

VETRII IAS STUDY CIRCLE

Current Affairs

TNPSC

(APRIL - 2017)



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My Dear Aspirants,

Greetings to all of you! "What we think we become" said Gautama Buddha. We all have dreams. To turn dreams into reality it takes a lot of determination, dedication, self discipline and hard work.

We at **VETRII IAS** Study Circle are committed to provide the right guidance, quality coaching and help every aspirant to achieve his or her life's cherished goal of becoming a civil servant.

The class room coaching at VETRII IAS Study Circle is meticulously planned to equip the aspirants with all the relevant facts and fundamentals of the subjects. Further the VETRII IAS Study Circle Study material aim to support the candidate by providing the most relevant study material in a comprehensive manner.

Wishing You All The Very Best !!

M. SHUNMUGAM
DIRECTOR
Vetrii IAS Study Circle.

CONTENT

| | | |
|-----|----------------------|---------|
| | | |
| 1. | Important Days | 1 - 5 |
| 2. | National Affairs | 6 - 22 |
| 3. | State Affairs | 23 - 30 |
| 4. | International | 31 - 36 |
| 5. | Schemes | 37 - 39 |
| 6. | Economy | 40 - 43 |
| 7. | Awards & Honours | 44 - 48 |
| 8. | Science & Technology | 49 - 55 |
| 9. | Sports | 56 - 60 |
| 10. | Personalities | 61 |
| 11. | Defence | 62 - 63 |
| 12. | General Knowledge | 64 - 69 |
| 13. | Summit | 70 |
| 14. | Important Index | 71 - 72 |
| 15. | Appointment | 73 |

IMPORTANT DAYS

APRIL 2 : WORLD AUTISM AWARENESS

- The World autism Awareness Day is observed every year on 2 April across the world to raise awareness about autism and problems faced by people suffering from it.
- **The theme for year 2017 is 'Toward Autonomy and Self-Determination**

APRIL 4 :MINE AWARENESS

- April 4: International Day for Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action
- **Theme : The theme of this year was "Needs driven. People Centred".**

APRIL 5 : NATIONAL MARITIME

- 54th National Maritime Day was observed on April 5th.
- **Theme is : "Connecting India through Shipping".**

APRIL 6 : SPORT FOR DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE (IDSDP)

- International Day of Sport for Development and Peace (IDSDP) – Apr 6, 2017
- 6 April was declared as the International Day of Sport for Development and Peace (IDSDP) by the UN General Assembly.
- On this occasion, the United Nations Office on Sport for Development and Peace (UNOSDP) launches the digital campaign #We Play Together to encourage organizations and individuals.

APRIL 7 : WORLD HEALTH DAY

- Theme 2017: "Depression: let's talk"

APRIL 10 : WORLD HOMEOPATHY DAY

- World Homoeopathy Day is being observed on 10 April 2017.
- It commemorates the 262nd birth anniversary of the founder of Homoeopathy, Dr. Christian Friedrich Samuel Hahnemann, a German physician.

APRIL 14 : WATER DAY

- India will observe the birth anniversary of B R Ambedkar on April 14 as "**Water Day**" to sensitize people on managing the precious natural resource.
- Apart from being instrumental in framing the Constitution, Ambedkar was also responsible for an all-India policy on managing water resources.

APRIL 21 : CIVIL SERVICES DAY

- **The Civil Services Day** is organized on 21st April every year,
- This day coincides with the date on which **Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel** had addressed the first batch of probationers at the All India Administrative Service Training School at Metcalfe House, New Delhi in 1947.

APRIL 22 : EARTH DAY

- Earth Day 2017 will be observed on 22 April across the globe.
- The first Earth Day was held in 1970.
- The theme for 2017 is "Environmental & Climate Literacy",

APRIL 23 : WORLD BOOK AND COPYRIGHT DAY

- The **World Book and Copyright Day** is celebrated every **23rd of April**, By celebrating this Day, **UNESCO** seeks to promote reading, publishing and the protection of copyright.

APRIL 23 : ENGLISH LANGUAGE DAY

- **English Language Day** at the UN is celebrated on **23 April**, the date traditionally observed as both the **birthday** and date of **death** of **William Shakespeare**.

APRIL 25 : WORLD MALARIA DAY IS OBSERVED GLOBALLY

- This year's global theme for World Malaria Day is '**End Malaria for Good.**'

APRIL 24 : NATIONAL PANCHAYATI RAJ DIWAS

- **National Panchayati Raj Day** is the national day in India celebrated by Ministry of Panchayati Raj on **24 April** annually.
- Then Prime Minister of India Manmohan Singh inaugurated the **first National Panchayati Raj Day** in 2010.

NOTE;

- The **Panchayat Raj system** was **first adopted** by the state of **Rajasthan** in **Nagaur** district on **2nd Oct 1959**.
- The **second** state was **Andhra Pradesh**.

APRIL 26 : WORLD INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY DAY

- World Intellectual Property Day is observed internationally on every 26 April.
- The observance of WIPD is organised by World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO).

- The aim is to learn about the role that intellectual property rights (patents, trademarks, industrial designs, copyright) play in encouraging innovation and creativity.
- The theme of this year's World Intellectual Property Day is 'Innovation- Improving lives'.

APRIL 28 : WORLD DAY FOR SAFETY AND HEALTH AT WORK

- The **World Day** for **Safety** and **Health** at work was observed across the world on **28 April**
- The theme of 2017 is "Optimize the collection and use of **OSH** data"(Occupational Safety and Health)

APRIL 24 – 30 :WORLD IMMUNIZATION WEEK 2017

- **World Immunization week** 2017 is being observed from the **24th** to the **30th** of April 2017.
- The observation of the week aims to raise awareness about the critical importance of full immunization throughout life and its role in achieving the **2030** Sustainable Development Goals.
- The theme for this year is "**Vaccines Work**".

APRIL-29: DAY OF REMEMBRANCE FOR ALL VICTIMS OF CHEMICAL WARFARE

- The Day of remembrance of all victims of chemical Warfare was observed on April **29** by the United Nations (**UN**).
- This commemoration will provide an opportunity to pay tribute to the victims of chemical warfare, as well as to reaffirm the commitment of the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (**OPCW**) to the elimination of the threat of chemical weapons, thereby promoting the goals of peace, security, and multilateralism

Events :

PADAYANI DANCE

- Padayani festival was recently celebrated in Kerala.

About the festival:

- Padayani is a **traditional folk dance** and a ritual art from the central portion of the Indian state of Kerala.
- A ceremonial dance **involving masks**, it is an **ancient ritual performed in Bhagavati temples**.

- The dance is performed in **honor of Bhadrakali**.
- Padayani is regarded as a **remnant of the Dravidian forms of worship that existed before the advent of Brahmanism**.

BRICS FILM FESTIVAL HOSTED BY CHINA IN JUNE

- The 2017 BRICS Film Festival will be held in Chengdu, southwest China's Sichuan Province from June 23 to 27.
- The first BRICS Film Festival was held in New Delhi, India, last September.

INDIA TO HOST 18TH WORLD ROAD MEETING

- India is set to host the 18th World Road Meeting (WRM 2017) on November 13, the International Road Federation (IRF).
- The WRM, the biggest global platform for road engineers, safety and transport experts and companies engaged in road safety products, will be attended by over 4,000 delegates from across the world.
- The theme of this year's edition is 'Safe Roads and Smart Mobility: The Engines of Economic Growth'.

THE PATHS WE WALK

- A Documentary Photo exhibition called "**The Paths We Walk**" was inaugurated in New Delhi.
- The exhibition has been organized by the **National Trust under Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment in collaboration with Society for Child Development**.

NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON AGRICULTURE FOR KHARIF CAMPAIGN-2017

- The National Conference on Agriculture for Kharif Campaign – 2017 is being organised on 25th and 26th April, 2017 at New Delhi. The Conference was inaugurated by Radha Mohan Singh, Union Minister of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare
- **The United Nations will issue special stamps commemorating the International Yoga Day on June 21 this year.** "Releasing soon. @unstamps Special Event sheet to commemorate International Day of Yoga,"
- **PM to inaugurate Textiles India 2017 on June 30**
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate **Textiles India**, a mega event showcasing the country as a global sourcing hub in **Gandhinagar on June 30**.

