing Group.

- ✓ **China's home-grown C919 passenger jet has completed its maiden flight.** China's C919 is a symbol of China's ambitions to take market share from Boeing and Airbus in the lucrative global jet market estimated to be worth \$2 trillion over the next two decades. It is a part of China's broader "Made in China 2025" plan aimed at boosting its domestic high-tech manufacturing. As a part of its maiden flight, C919 passenger jet undertook an 80-minute flight flying over the Yangtze River delta and touched down at Shanghai's international airport.
- ✓ **Thirty-nine-year-old Emmanuel Macron has been elected as the president of France.** He has become the youngest President and occupant of the Élysée Palace. He is also the first President of France outside of that country's two traditional main parties.
- ✓ **Moon Jae-in has been declared winner in South Korea's presidential election by that country's National Election Commission.** Moon, the Democratic Party's candidate has won with 41.08% of votes. Moon will replace the ousted President Park Geun-hye, who was ejected from office in March after a corruption scandal for which she's awaiting trial. Moon narrowly lost to Park in 2012 election.

Park was South Korea's first female President who has been impeached in a corruption scandal

- ✓ **French President Emmanuel Macron has appointed Edouard Philippe as the new prime minister of France.** At 46, Edouard Philippe would be the second-youngest Prime Minister of France after Laurent Fabius (1984 to 1986), who was 37 at the time of appointment. Philippe is the Mayor of the port city Le Havre since 2010 and is a member of the Les Républicains party .
- ✓ **Hassan Rouhani has been re-elected as the President of Iran.** He was elected as president for his first term in 2013. He won 2013 elections by pledging to end Iran's isolation and improve civil rights at home.
- ✓ **Nepal Prime Minister Pushpa Kamal Dahal 'Prachanda' has resigned** from his post. He was elected as the 39th Prime Minister of Nepal
- ✓ **India and Germany has inked 12 agreements** after delegation level talks between Prime Minister Modi and German chancellor Angela Merkel on a range of issues like trade, skill development, cyber security and terrorism.
- ✓ **United States for the first time has successfully tested its defence system against an intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM).**
- ✓ **India and Spain have signed seven agreements** following talks between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his Spanish counterpart Mariano Rajoy at the Moncloa Palace in the Spanish capital.

The visit of Prime Minister Narendra Modi is the first visit by an Indian Prime Minister to Spain in nearly 30 years. The last Prime Minister to visit Spain was Rajiv Gandhi in 1988. Earlier, PM Modi and the Spanish prime minister had met on the sidelines of the G20 Summit in Turkey in November 2015. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has welcomed Spain's infrastructure, tourism, energy and defense companies to invest in priority sectors in India. Spain is India's 7th largest trading partner in the European Union. Bilateral trade between both the nations have totalled USD 5.27 billion in 2016.

## SPORTS

- ✓ In the recently updated **ICC T20 International team rankings, India has been placed at the 4th position behind second placed England and third placed Pakistan.** India has earned 118 points whereas England and Pakistan have earned 121 points each. New-Zealand has topped the table with 125 points. *South Africa has managed to secure the fifth place followed by countries like Australia (6th), West Indies (7th), Sri Lanka (8th), Afghanistan (9th) and Bangladesh (10th).*
- ✓ As per the **updated FIFA world football rankings, the Indian national football has managed to secure a 100th spot and entered into the top 100 of FIFA rankings.** This is the first time in 21 years that India has been ranked into top 100. India has been placed 100th alongside Nicaragua, Lithuania

and Estonia with a total of 331 points. **India had ranked 101st in the FIFA rankings for April.** The team climbed one spot up owing to the recent wins over Cambodia and Myanmar. The current ranking is a 72-place jump from being 173rd in March 2015. In 1996, India managed to secure the 94th spot. Till date, it remains the country's best ever FIFA ranking.

- ✓ **Jhulan Goswami has become the highest wicket-taker in one-day internationals.** Goswami has so far taken 181 wickets in 153 matches. She has broken the world record held by Australia fast bowler Cathryn Fitzpatrick who has taken 180 wickets during India's ongoing match against South Africa in the Women's Quadrangular Series in Potchefstroom.
- ✓ **Harpreet Singh has bagged bronze medal in Greco-Roman weight divisions in the Asian Wrestling Championship** held at the K.D. Jadhav arena in the Indira Gandhi Stadium Complex in New Delhi. Harpreet clinched the bronze medal after beating his rival Jun Ji Na of China in 80 kg category. The other three Greco-Roman wrestlers, namely, Ravinder (66kg), Hardeep (98kg) and Naveen (130kg) failed to win any medal. The Greco-Roman category is generally not considered as Indian wrestlers forte.
- ✓ **Lewis Hamilton has won the Spanish Grand Prix** from pole position in the Formula One championship. This is Hamilton's 55th career win and second win of the season. Mercedes's Hamilton finished 3.4 seconds

ahead of Ferrari's Sebastian Vettel. Third position was occupied by Australian Daniel Ricciardo.