- It will provide a platform to connect and collaborate with global manufacturers, investors and buyers in the textiles sector.
- **Chinese Language Day is annually celebrated in April 20.**
- Chaudhary Birender Singh, Union Minister of Steel inaugurated the 3 day “India Steel 2017”, the International Exhibition & Conference at Mumbai Exhibition Centre, Mumbai.

NATIONAL AFFAIRS

INDIA BECOMES ASSOCIATE MEMBER OF INTERNATIONAL ENERGY AGENCY



- India has joined the International Energy Agency as an associate member, a development that the IEA said makes the prestigious Paris-based body more relevant and reflects the country's move to the center stage of the global energy dialogue.

International Energy Agency (IEA)

- ✓ Located in **Paris**
- ✓ Autonomous intergovernmental organization
- ✓ Established in **1974** in the wake of the 1973 oil crisis
- ✓ The IEA was initially dedicated to responding to physical disruptions in the supply of oil, as well as serving as an information source on statistics about the international oil market and other energy sectors.
- ✓ The IEA acts as a **policy adviser** to its member states, but also works with non-member countries, especially China, India, and Russia
- ✓ India has become an **associate member** of IEA
- ✓ The Agency's mandate has broadened to focus on the "3Es" of effectual energy policy:
 - energy security,
 - economic development, and
 - environmental protection
- The IEA has a broad role in **promoting alternate energy sources** (including renewable energy), rational energy policies, and multinational energy technology co-operation

MODI, HASINA FLAG OFF TRIAL RUN OF INDIA-BANGLADESH PASSENGER TRAIN

- The trial run of passenger train service between **Bangladesh's Khulna city** and **West Bengal capital Kolkata** began with the arrival of a train at **Petrapole** along the India-Bangladesh border.
- Named **Maitree Express-2**, it is the second passenger train between India and Bangladesh.

ISRAEL SIGNS USD 2 BILLION MISSILE DEAL WITH INDIA

- **Israel** has signed a **USD 2 billion** contract with **India** to supply it with **missile defence systems**. This contract is for supplying advanced **medium-range surface-to-air missile systems (MRSAM)** to India. After **Russia and the United States**, **Israel** is the largest source of key defense equipment for India as well as in other areas, such as agriculture and water management.

INDIA & AUSTRALIA SIGNED 6 AGREEMENTS

- India and Australia signed 6 agreements to boost the bilateral cooperation between the two nations on 10th April 2017
- The signed agreements include cooperation in combating international terrorism and trans-national organised crime
- These agreements were signed during Australian Prime Minister **Malcolm Turnbull's** four-day visit to India from 9th April to 12th April 2017.

The six agreements are below –

- **MoU on cooperation in combatting international terrorism and trans-national organised crime.**
- **MoU to promote and develop cooperation in civil aviation security.**
- **MoU on cooperation in the fields of environment, climate and wildlife.**
- **MoU on cooperation in sports.**
- **MoU on cooperation in the field of health and medicines.**

INDIA AND MALAYSIA SIGNED 7 AGREEMENTS

- **Agreements between India and Malaysia:**
- **Air Service** Agreement between India and Malaysia
- Proposed development of a **urea and ammonia** manufacturing plant in Malaysia.
- Cooperation in the field of **sports** through the exchange of sportspersons, etc.
- And other related field of **Human Resource Fund, Educational, Palm Oil, fourth generation technology** park at AP.

GOVERNMENT OFFICIALLY LAUNCHES BS-IV GRADE FUEL ACROSS INDIA AFTER BS-III BAN

- Following the Supreme Court's ruling to ban the sale of BS-III compliant vehicles in the country, the Government of India has now launched **Bharat stage (BS) -IV grade fuel across the nation.**

Aim of Bharat stage (BS) -IV

- It sets target of ushering in BS-VI fuel **by April 2020** by skipping BS-V fuel.
- All state-run oil marketing companies will provide BS-IV-compliant fuel at their **53,500 retail fuel stations** across the country.

BS-IV fuels

- BS-IV fuels contain far less sulphur than BS-III fuel. **Sulphur** in fuel makes it dirtier and lowers the efficiency of catalytic converters, which **control emissions.**

- The BS-IV complaint vehicles release less pollutants Carbon Mono-oxide (CO), Hydrocarbon (HC), Oxides of Nitrogen (NOx), Sulphur (SOx) and particulate matter (PM) compared to BS III complaint vehicles.

INDIAN GOVERNMENT SETS UP 'NATIONAL BOARD FOR ELECTRIC MOBILITY' IN A BID TO PROMOTE ELECTRIC MOBILITY

- More than six years after it was approved by the UPA government, the Centre has constituted '**National Board for Electric Mobility**' (NBEM) to **promote electric mobility and manufacturing of electric (& hybrid) vehicles and their components.**

About NBEM:-

- The NBEM, to be **chaired** by the **Secretary of Department of Heavy Industry.**

FUNCTIONS OF NBEM:-

- The NBEM will **coordinate and resolve** difference of opinion, if any, among various ministries. It will examine, recommend, monitor and review **electric mobility related R&D projects and pilot projects** and also evaluate and propose business models for popularising electric mobility.
- It will formulate strategies and give directions to the various ministries and other stakeholders for implementing the decisions of the National Council for Electric Mobility.

HALDIA PORT CLEANEST IN INDIA

- The **Haldia port of West Bengal has declared as the cleanest** in a country by the Ministry.
- It is the first-ever ranking of all major Indian ports on sanitation parameters.
- **Vizagapattinam** port came second in this ranking.

CISCO LAUNCHES 5TH GLOBAL CYBER RANGE LAB IN GURUGRAM

- US-based tech giant **Cisco** has launched its **fifth** global cyber range lab here with an aim to train Indian firms and government agencies on real-world cyber attacks **in Gurugram.**
- The facility was inaugurated by National Cyber Security Coordinator **Gulshan Rai.**
- Cisco has **four** other such labs in **Australia.**

1ST 'INDIA INDONESIA ENERGY FORUM' HELD IN JAKARTA

- **India** and **Indonesia** have agreed to explore cooperation in areas like oil, coal, electricity and energy efficiency, This **first 'India Indonesia Energy Forum'** held in **Jakarta.**

COUNTRY'S FIRST VISTADOME COACH INAUGURATED IN VISAKHAPATNAM

- Union Railway minister Suresh Babhu launched the country's first ever **Vistadome coach services on Visakhapatnam-Araku** route.
- Features of the coaches include glass roof, LED lights, revolving seats and GPS-based info system.

PRIME MINISTER INAUGURATES INTERNATIONAL BASAVA CONVENTION

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi has unveiled translated volumes of Vachana in **23** Indian languages on the occasion of Basava Jayanti.
- This is the first ever celebration of **Basava Jayanti** at the national level in New Delhi.
- The translated volumes of Vachana was commissioned by the Basava Samithi at a cost of 2.5 crore rupees of which the Karnataka government has contributed 1 crore rupees.
- The celebrations also coincide with golden jubilee of Basava Samiti that was set up by former Vice President B D Jatti 1964 to spread in Basavannas message.

KIA MOTORS PLANS TO INVEST IN INDIA

- South Korea's Hyundai subsidiary Kia Motors has signed an MoU with Andhra Pradesh govt to set up its first car manufacturing plant in Anantanagar.

INDIAN CULTURAL CENTER IN EGYPT HOLDS SEMINAR TO DEEPEN TIES

- Indian cultural center in **Egypt**, serving as India's window to reach out to Egyptians, has organized a **seminar** aimed at maintaining and strengthening bilateral relations.
- The function is organized by the Maulana Azad Centre for Indian Culture (**MACIC**).
- The seminar **titled** as 'Cultural Festivals - Bridge between India and Egypt'.
- It was a part of MACIC's monthly seminar series involving youth, academicians, culture lovers, civil society to discuss the issue of bilateral interest.

KAZAKHSTAN OPENS CONSULATE IN CHENNAI

- **Kazakhstan** has opened its honorary consulate in Chennai. The consulate will cover the states of Tamil Nadu, Karnataka and Kerala.
- It will be headed by well-known businessman **Suraj Shantakumar**.
- This year marks the **25th** anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between India and Kazakhstan.
- Chennai is a major industrial center of India, and is considered the automotive capital of the country.