- ✓ **Rafael Nadal beat Dominic Thiem to clinch his fifth Madrid Open title.** With this victory, he has won three straight titles after Barcelona Open and Monte Carlo Masters victories. Nadal will also move into the world's top four replacing 18-time Grand Slam champion Roger Federer in the new rankings. Nadal has won his 30th ATP World Tour Masters 1000 title tying the all-time record with Serbia's Novok Djokovic.
- ✓ **Indian cricket team has retained its top position in the latest ICC Test rankings with 123 points.** Indian team is six points ahead of second placed South Africa. Australia has been placed at the third place with 100 points followed by England at 4th (99 points), New Zealand at 5th (97 points), Pakistan at 6th (93 points), Sri Lanka at 7th (91 points), West Indies at 8th (75 points), Bangladesh at 9th (69 points) and Zimbabwe at 10th with zero points. In the ICC ODI Championship Rankings, Indian team has been placed at third position after South Africa and Australia. In the ICC Twenty20 Championship Rankings, India occupies fourth position after New Zealand, England and Pakistan. In the ICC Women's Championships Rankings, Indian Women's team is at fourth position after Australia, England and New Zealand
- ✓ **The Indian Men's compound archery team has managed to win gold after defeating**

**Columbia 226-221 in the archery World Cup** stage 1 championships held in Shanghai, China. Indian archery team were represented by Abhishek Verma, Chinna Raju Srither and Amanjeet Singh.

- ✓ **India's Ravichandran Ashwin has won the international cricketer of the Year Award at the CEAT Cricket Rating (CCR) International awards 2017.** He was presented with an award at a function held at the Cricket Club of India by former cricketer Sunil Gavaskar and Harsh Goenka of RPG Enterprises. Ashwin has taken 99 wickets in the past 12 months.
- ✓ **India's C.A Bhavani Devi has become first Indian to win a Gold Medal in an international fencing tournament.** She has won the gold medal in the sabre event of the Turnoi Satellite Fencing Championship held at Reykjavik in Iceland. In the final, she beat Sarah Jane Hampson of Great Britain 15-13 on points. Chadalavada Anandha Sundhararaman Bhavani Devi is a sabre fencer from Chennai. She had previously won silver medal in another event. She is currently a fencing coach at Sagar Lagu's training academy, the SAI Centre in Thalassery, Kerala.
- ✓ **Indian Cricketer Virat Kohli has become the only cricketer to get featured in the top 10 of the ICC Players Rankings for ODIs** as he managed to stick to the third spot in the ODI batsman's chart. Batting The top three batsmen featured in the ICC ODI Rankings are South Africa's De Villiers (874),

Australia's David Warner (871) and Kohli (852). The other Indian batsmen who feature in the list are Rohit Sharma (12th), MS Dhoni (13th) and Shikhar Dhawan (15th). In the top 20 positions of the list, India, South Africa and England have four batsmen each inside the top 20 while New Zealand (three), Australia and Pakistan (two each) also have registered significant presence.

## DEFENCE

- ✓ **Indian Army has successfully test-fired advanced Block-III version of Brahmos cruise missile in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands.** Recently, on April 22, the Indian Navy had successfully carried out its first test-firing of the sea-to-land attack version of Brahmos. It is hailed as the world's fastest anti-ship cruise missile in operation. After India has become the member of the Missile Technology Control Regime (MTCR) in 2016, India and Russia have proposed to jointly develop a new generation of Brahmos missiles with a range of 600-km plus and capability to strike the targets with pinpoint accuracy.
- ✓ India has successfully carried out a fresh user trial of **Agni-II ballistic missile from a defence test facility in the Abdul Kalam Island off the coast of Odisha. Agni-II missile is a nuclear-capable, surface-to-surface missile** which forms a part of India's strategic forces arsenal for nuclear deterrence with a range of over 2000 km. It can carry a payload of 1000kg. To inspire youngsters to work dedicatedly

for the scientific research, the state government of Odisha has renamed the Wheeler Island in Bhadrak district as Abdul Kalam Island as a humble tribute to former President Dr APJ Abdul Kalam.