FIRST-EVER ATHLETICS MEET FOR TRANSGENDER PERSONS IN INDIA

- The first ever **Athletics meet for Transgender persons organized by the Kerala government at Trivandrum's** Central Stadium.
- The first-of-its-kind tournament saw them taking part in popular track and field events such as sprint, relay race, shot put and long jump.

BELGIUM OPENS HONORARY CONSULATE IN GIFT CITY

- Belgium has become the first country to open an honorary consulate office in Gujarat International Finance Tec-City (GIFT City).
- Besides the Belgian Embassy in New Delhi, two Consulates-General in Mumbai and Chennai, and an honorary consulate in Kolkata, Belgium has expanded its diplomatic representation in India with this new office in Gandhinagar.
- Hari Sankaran was nominated as Honorary Consul of the Kingdom of Belgium to the state of Gujarat.

INDIA'S FIRST SEA ROPEWAY TO LINK MUMBAI AND ELEPHANTA ISLAND

- India's first and longest ropeway will connect Mumbai with the Elephanta Island in the Arabian Sea.
- The proposed 8-km long ropeway will be constructed by the Mumbai Port Trust.
- The proposed ropeway will start from Sewri in Mumbai's east coast and end at Raigad district's Elephanta Island.

Note;

Elephanta Island is globally renowned for Elephanta Caves, which is a Unesco World Heritage site.

Known locally as Gharapuri Caves, the small 16 sq. km island has several archaeological remains pointing to its rich cultural heritage, including the famous temples carved out of rocks.

FIRST DIGITAL VILLAGE IN ARUNACHAL PRADESH

- **Nirjuli** village - 1 in **Papum** Pare district was declared as the **first** digital village of Arunachal Pradesh.
- Digital village aims at **cashless** transactions even in sabji mandis to make payment through mobile.
- The state government also promised to promote V set linked **customer service point (CSP)** for digitalisation.

AIIMS - INDIA'S FIRST HOSPITAL FOR EYE TUMOURS

- The **All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS)** is India's **First public** hospital to start **plaque brachytherapy** facility for the treatment of eye tumours.

MALAYSIAN PRIME MINISTER NAJIB RAZAK VISITS INDIA

- Malaysian Prime Minister Najib Razak on a six day visit to India was given the ceremonial reception at Rashtrapati Bhawan in New Delhi by India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi.
- Narendra Modi visited Malaysia in November 2015.

UNDER NEW REGIME, FOREIGN TOURISTS WITH E-VISA CAN STAY UP TO 2 MONTHS

- **Foreign tourists** visiting India on **e-visa** can now stay up to **two months**, instead of the **earlier one month**, and enjoy double-entry benefits while those coming for **treatment** can avail **triple-entry facility**.

About e-visa

- e-visa has been sub-divided into **three categories** – **e-tourist visa, e-business visa and e-medical visa**.
- A **new categories of visa** – **Film (F) visa** has also been introduced with maximum duration of **one-year** with multiple entry facility.
- **Intern (I) Visa**, has been rolled out for foreigners intending to **pursue internship** in India.

ALL INDIA INSTITUTE OF AYURVEDA ESTABLISHED AT NEW DELHI

- All India Institute of Ayurveda (AIIA), Sarita Vihar, New Delhi has been established as an Autonomous Body under the aegis of Ministry of AYUSH at a cost of Rs. 157 crore.

PRESIDENT OF INDIA INAUGURATES FIRST NIMCARE WORLD HEALTH DAY SUMMIT 2017

- The President of India, Shri Pranab Mukherjee inaugurated the first NIMCARE World Health Day Summit 2017 in New Delhi.
- The slogan of the first NIMCARE World Health Day Summit is, 'Unite for a Healthy Mind'
- Note:As per the National Mental Health Survey 2015-16 conducted by NIMHANS, 5.2% of the Indian adult population suffers from depression in some form or the other.

SBI MERGED WITH ITS 4 ASSOCIATE BANKS AND THE BHARATIYA MAHILA BANK - SO CREATE ONE OF THE TOP 50 BANKS IN THE WORLD

- **SBI** (State Bank of India) has merged its operations with **its four associate banks** - State Bank of Hyderabad, State Bank of Travancore, State Bank of Patiala, State Bank of Mysore, and State Bank of Bikaner and Jaipur.
- It has also merged its operations with the **Bharatiya Mahila Bank**.
- With this merger, the bank will join the league of **top 50 banks globally in terms of assets**
- The merged behemoth will have an asset base of about Rs 37 lakh crore, 22,500 branches, 58,000 ATMs, and 50 crore customers.

About SBI

- State Bank of India is an Indian multinational, **public sector banking** and financial services company.
 - **Headquarters:** Mumbai
 - **Founded:** 1 July 1955
 - **Taglines:** The Nation banks on us; Pure Banking Nothing Else; With you all the way.
 - **Chairman:** Mrs. Arundhati Bhattacharya

CANARA BANK PARTNERS BSNL TO UPGRADE BANDWIDTH AT ALL BRANCHES

- **Canara Bank**, a public sector bank, has embarked upon an ambitious project of upgrading the bandwidth at all its branches to 2 Mbps in partnership with **BSNL**.
- GST: Tax evasion over Rs 5 crore a non-bailable offence
- **Tax evasion** exceeding an amount of **Rs 5 crore** under the Goods and Services Tax (GST) regime will be a **non-bailable offence** with the police having the authority to arrest persons **without a warrant**.

'TB-FREE INDIA' DRIVE HELD IN DHARAMSALA

- The **"TB-free India"** campaign to eradicate the disease from India by **2025** was launched at a national level summit was held in **Dharamsala**.
- The drive would spread awareness regarding TB, provide free drugs and monitor the patients,

'POORNA' FILM ON YOUNGEST GIRL TO CLIMB EVEREST MADE TAX-FREE IN MAHARASHTRA, BANGALORE, HYDERABAD

- After getting tax exemption from Telangana, Karnataka and Delhi, **Rahul Bose's** directorial venture Poorna got tax exemption from Maharashtra.
- The film is based on a true story of **Poorna Malavath**, the youngest girl to climb Mount Everest. Featuring Aditi Inamdar, Rahul and Heeba Shah, Poorna hit the screens.

About Malavath Purna

- **Poorna Malavath**, is an Indian mountaineer from Nizamabad district, Telangana. On **25 May 2014**, Poorna scaled the **highest peak of Mount Everest** and, aged **13 years and 11 months**, became the **youngest girl** to have reached the summit of Everest.

INDIAN FILM 'BANK CHOR' - WORLD'S FIRST FEATURE FILM TO RELEASE IN 16D

- 01 April 2017 Current Affairs GK: **Riteish Deshmukh's** Comedy Thriller 'Bank Chor' will worldwide release in 16D on June 16.

Highlights

- The film also stars Vivek Oberoi and Rhea Chakraborty. The actors feature as **bank robbers** in the film.

Under UDAN Scheme, Govt Awards 128 Regional Routes to Air India, Air Deccan, SpiceJet Among Others

- The **civil aviation ministry** awarded **first-ever regional flights** based on a new subsidy model to **five airlines** that will expand flights to many new airports in the country.
- **Air India, Air Deccan, SpiceJet, Air Odisha and Turbo Megha** have got rights to fly **128 routes** which will require them to cap half the seats at about 50% of the fare.
- Many of these airports will be served for the first time. These include airports like **Shimla, Kandla, Puducherry, Bhatinda, Cooch Behar and Bilaspur** among others.
- Aviation secretary R.N. Choubey said Rs. 205 crore of subsidy will be provided to these airlines. Routes will be exclusive for three years.

About UDAN

- The Union Government has launched the regional air connectivity scheme **UDAN (Ude Desh ka Aam naagrik)** which seeks to get more people to fly in the smaller towns.
- The scheme was launched by the **Union Civil Aviation Minister Ashok Gajapathi Raju in New Delhi**. It will be rolled out by January, 2017 and will be in operation for a **period of 10 years**.

- The UDAN scheme seeks to provide connectivity to un-served and under-served airports of the country through revival of existing air-strips and airports.
- This first-of-its-kind scheme will ensure affordability, connectivity, growth and development. It aims to increase ticketing volume from 80 million to 300 million by 2022.
- Under it regional connectivity will be developed on market-based mechanism under which Airlines will bid for seat subsidies. Airline operators will bid for up to 40 subsidised seats and minimum seats will be 9. There will be **50% seats on market based pricing**.

CIVIL AVIATION MINISTER OF INDIA : ASHOK GAJAPATHI RAJU (SINCE 26 MAY 2014)

- India's first International research centre for Foot, Mouth disease of cattle inaugurated in Odisha;
- India's first International research centre for Foot and Mouth disease of cattle and buffalos was inaugurated at Argul (Bhubaneswar), Odisha. The research centre has been constructed in joint collaboration of UN's Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) and Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR). India is suffering a loss of Rs. 23,000 annually due to Foot and Mouth disease of cattle and buffalos.

19TH COMMONWEALTH FORESTRY CONFERENCE

- 19th commonwealth forestry conference held in Uttarakhand
- The 19th Commonwealth Forestry Conference was held at Forest Research Institute, Dehradun, Uttarakhand. This is for the second time India hosted the conference after it was hosted for first time in 1968.

SASEC FINANCE MINISTERS MEETING IN NEW DELHI

- It was attended by the seven Finance Ministers from Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Myanmar, Nepal and Sri Lanka and the Asian Development Bank as a supporting SASEC in this endeavor. Myanmar has joined the SASEC program as its seventh member.
- SASEC vision:- 'We ring Asia in 21st century' Three main pillars of synergy in transport, trade facilitation and energy were discussed.

NITA AMBANI MADE MEMBER OF IOC'S OLYMPIC CHANNEL COMMISSION

- India's first woman International Olympic Committee member Nita Ambani has made it to two important commissions of the global sports governing body, including the prestigious Olympic channel.
- Besides the Olympic Channel, the 53-year-old Ambani has also been made a member of Olympic education Commission as IOC announced the composition of 26 commissions for 2017.

- She is one of the 16 members of the Olympic Channel Commission headed by United States Olympic Committee Chairman Lawrence Francis Probst.
- She will serve the world sport's apex body till the age of 70.

INDIA-UK JOINTLY MAKE LATEST JET ENGINE

- Indian and UK governments are jointly making the most powerful jet engine for fighter jets of the future. It is a gas turbine engine is being developed by the collaboration between UK's Rolls Royce and India's Defence Research and Development Organization and Gas Turbine and Research Establishment.

FRANCE, INDIA INK PACT TO UPGRADE RAILWAYS

- Agreement for collaboration in areas such as **high-speed and semi-high speed rail**, modernisation of current operations and infrastructure, station renovation and operations, suburban trains and safety systems, operations and security.

INDIA & CYPRUS SIGNED FOUR AGREEMENTS

- **India and Cyprus signed four agreements** during delegation-level talks headed by **Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Cypriot President Nicos Anastasiades**.

Agreements signed between two countries:

- Co-operation in the field of **Executive programme on Culture, Education and Scientific Research** for the year 2017 – 2020.
- Co-operation in the field of **Agriculture** for the period 2017-2018.
- Co-operation in the area of **Merchant shipping**.
- Co-operation in the area of **boost air services between the two countries**.

Some Special Events

- Anastasiades conferred **Cyprus's highest civilian honour, the Grand Collar of the Order of Makarios III, on President Pranab Mukh**

INDIA, ARMENIA SIGN 3 AGREEMENTS

- **India and Armenia** have signed **three** agreements after Vice President **Hamid Ansari** held a bilateral meeting with Armenian Prime Minister Karen Karapetyan in Yerevan, Armenia.
- The Three agreements are ;
 - ✓ The two countries signed a memorandum of understanding (**MoU**) on peaceful uses of outer space,
 - ✓ Another MoU on cooperation in youth matters
 - ✓ Program of cultural cooperation for the years 2017-2020.
- The two countries are celebrating the **25th** anniversary of their diplomatic ties.

INDIA AND SRI LANKA SIGN MOU ON ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION

- India's PM Narendra Modi and Sri Lankan PM Ranil Wickremesinghe signed **MoU** (Memorandum of Understanding) on **economic co-operation**.
- Main Aim behind MoU - Develop energy and infrastructure projects in **Trincomalee**.
- Proposals of **MoU**:-
- To promote Indian investment in development of port and **oil tank** farms in Trincomalee.
- To set up a **LNG** power plant, piped gas supply in Sri Lankan capital **Colombo**.
- To undertake highway and **railway projects** in north and east of Sri Lanka.

INDIA, SOUTH KOREA SIGN AGREEMENT TO BUILD WARSHIPS

- **India** and **South Korea** inked a memorandum of understanding with India to cooperate in shipbuilding for military use.
- The memorandum was signed by both India's secretary of defence production, Ashok Kumar Gupta, and South Korean Minister of Defense Acquisition Program Administration **Chang Myoung-jin** in India "for Defence Industry Co-operation in Shipbuilding,"
- India has chosen state-owned **Hindustan Shipyard Limited**, or **HSL**, to cooperate with a shipyard nominated by South Korea.

UNION CABINET APPROVED FOUR GST BILLS

- The Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has approved the following four GST related bills:
 - **The Central Goods and Services Tax Bill 2017 (The CGST Bill)**
 - **The Integrated Goods and Services Tax Bill 2017 (The IGST Bill)**
 - **The Union Territory Goods and Services Tax Bill 2017 (The UTGST Bill)**
 - **The Goods and Services Tax (Compensation to the States) Bill 2017 (The Compensation Bill)**

NOTE:

- ✓ The CGST Bill makes provisions for levy and collection of tax on intra-state supply of goods or services for both by the Central Government.
- ✓ On the other hand, IGST Bill makes provisions for levy and collection of tax on inter-state supply of goods or services or both by the Central Government.
- ✓ The UTGST Bill makes provisions for levy on collection of tax on intra-UT supply of goods and services in the Union Territories without legislature.
- ✓ The Compensation Bill provides for compensation to the states for loss of revenue arising on account of implementation of the goods and services tax

CABINET APPROVES MOU BETWEEN INDIA AND BANGLADESH FOR FAIRWAY DEVELOPMENT ON TWO RIVERS

- The Union Cabinet has approved MoU between India and Bangladesh for fairway development on two stretches.
- They are Ashuganj-Zakiganj stretch of Kushiya river and Sirajganj-Daikhawa stretch of Jamuna river.
- It will be implemented mainly in the Indo-Bangladesh protocol route by undertaking necessary dredging jointly by the two countries.

CABINET APPROVES MOU BETWEEN INDIA AND BANGLADESH IN FIELD OF JUDICIAL SECTOR COOPERATION

- The Union Cabinet has approved MoU between India and Bangladesh in the field of judicial sector cooperation. It aims at developing, promoting and strengthening mutual cooperation between judiciaries of the two countries.

CABINET APPROVES MOU ON PASSENGER CRUISE SERVICES BETWEEN INDIA AND BANGLADESH

- The Union Cabinet has approved MoU on passenger cruise services on the coastal and protocol routes between India and Bangladesh.
- It will facilitate starting a regular movement of passengers and tourists in water crafts between the two countries.

HIV/AIDS BILL PASSED IN PARLIAMENT

- The Lok Sabha has passed the **Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) and Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS) (Prevention and Control) Bill, 2017**, which will strengthen the rights of the people infected with the disease.
- Rajya Sabha has already passed the Bill.

Key Facts:

Role of courts:

- ✓ Cases relating to HIV positive persons shall be disposed off by the court on a priority basis
- ✓ When passing any order with regard to a maintenance application filed by an HIV infected or affected person, the court shall take into account the medical expenses incurred by the applicant.