- ✓ The **29th India-Indonesia CORPAT has commenced at Port Blair under the aegis of Andaman and Nicobar Command.** The bilateral exercise is scheduled to be held from 9th to 25th May. The Indonesian Naval Ship KRI Sutedi Senoputra has arrived to take part in the 29th series of IND-INDO CORPAT. An Indonesian Maritime Patrol Aircraft has also arrived with the Indonesian Naval delegation.
- ✓ The **Malabar trilateral exercise between Japan, the U.S. and India** are slated to be held in the Bay of Bengal from July 10. Japan would send its helicopter carrier Izumo which is its largest warship to take part in the exercise.
- ✓ The 24th bilateral exercise involving Indian Navy and Republic of Singapore Navy has commenced in South China Sea. **SIMBEX stands for "Singapore-India Maritime Bilateral Exercises"**. The exercise will be held from May 18, 2017 to May 24, 2017.
- ✓ KPS Gill, an IPS officer of the Assam-Meghalaya cadre of the 1958 batch, who is often credited with rooting out militancy in Punjab has passed away at the age of 82. He was known as a 'super cop' for his work in the fields of policing and security. Gill led the **'Operation Black Thunder' in May 1988** to eliminate militants hiding in the Golden Temple.

## ECONOMY

- ✓ The Registrar of Geographical Indications Registry, Chennai, has accorded **GI Tag for the much famed Banganapalle Mango of Andhra Pradesh.** Henceforth, Andhra Pradesh government will be the registered proprietor of the GI tag for Banganapalle mangoes. Banganapalle mango is known for its sweetness and is known as "the King of fruits." Banganapalle mangoes can retain their quality under cold storage even up to three months and have been growing in Andhra Pradesh for over 100 years. The primary centre of origin of the fruit is Kurnool district. Rayalaseema and coastal Andhra are the secondary centres of origin. Khammam, Mahabubnagar, Rangareddy, Medak and Adilabad districts in Telangana also form as secondary centres of origin. India exports around 5,500 tonnes of Banganappalle variety of mangoes to countries like the US and UK.
- ✓ **India is the third largest producer of steel globally. The steel sector is contributing to about 2% of the country's GDP.** India had produced 100 Million Tonnes (MT) of steel in 2016-17. Though the National Steel Policy 2005 charted out a roadmap for the sustained and efficient growth of the Indian steel industry, the recent changes in the economic order calls for a new national policy.
- ✓ The Union Cabinet has granted **international airport status for the Vijayawada Airport.** The international

status accorded to the airport will help in boosting the domestic and international tourism besides promoting socio-economic development. It will also improve connectivity to the capital of Andhra Pradesh. Vijayawada is metropolitan city situated on the banks of the River Krishna in Andhra Pradesh. The city forms a part of Andhra Pradesh Capital Region and the hosts the headquarters of Andhra Pradesh Capital Region Development Authority. *The city is one of the major trading and business centres of the state and hence called as "The Business Capital of Andhra Pradesh".*

- ✓ The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs has approved re-structuring the schemes of the Ministry of Food Processing Industries (MoFPI) under new Central Sector Scheme called as **SAMPADA (Scheme for Agro-Marine Processing and Development of Agro-Processing Clusters) for the time period 2016-20.**
- ✓ Income Tax Department (ITD) has initiated Operation Clean Money to investigate tax evaders. As a part of the operation, the government has launched a website on '**Operation Clean Money**' operation.
- ✓ **The GST Council headed by finance Minister Arun Jaitley** has finalised tax rates and has approved all the seven rules for the GST regime that is scheduled to be implemented from July 1. The remaining two rules of the GST pertaining to transition and return is under the examination of the legal committee. In total, the council has fixed the rates of 1211 items. It

will decide rates of some other items and services in the coming days. *Salient Highlights Out of 1211 items, 81% of the items will attract tax of 18% or less. Only the remaining 19% of items will attract a highest rate of 28%* Household items **like Sugar, Tea, Coffee and edible oil will attract 5% levy.** Cereals and milk will be exempted from the tax. Manufactured goods will attract 18% levy. Luxury cars will attract 28% GST in addition to a cess of 15%. Small petrol cars will attract 28% GST plus a 1% cess, and diesel cars will be taxed at 28% plus 3% cess. Capital goods, a key asset for the manufacturing sector, will be taxed at 28%. Aerated drinks will fall under the 28% tax bracket. **The GST Council headed by finance Minister Arun Jaitley has finalised a 4-slab service tax structure at the rates of 5, 12, 18 and 28 per cent as against the single rate of 15% levied on all taxable services.** GST regime is scheduled to be implemented from July 1. In the next GST Council meeting, tax rates on gold and other precious metals will be taken up for discussion. Salient Highlights Luxury hotels, gambling, race club betting and cinema services will attract a tax rate of 28%. Education, healthcare and non-AC rail travel will remain exempted from the GST tax regime. However, the states will be given the option to levy additional taxes on cinema to compensate for the revenue losses entailed due to merging of entertainment tax with GST. At present, the total tax incidence on cinema including entertainment and