INDIA AND BANGLADESH SIGN 22 AGREEMENTS

- Bangladesh Prime Minister **Sheikh Hasina** is on a visit to India. She held bilateral talks with Indian counterpart Narendra Modi.
- **Twenty-two** agreements were signed in the area of defence, nuclear energy, cyber security and media, though the two leaders witnessed the signing of only four pacts – on the judicial sector, a \$4.5 billion development assistance line of credit, on outer space and on passenger and cruise services.
- In addition, India has offered a new **\$500 million line of credit** specifically for defence purchases.
- The two leaders released the Hindi translation of the unfinished autobiography of **Sheikh Mujibur Rahman** and also named a road after Bangladesh's founding father in the middle of Lutyens Delhi.
- Modi announced that both countries will jointly produce a biopic on Sheikh Mujib, which will be released in 2020 on his birth centenary.

ARMY JAWAN WITH AIDS IS ENTITLED TO DISABILITY BENEFITS: SC

- **SC came to the rescue of the Army Jawan suffering from AIDS who was declined the disability pension and other benefits by the Army and the Armed Forces Tribunal in 2009.**
- SC stated that there was no dispute that the appellant while in service suffered from AIDS and meningitis was entitled to 100 percent benefits.

FORMER INDIAN NAVY OFFICER – KULBHUSHAN JADHAV SENTENCED TO DEATH BY PAKISTAN

- **Kulbhushan Jadhav, a former Indian Navy officer**, was sentenced to death by a military court of Pakistan on 10th April 2017.
- He was accused of **espionage and sabotage activities in Balochistan and Karachi of Pakistan.**

GOVERNMENT TO CONDUCT GST TRAINING THIS SUMMER FOR MPS AND MLAS.

- The Central Government is planning to spread awareness about the new GST regime and is all set to impart training to MPs and MLAs to teach them the finer points of the same.

RS. 23,443 CRORES RELEASED FOR MGNREGS FOR MISSION WATER CONSERVATION

- The Ministry of Rural Development has released Rs. 23,443.09 crore to the States as first tranche for Financial Year 2017-18 under Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS).
- The amount released includes all pending liabilities as on 31st March, 2017. It is also to ensure priority work on water conservation measures

PM MODI INAUGURATES NEW UNITS IN KORADI THERMAL POWER STATION

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi has inaugurated various units of thermal power plants in Nagpur at Koradi, Chandrapur and Parli with a total capacity of 3,230 Mega Watts.
- The Prime Minister also released two special commemorative postal stamps - one depicting Deekshabhoomi in its full glory and the other with twin pictures of Lord Gautam Buddha and Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar at another function in the city.

INDIA'S FIRST-EVER MICRO-DRAMA FESTIVAL HELD IN DELHI

- Named after **Thespis of Icaria**, believed to be the first actor in Greek drama (6th century BC), the day-long event '**Thespis**' saw screening of 28 independent plays at the Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Art.
- Organised by theatre group '**Vriksh**', the festival marks the debut of the micro-drama concept in India.

NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL IMPOSE RS.50 LAKH FINE ON THDC

- The **National Green Tribunal** has imposed a fine of **Rs.50 lakh** on the **Tehri Hydro Development Corporation Ltd (THDC)**, for disposing debris and muck excavated out of construction road for power house of the Chamoli based Vishnugad-Peepalkoti Hydroelectric Project into the **Alaknanda River**.

MODI WORLD'S MOST FOLLOWED LEADER ON INSTAGRAM

- With 6.8 million followers, Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** has become the world's **most followed leader** on Facebook's photo-sharing app **Instagram**.

SUPREME COURT SUMMONS HOME SECRETARIES OF SIX STATES OVER VACANCY IN POLICE FORCE

- The Supreme Court took strong note on Monday of huge vacancy in police force in six states, including Bihar and Uttar Pradesh, and asked their Home Secretaries to either personally appear or depute an officer to assist it. A bench headed by Chief Justice J S Khehar referred to the vacancy in the states – Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and West Bengal, and summonsed the home secretaries or officers.

MANEKA GANDHI WANTS FATHER'S NAME OPTIONAL IN CASTE CERTIFICATES.

- The Woman and Child Development Minister Maneka Gandhi **has sought a change in rules that require** father's name to be mandatorily mentioned for getting caste certificates, **in case of children** raised by single or separated mothers.

TROPICAL CYCLONE "MAARUTHA" FORMED IN BAY OF BENGAL

- The depression over **East-central Bay of Bengal** has turned into the tropical cyclone 'Maarutha'.

MAHATMA GANDHI'S CHAMPARAN SATYAGRAHA TO BE REPACKAGED AS SWACHHAGRAHA

- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** is all set to connect the **100th anniversary of Champaran Satyagraha** with **Swachh Bharat Abhiyan**.
- This initiative attempts to re-envision the theme of the Champaran Satyagraha. Satyagraha, in this context, will therefore be re-interpreted as **Swachhagraha** – where an individual shall pool his efforts towards building a **clean India**.
- The **digital exhibition** titled, "**Bapu Ko Karyanjali**"

SWACHH BHARAT MISSION PHASE II

- The second quarterly review meeting on the Swachh Iconic Places (SIP), an initiative of Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation under Swachh Bharat Mission, was held in Katra, Jammu and Kashmir.
- On this occasion, Shri Narendra Singh Tomar announced ten new Iconic places to be taken under the Phase II of Swachh Iconic Places initiative.
- These ten new iconic places which are to be brought to a higher standard of swachhta and visitors' amenities are : 1. Gangotri, 2. Yamunotri. 3. Mahakaleshwar Temple, Ujjain, 4. Char Minar, Hyderabad, 5. Church and Convent of St. Francis of Assisi, Goa, 6. Adi Shankaracharya's abode Kaladi in Ernakulam, 7. Gomateshwar in Shravanbelgola, 8. Bajjnath Dham, Devghar, 9. Gaya Tirth in Bihar and 10. Somnath temple in Gujarat

RAILWAYS TO SET UP RS 200-CRORE SOLAR POWER PLANT IN BHILAI

- The **Indian Railways** is going to set up a **solar power plant** in **Bhilai (Chhattisgarh)**, where it has spare land, through Railway Energy Management Company Limited (REMCL).

GOVT RELEASES COFFEE SCENTED STAMPS IN BENGALURU

- Union Minister of Commerce and Industry **Nirmala Sitharaman** and Minister of State for Communications **Manoj Sinha** released coffee scented postage stamps at the General Post Office, Bengaluru.
- The **stamps**, which are being printed at the **India Security Press**, will be priced at **Rs. 100**.
- **Bhutan** first introduced the concept of aromatic stamps in **1973**. India introduced its first aromatic stamp in **2006**, with a **15 sandalwood**-scented stamp.

RBI ANNOUNCES INDIA'S FINANCIAL LITERACY WEEK FROM JUNE 5-9, 2017

- RBI has decided to observe the week **June 5-9, 2017** as Financial Literacy Week across the country.
- The literacy week will focus on four broad themes, viz. **KYC, Exercising Credit Discipline, Grievance Redressal** and Going Digital (UPI and *99#).
- An online quiz will be hosted for the general public on the four broad themes to generate interest/awareness about financial literacy.
- Banks are advised to conduct special camps on each of the five days in backward/unbanked areas.

PM MODI FLAG-OFF FIRST UDAN FLIGHT UNDER RCS

- The Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi will flag off the first UDAN flight under RCS on Shimla-Delhi sector on 27th April, 2017.
- Simultaneously, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi will also flag off the inaugural UDAN flights on Kadapa – Hyderabad and Nanded-Hyderabad sectors.
- To make air travel accessible to citizens in regionally important cities, the Ministry launched 'Ude Deshka Aam Naagrik' (UDAN) Regional Connectivity Scheme in October, 2016.

INDIA AND ADB SIGN \$175 MILLION LOAN AGREEMENT FOR SOLAR TRANSMISSION SYSTEM



- The Government of India and the Asian Development Bank (ADB) signed a \$175 million loan agreement to support construction of high voltage transmission systems to evacuate power generated from new mega solar parks to the interstate grid, and improve reliability of the national grid system.

WORLD BANK TO GIVE \$37.5 CR FOR NATIONAL WATERWAY-1 ON GANGA

- The **World Bank** has approved a loan of \$375 million for capacity augmentation of National Waterway-1 (NW-1) on the river Ganga under the Jal Marg Vikas Project (JMVP).NW-1 from Haldia to Varanasi.