service tax is in the range of 55%. The states need to use the legislative route if it wants to levy additional tax on cinema. States will also be permitted to levy any new tax as the taxation powers of the states have only been restricted and not abolished after the rollout of GST. Telecom and financial services will be taxed at a rate of 18%. Transport services will be taxed at the rate of 5%. Cab aggregators like Ola and Uber will have to pay 5% under GST in place of 6%. AC rail travel will attract 5% tax. Economy class air travel will attract 5 % GST while business class will attract 12%. Travelling on metro, local train and religious travel such as Haj Yatra would be exempted from GST. The e-commerce players like Flipkart and Snapdeal would be required to shell out 1% Tax Collected at Source (TCS). Non-AC restaurants and AC restaurants will attract a GST of 12% and 18% respectively. Advertisements published in newspapers will attract 5% GST. At present it is exempt from service tax.

- ✓ **Apple has opened its first store in Southeast Asia at Singapore's upmarket shopping district.** Apple expects this store to be one of the most of the most popular stores in the world.
- ✓ **The Reserve Bank of India has announced that new one rupee note has been printed by the government and will be soon put into circulation. The one rupee note was discontinued in 1994** because it was more expensive to produce such notes when compared to the one-rupee coins. In

the following year, Rs. 2 and Rs. 5 notes were also discontinued to free up printing facilities for higher denomination notes. The new Re.1 one will be predominantly pink-green on the obverse and reverse in combination with other colours. The new one rupee note will bear the rupee symbol. It will be 9.7 by 8.3 cm in dimension. The new note will feature 'Bharat Sarkar' on its masthead, and 'Government of India' printed below that. In contrast all the other currencies in India has 'Bharatiya Reserve Bank' and 'Reserve Bank of India' printed on them. This is because the one-rupee note has always been issued by the central government. The watermarks of the Re 1 note will include the Ashoka Pillar, the hidden numeral "1" and the hidden word "Bharat" in Hindi). The note will also feature an image of the 'Sagar Samrat' oil exploration rig. In January 2015, the government began printing of Re 1. The printing of new one rupee note will cost 94 paise, when compared to the one rupee coin, which will cost 70 paise. The new one rupee note will be the third new currency that will be introduced by the government since the demonetization drive in November.

- ✓ **Madhya Pradesh has become the first state in the country to shift its financial year from the present April-March cycle to January-December.** The state's budget session for the next financial year would be held in December-January.

**SPACE TECHNOLOGY**

- ✓ **The “South Asia satellite” for use by countries of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) region** has been launched on May 5. The Prime Minister Narendra Modi has hailed the satellite as an invaluable gift of India to South Asia and has further stated that the satellite “will go a long way in addressing South Asia’s economic and developmental priorities.” During the 2014 SAARC summit that held in Nepal, the plan for the satellite was announced and subsequently all SAARC countries have joined it except Pakistan. Hence, the beneficiaries of the satellite will be Nepal, Bhutan, Bangladesh, Afghanistan, Sri Lanka and Maldives. The total cost of launching the satellite (around Rs 235 crore) would be met by the Government of India. The 2,230 kg satellite called GSAT-09 has been built by the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO). It is cuboid in shape and is built around a central cylinder. It has 12 Ku-band transponders. The satellite was launched from Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota using a Geostationary Launch Vehicle (GSLV) Mk-II launch vehicle. It will have a mission life of over 12 years. The launch vehicle, GSLV-F09 is about 50m tall and is the 11th flight of the GSLV. Also, the launch is GSLV’s fourth consecutive flight with the indigenous Cryogenic Upper Stage (CUS) engine.