Short News :

- ✚ **Jawaharlal Nehru University's Central Library** was renamed **Dr B. R. Ambedkar Central Library** amid protests and sloganeering by students
- ✚ **Air India will impose fine ranging from Rs. 5 to Rs 15. lakh** on unruly passengers who cause delay to flight before or after landing. **Air India will impose a financial damage of Rs 5 lakh on unruly passengers causing delay of up to one hour, Rs 10 lakh for one-two hour delay and Rs 15**
- ✚ **India and the United Kingdom have decided to set up a 240 million pound Green Growth Equity Fund to finance clean energy projects in India.**
- ✚ The Gorakhpur Airforce Station has been renamed as **Mahayogi Goraknath Airport** after the founder of the Nath monastic movement.
- ✚ The Agra Airport will be renamed after **Pandit Deen Dayal Upadhyay airport**.
- ✚ The Department of Disabled Welfare will now be known as '**Divyang Jan Vikas Empowerment**'.
- ✚ The GMR Hyderabad International Airport Limited has received the **Carbon Neutrality (Level 3+) Certificate** from the Airports Council International (ACI).
- ✚ **India** has jumped 12 places to **40th rank** globally in travel and tourism competitiveness list by **World Economic Forum (WEF)**.
- ✚ The **Border Security Force (BSF)** has seized a huge consignment of **Fake Indian Currency Notes (FICN)** from the Indo-Bangladesh border at Kaliachak in Malda district.
- ✚ The Central Board of Direct Taxes has tied up with Ministry of Corporate Affairs under which companies can submit single application form and get both PAN and TAN issued immediately. This will significantly improve the ranking of India in ease of doing business index prepared by the World Bank.

STATE AFFAIRS

KANHA TIGER RESERVE BECOMES FIRST IN INDIA TO GET OFFICIAL MASCOT

- Kanha has become the first tiger reserve in India to officially introduce a mascot – Bhoorsingh the Barasingha.
- The step aims to present the hard ground swamp deer as the spirit of the reserve and spread awareness to save it from possible extinction.
- Barasingha, or swamp deer, is the state animal of Madhya Pradesh. The Kanha tiger reserve, spread over Mandla and Balaghat districts, is the only place in the world where the species exists.

Points to Remember

- Kanha tiger reserve is located in Madhya Pradesh. It is also called Kanha National Park.
- Bhopal is the capital of Madhya Pradesh.
- Shivraj Singh Chouhan is the Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh while Om Prakash Kohli is the Governor.

CLEAN GANGA - 26 PROJECTS WORTH RS 2,154.28 CR APPROVED FOR NAMAMI GANGE PROJECT

- The **National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG)** has approved **26 projects** worth Rs **2,154.28** crore under the Centre's '**Namami Gange**' programme, aiming to reduce the river's pollution load.

ASIA'S LONGEST CHENNAI-NASHRI TUNNEL

- **Chennai-Nashri tunnel**, a 10.9 km road tunnel which will shorten the driving time between Jammu and Srinagar by two hours, was inaugurated.
- The two-lane **Chennai-Nashri** tunnel will be **Asia's longest**, which will cut the distance between Jammu and Srinagar to around 250km from the current 350km.

SEX RATIO IN HARYANA TOUCHES 950 MARK FOR FIRST TIME

- The sex ratio in Haryana for the first time in the history has touched the 950 mark in March, 2017.

- The state has improved its skewed sex ratio after the launch of 'Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao' programme by Prime Minister Narendra Modi from Haryana. It also had launched a massive campaign in the state by strictly implementing Pre-Conception and Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques Act and Medical Termination of Pregnancy Act.

MADHYA PRADESH GOVERNMENT LAUNCHES 1 YEAR DIPLOMA COURSE ON HINDU PRIESTHOOD

- Madhya Pradesh government-run Maharshi Patanjali Sanskrit Sansthan will launch one-year diploma course on Hindu priesthood 'Purohityam' from July 2017.

HYDERABAD GET 1 GBPS INTERNET SPEED

- **Internet Service Provider (ISP) ACT Fibernet** has announced the launch of 1Gbps (gigabits per second) wired broadband internet services in Hyderabad.
- Fibernet making this City into **India's first "Giga City"**.

KOLKATA GETS INDIA'S FIRST BIO-GAS BUS - WITH FLAT RE 1 FARE

- **Phoenix India Research** claimed to have launched the first bio-gas fuelled bus in **Kolkata** keeping a flat fare of just **Rs. 1**

BENGALURU LAUNCHES PINK POLICE PATROL VEHICLES FOR WOMEN

- The **Bengaluru Police** have launched **51 'Pink Hoysalas'**, the new **patrol vehicles**, to direct complaints related to **women and child safety**.
- The Pink Hoysalas will work based on accusations registered through the **Suraksha App** or intimation to the police control room number and will have at least three women police personnel.

BHOPAL TO HAVE INDIA'S FIRST PRIVATELY-RUN RAILWAY STATION

- Railway Minister Suresh Prabhu has said that for the first time in Indian Railways' history, Habibganj station in Bhopal has been handed over to a private firm to be operated by it.

MAHARASHTRA TO HAVE INDIA'S FIRST IDEAL DIGITAL VILLAGE

- **Harisal** village in **Maharashtra** was adopted by **Microsoft** to be developed as **India's first ideal digital village**.

NO GOVERNMENT JOB IN ASSAM FOR THOSE WITH MORE THAN 2 KIDS

- The **Assam** government has announced a **draft population policy**.
- It suggested **denial** of **government jobs** to people with **more than two children**.
- The policy also suggested making **education** up to university level **free** for **all girls** in the state.
- The proposal also prevents people with a history of child marriage from entering government service. The proposed population policy will also push for increasing the **legal age of marriage** from **18 years for girls and 21 years for boys**. The policy will also seek stringent laws to prevent violence and sexual abuse of women.
- Assam will become the **second state** in the country after Rajasthan to have **rules separate** from the national population policy of 2000.

PM NARENDRA MODI LAYS FOUNDATION STONE OF MULTIMODAL TERMINAL IN JHARKHAND

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi laid the foundation stone of a multi-modal terminal and a four-lane bridge on the Ganga river in Jharkhand's Sahibganj district.
- The multi-modal terminal is an important component of the development of the National Waterway-1 (NW-1) from Varanasi in Uttar Pradesh to Haldia in West Bengal, a distance of 1,390 km.
- The four-lane bridge on the Ganga river will be connecting Sahibganj to Manihari in Bihar's Katihar district.

KARNATAKA IS GETTING ITS FIRST-EVER SURFING FESTIVAL

- **Karnataka** Tourism will host its first-ever **surfing festival** between **May 27-29**.
- The festival will be held at the **Sasithithlu Beach** in Mangalore.
- Along with this, the state's tourism ministry is also planning to introduce a set of recreational activities which will include **skydiving** and **motorcycle** tourism.
- In 2016, this festival was held in Ramchandi Beach, Odisha.

NAMAMI BRAHMAPUTRA

- The biggest river festival of India, **Namami Brahmaputra**, begins in **21 districts of Assam**.
- President Pranab Mukherjee inaugurated the festival on the banks of the river, which is considered the country's **only male river**.

- The Prime Minister of Bhutan, the Governor of Assam and Chief Ministers of Assam and Arunachal Pradesh also attended the inaugural ceremony. Spiritual leader Dalai Lama and several Union ministers also attended the five day festival.
- The main purpose of the 5 day festival (31st March to 4th April) is to give a **boost** to the **investment** and **tourism** prospect in the state.

ASIA'S LARGEST TULIP GARDEN IN KASHMIR OPENS FOR TOURISTS

- Srinagar's **Indira Gandhi Memorial Tulip Garden** (Formerly known as **Siraj Bagh**), **Asia's largest tulip garden**, was opened to the public, marking the beginning of the new tourism season in the valley. The opening of the garden also marked the beginning of a mega **15-day tulip festival**, part of the **Bahaar-e-Kashmir** event in Srinagar.
- The **Indira Gandhi Memorial Tulip Garden**, located in the foothills of the Zabarwan hill in Srinagar, overlooks the famous Dal Lake.
- Reportedly, over **two million tulips** of 46 varieties have been planted in the garden spread over an area of 15 hectares.
- The average life span of the tulip flower is three to four weeks.

LIFE IMPRISONMENT FOR COW SLAUGHTER IN GUJARAT

- The Gujarat Assembly has passed a bill against cow slaughter in the state with life imprisonment from the present seven-year term.
 - The bill also stated 10 years of imprisonment for transportation of cows. People in possession of beef will be slapped a fine of Rs.1-5 lakh along with a jail term of 7-10 years.
 - Earlier, the maximum jail term for possession of cow meat was seven years and minimum of three years with a fine of Rs.50,000.

MP GOVT STARTS AMBITIOUS 'DEENDAYAL RASOI YOJANA'

- **Madhya Pradesh** government kick-started its ambitious '**Deendayal Rasoi Yojana**' under which subsidised meals will be available at **Rs 5** per plate to people, especially the economically disadvantaged sections of society.

MIZORAM BECOMES 27TH STATE TO JOIN UDAY SCHEME

- Mizoram became 27th state to join Ujwal DISCOM Assurance Yojana (UDAY) scheme meant for revival of debt-stressed discoms. In this regard, Union Government and Mizoram Government signed a MOU for improving operational efficiency of the Power Distribution department of the State.

CENTRE TO REVIVE AMBITIOUS NORTH KOEL IRRIGATION PROJECT IN JHARKHAND

- Seeking to provide irrigation facilities to over one lakh hectare of farm land in **Daltonganj** and **Palamu** region of **Jharkhand** and neighbouring districts of **Bihar**, the Centre has decided to revive its **45-year-old North Koel river irrigation project** at an estimated cost of Rs **1,622 crore** and begin the construction of remaining works soon.

OPERATION DURGA LAUNCHED BY THE HARYANA GOVERNMENT

- Haryana government has launched '**Operation Durga**' to ensure women safety in the state.
- Under this operation, the 'Flying Squad' is patrolling those areas where anti-social elements are committing crimes against women.

ANDHRA TO INTRODUCE 'AMMAKU VANDANAM' SCHEME

- A unique programme will be introduced in the government-run schools in **Andhra Pradesh** from this year.

AMMAKU VANDANAM

- Under '**Ammaku Vandanam**', the school children will take the blessings of their mothers and may also do 'paada pooja' (washing her feet).

ANDHRA CM RELAUNCHES 'ADARANA SCHEME'

- Reiterating his resolve for the uplift and all-round development of people belonging to the Backward Classes, Chief Minister **N. Chandrababu Naidu** announced the re-launch of '**Adarana**', a scheme for **improving traditional occupations**.

JHARKHAND POLICE INITIATES TARE ZAMEEN PAR PROGRAMME

- With a motive to enlighten children in naxal-affected areas of **Jharkhand's Palamau district**, Jharkhand Police has initiated **Tare Zameen Par** program to encourage children to lead happy lives.

MANIPUR CM LAUNCHES WEB APPLICATIONS TO CHECK CORRUPTION

- Manipur Chief Minister Nongthombam Biren Singh has launched two web applications to check corruption and keep track of government activities.

- The two web applications were Anti-Corruption Cell and Digital Application for Review by Public and Nation (DARPAN), This applications would monitor all government funded projects and ensure transparency and accountability.

POLICE ASK TELECOM COMPANIES TO SUSPEND 3G AND 4G SERVICES IN KASHMIR VALLEY

- The Jammu and Kashmir police **has directed** telecom companies to **shut their** 3G and 4G services **in the** Kashmir Valley **as the state authorities feel there has been an attempt to spread fear and show security personnel in a bad light through online videos.** The decision was taken after several videos surfaced in recent days

FIFTEEN PUBLIC HOLIDAYS CANCELLED BY THE UTTAR PRADESH GOVERNMENT

- The **Uttar Pradesh government** cancelled 15 public holidays in educational institutions that commemorated the birth and death anniversaries of eminent personalities.
- The decision was taken by the state's cabinet during its meeting chaired by Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath.

INDIAN CITY GOT PIERRE L'ENFANT INTERNATIONAL PLANNING EXCELLENCE AWARD-2017

- **Bhubaneswar** has become the first Indian city to win the **Pierre L'enfant International Planning excellence award** given by the American Planning Association (APA).
- Smart city Bhubaneswar has been chosen for the award for its good and advanced town planning and engaging its residents in the planning process. Smart city Bhubaneswar has been chosen for the award for its good and advanced town planning and engaging its residents in the planning process.

BIHAR BECOMES SECOND STATE AFTER TELANGANA TO ADOPT BILLS REQUIRED FOR GST ROLLOUT

- Bihar Legislative Assembly and Legislative Council on Monday unanimously adopted the Bihar Goods and Service Tax (GST) Bill, 2017 along with Bihar Taxation (Amendment) Bill, 2017.
- With the passage of the bills, Bihar has become the second state, after Telangana, to ratify the legal framework for the rollout of the GST in the state.

NATIONAL CHILDREN'S FILM FESTIVAL

- Union Information and Broadcasting Minister Venkaiah Naidu will host a three-day National Children's Film Festival (NCFE) in Visakhapatnam on 7 April, 2017.

RONGALI BIHU 2017 STARTED IN ASSAM

- **Bohag Bihu**, also known as **Rangoli Bihu** or **Haat Bihu** is a seven-day long festival as per the traditional **Assamese New year Calendar** and starts from 15th April 2017 and goes on to 21st April 2017.
- Bihu Festival is celebrated in three times in a year with different farming phases.
- These are **Bohag Bihu**, **Kongali Bihu**, and **Magh Bihu**.

MAHARASHTRA ANNOUNCES SCHEME TO INCREASE FARMERS' INCOME

- Amidst demands of farm loan waiver in **Maharashtra**, the State government has announced '**Advanced Farming – Enriched Farmer**' scheme.
 - The aim is to **increase farmers' income** by cutting production cost and increasing the output.
 - The scheme will be launched in the upcoming kharif season.
 - Under the initiative, the government has declared each tehsil in the State as a unit where planning will be done for agri-development
- **In a first, Maharashtra started special drive for transgenders to register as voters** Maharashtra is the first state to launch a special awareness drive to ensure that transgenders in the state register as voters in greater numbers.
 - The state branch of the Election Commission of India (ECI) launched the drive on April 15, celebrated as Third Gender Day.
 - According to ECI officials, despite the approximate population of third genders in Maharashtra being pegged at more than 10 lakh, only about 1,700 are registered voters.

TAMILNADU

- **First Transgender Sub inspector of police in India K Prithika Yashini** became the first transgender Sub inspector of police, joined the police service in Dharmapuri.
- Tamil Nadu replaces Ration card with Smart card Ration cards in Tamil Nadu are all replaced with Smart Card **to transform fully digital India**.
- Consumers can continue to buy commodities at PDS outlets by using their existing ration cards till such time they received the smart cards.

TAMIL NEW YEAR AWARDS 2016

- Tamil Thai Award 2016 – Maanavar Mandram
- Kabilar Award – L K Agniputran
- U Ve Sa Award – M A Venkatakrishnan
- Kambar Award – Jayaraj
- Sollin Selvar Award – B Manikandan
- GU Pope Award – Vaideki Hebert
- Umarupulavar Award – M Abdul Khader
- Ilangovadial Award – N Nanjundan
- Amma Ilakiya Award – Hamsa Dhanagopal
- Kanini Tamil Award 2015 – Selva Murali.