- ✓ **China has set up a 160-square-meter (1,720-square-foot) laboratory — dubbed as “Yuegong-1”, or “Lunar Palace” for simulating a lunar-like environment.** Four Postgraduate students from the Beijing’s astronautics research university will live in the laboratory for up to 200 days in a bid to prepare for China’s long term goal of putting humans on the moon.
- ✓ **Scientists have detected “a strong water signature” in the atmosphere of a distant Neptune-sized planet called HAT-P-26b.** The study conducted using NASA’s Hubble and Spitzer space telescopes has showed that HAT-P-26b has a primitive atmosphere composed almost entirely of hydrogen and helium. Although the planet is not a water world, its atmosphere which is relatively clear of clouds has a strong water signature.
- ✓ An Earth Like **Planet called Proxima B orbiting the closest neighboring Star, Proxima Centauri**, which is about 4.2 light years away is expected to have liquid water and the potential to support alien life. The planet Proxima B was discovered in the last year.
- ✓ NASA’s **Juno spacecraft has discovered Earth-sized cyclones at the poles of the Jupiter. It has also unveiled the presence of the storm** systems that travel deep into the heart of the planet. The findings were the result of the Juno probe’s first data-collection pass on August last year.

**AWARDS AND HONOURS**

- ✓ **Kashmir based freelance photographer has bagged prestigious 2016 Wisden-MCC (Melbourne Cricket Council) Cricket 'Photograph of the Year'** for capturing a stunning image of boys playing cricket at the Nishat garden in the outskirts of Srinagar. With this Saqib Majeed has become the first Kashmiri and second Asian after Atul Kamble to receive the prestigious award.
- ✓ **Hollywood actor Emma Watson has received the first-ever Genderless Acting Award for the Best Actor category** at the MTV Movie and TV Awards.
- ✓ **Indian scientist Shrinivas Kulkarni has won the prestigious Dan David prize** as a recognition for his contributions made in the field of astronomy. Shrinivas Kulkarni, a professor of astrophysics and planetary science at California Institute of Technology in Pasadena, is a pioneer in the field of time-domain astrophysics.
- ✓ **Sanjay Gubbi of Karnataka and Purnima Barman of Assam have won the prestigious Whitley Award** for their contributions in wildlife conservation. Whitley awards are popularly known as Green Oscars. The two Indians were among the six selected out of 169 applicants from 66 countries.

**IMPORTANT DAYS**

- ✓ **National Technology Day** is being observed across India on **May 11** to mark India's technological advancements. 2017 National Technology Day Theme: 'Technology for inclusive and sustainable growth'
- ✓ Every year, **May 22 is observed as International Day for Biodiversity** or World Biodiversity Day. This date commemorates the date of Adoption of the Agreed Text of the Convention on Biological Diversity at UNEP Headquarters, Nairobi on 22 May 1992. In 2000, UN General Assembly via resolution 55/201 decided to celebrate World Biodiversity Day on May 22 instead of December 29, which was previously designated as International Biodiversity Day.
- ✓ Every year **May 23 is celebrated as the World Turtle Day** as an annual observance aimed at protecting turtles and tortoises and their rapidly disappearing habitats across the world. The celebrations was started in 2000 by the American Tortoise Rescue (ATR). Since then it is celebrated every year to create awareness about the world's oldest living reptiles in the world.
- ✓ **World No-Tobacco Day (WNTD) is observed every year across the world on 31 May.** This day highlights the health risks associated with consumption all forms of tobacco and advocates for effective policies to reduce tobacco consumption. In

1988, World Health Assembly of WHO had passed a resolution calling for the celebration of World No Tobacco Day, every year on May 31. Since then, the WHO has supported the observance of World No Tobacco Day (WNTD) every year. WNTD is one of eight official global public health campaigns marked by the WHO.

programme. The vaccine would help in controlling pneumonia and reducing the child mortality rate. In India, more than 1 lakh children die of pneumonia every year.

### HEALTH AND MEDICINE

- ✓ **World Health Organization (WHO) has appointed Amitabh Bachchan as its Goodwill Ambassador for Hepatitis in South-East Asia Region.** He has been appointed to boost awareness to stop the spread of hepatitis, which is one of the leading causes of liver cancer and cirrhosis. As an ambassador, Amitabh Bachchan will participate in public awareness programmes to scale up prevention measures, early diagnosis and treatment. It is estimated that around 325 million across the world suffer from chronic hepatitis which is an inflammation of the liver resulting in liver scarring, liver cancer and death if untreated.
- ✓ **Minister for Health and Family Welfare J P Nadda has launched new Pneumococcal Conjugate Vaccine, PCV,** for Pneumonia at Lal Bahadur Shastri Medical College Hospital in Mandi district of Himachal Pradesh. The vaccine is a part of government's Universal Immunization Programme (UIP). Henceforth, the vaccine will be administered under routine immunization