Short news

- + The West Bengal government has decided to drop the tag “Pradhan Mantri” from “Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojna” and rename it as “Bangla Fasal Bima Yojna”
- + The Union has declared Kerala drought-hit, along with seven other Southern States.
- + The mobile app **MP e-nagarpalika** was launched by state **Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan** to provide various municipal services online.
- + Jammu & Kashmir Government has banned the usage of polythene bags below 50 microns in the state. It also made mandatory to have name, registration number of the manufacturer and thickness of the material printed on bag in English
- + Haryana Government has decided to provide one-time grant of Rs 21,000 to all those families whose third girl child was born on or after August 24, 2015 under the ‘Aapki Beti, Hamari Beti’ scheme.
- + West Bengal Chief Minister **Mamata Banerjee** declared **Jhargram** as the **22nd district** of West Bengal, fulfilling a longstanding demand of its residents.
- + Plastic or polythene bags will be banned in Madhya Pradesh from May 1.
- + **National Conference President Farooq Abdullah on Saturday won the Srinagar Lok Sabha** by-poll after defeating PDP candidate Nazir Ahmad Khan by **around 10,000 votes**
- + Re-polling at 38 polling stations in Budgam district in Srinagar parliamentary constituency

INTERNATIONAL

FIRST RAIL FREIGHT SERVICE FROM UK TO CHINA SET TO DEPART TODAY

- The **first** rail freight service from the **UK to China** will depart on a **7,500-mile** journey from Essex today.
- **Thirty containers** will carry British goods including whisky, soft drinks, vitamins and pharmaceuticals.
- The train will travel over 7,500 miles to reach **Yiwu**, a famed wholesale market town in the eastern province of Zhejiang, 17 days later.
- The train will pass through **seven countries** - France, Belgium, Germany, Poland, Belarus, Russia, Kazakhstan

GERMANY '1ST NATO MEMBER' TO LAUNCH CYBER COMMAND

- Germany became the first North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) member country to launch a self-contained cyber command unit dubbed as Cyber and Information Space Command (Kdo CIR). The Kdo CIR will be the youngest branch of Germany's military "Bundeswehr".
- It will operate and protect German military's own IT infrastructure and computer-assisted weapons systems, and tackle online threats. It will also focus on war-game offensive skills and capabilities.
 - **President:** Frank-Walter Steinmeier
 - **Chancellor:** Angela Merkel

1ST-EVER CIVILIAN NUCLEAR-POWERED SUBMARINE DESIGNED IN RUSSIA

- **Russian** scientists are developing **first ever civilian nuclear-powered submarine** to conduct seismological surveys and search for natural resources under ice in the **Arctic**, the Russian Foundation for Advanced Research Projects (RFARP) said.
- The **Arctic region** is considered to be a major source of hydrocarbons, minerals, fresh water and fish. The region's resources are a matter of interest for states bordering the area. The icebreaker fleet is needed to escort vessels in the area breaking ice, covering the ocean.

CHINA TO LAUNCH FIRST CARGO SPACECRAFT FOR SPACE LAB

- **China's first cargo spacecraft Tianzhou-1** is to be launched into space between **April 20 and 24** to dock with the orbiting experimental space station.

ISRAEL APPOINTED HANNA HATIB AS FIRST FEMALE JUDGE IN ITS MUSLIM SHARIA COURT SYSTEM

- Israel's Sharia Courts appointed Arab-Israeli lawmaker, **Hana Mansour-Khatib** as their first-ever female **judge**."
- **Hana Khatib**, an attorney from the northern town of Tamra, selected by an Israeli justice committee alongside three men to become a religious judge.
- **Two** women serve as sharia judges in the neighboring Palestinian Authority. Khatib will be sworn in by **Israeli President** Reuven Rivlin in a few weeks.

MALALA YOUSAFZAI TO BE UNITED NATIONS MESSENGER OF PEACE

- **United Nations** Secretary-General **Antonio Guterres** has selected Nobel Peace Prize laureate **Malala Yousafzai** to be a **UN messenger of peace**, the highest honor bestowed by the UN chief on a global citizen.
- UN spokesman Stephane Dujarric announced that she will focus on **promoting girls' education worldwide**.

NOBEL LAUREATE MALALA YOUSAFZAI - YOUNGEST PERSON TO ADDRESS CANADIAN PARLIAMENT

- **Malala Yousafzai** (19-year-old activist), the youngest Nobel Prize laureate, will on **April 12** address Canada's parliament and officially receive the honorary Canadian citizenship bestowed upon her in 2014.

About Malala Yousafzai]

- Yousafzai, 19, became a global symbol of the fight for girls education after being shot in the head in October 2012 for opposing **Taliban** restrictions on female education.
- The Pakistani education activist survived the attack and became an advocate for millions of girls denied formal education around the world.
- In **2013**, Yousafzai and her father Ziauddin Yousafzai co-founded the **Malala Fund** to bring awareness to the social and economic impact of girls education, and to empower girls to demand change.
- She became the **youngest-ever Nobel Peace Prize laureate** in December **2014**, sharing the honour with Indian childrens rights and education advocate Kailash Satyarthi.
- Yousafzai is the first Messenger of Peace designated by Guterres.

BANGLADESH IS ORGANISING WORLD PARLIAMENTARIANS CONFERENCE

- A mega conference of world parliamentarians is being held in Dhaka to focus on ways and means to end political and economic inequality for upholding democracy and human rights

US PRESIDENT TRUMP PROCLAIMS APRIL AS 'NATIONAL SEXUAL ASSAULT AWARENESS AND PREVENTION MONTH'

- US President **Donald Trump** proclaimed April as **National Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month**, following in the footsteps of his presidential predecessor President Barack Obama.
- The United States has recognized April as National Sexual Assault and Prevention Month **since 2001**, and in 2009 Barack Obama became the first U.S. president to formally proclaim it as such.

JAPAN OFFICIALLY RECOGNISES BITCOIN AS CURRENCY

- A **new Japanese law** that defines digital currencies as a legal payment method goes into effect on **April 1, 2017**.

About Bitcoin

- a type of **digital currency** in which encryption techniques are used to regulate the generation of units of currency and verify the transfer of funds, operating independently of a central bank.

SASEC'S 7TH MEMBER - MYANMAR

- Myanmar has become the seventh member of the South Asia Sub regional Economic Cooperation (SASEC) partnership.

About SASEC:

- **SASEC countries** – **Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Myanmar, Nepal, and Sri Lanka.**
- These countries are coordinate the planning of projects and activities to increase economic growth by building transport connectivity, facilitating faster and more efficient trade, and promoting cross-border power trade.

WORLD'S 5TH TALLEST BUILDING 'LOTTE WORLD TOWER' OPENS IN SEOUL

- **South Korea** celebrates the opening of **Lotte World Tower** – the world's fifth-highest skyscraper – a **1,819 ft seven-star hotel in Seoul**. Lotte World Tower is the **world's fifth-tallest** building after the Burj Khalifa in Dubai, the Shanghai Tower, Makkah Royal Clock Tower Hotel in Saudi Arabia and One World Trade Center in New York. Iceland is set to become the first country in the world to neutralise gender pay gap

- A new **Guinness World Record** has been set in Philippines where a **24-year-old Filipino Ricardo** won the title for the most hamburgers eaten in one minute **Israel** has approved the establishment of its **first new Jewish settlement in the occupied West Bank** in two decades.

JAPAN COMMITS 371 BILLION YEN ASSISTANCE FOR INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS IN INDIA.

- El Salvador has made history after becoming the **first country in the world to ban metal mining**.
- Diplomat **Vipul**, a 1998 batch Indian Foreign Service officer took up the charge as the new **Consul General of Dubai**.
- The **UK passport** could turn **dark blue** again after **Brexit** under a **£490m contract to redesign and produce a new version of the document**.

TRUMP'S NEW EXECUTIVE ORDER WILL HURT INDIAN SHRIMP EXPORTS

- \$5.5 billion Indian seafood market will face tough restrictions in America as the new executive order will impose countervailing duties on countries dumping goods. America is the biggest importer of Indian seafood. It had a share of 5% in 2015-16, 94% of which was shrimp. Indian exporters will face anti-dumping duty in addition to other non-tariff barriers like increased inspections.

FIRST BLACK WOMAN ON STATE'S HIGHEST COURT FOUND DEAD – NEWYORK

- The first black woman appointed to the state's highest court **has been found dead on the bank of the Hudson River. Sheila Abdus-Salaam's body was discovered along the riverside near Harlem**

VIDEO GAMING TO BE FEATURED AT 2022 ASIAN GAMES

- Video gaming will be featured as a full sport at the 2022 Asian Games, with competitors in electronic sports set to receive medals for their digital prowess.
- The Olympic Council of Asia says it will introduce e-sports to the official program of the Asian Games at Hangzhou, China.
- It will also be a demonstration sport at the 2018 Asian Games in Palembang, Indonesia.
- The council is collaborating with Ali sports, a unit of China's Alibaba Group, to bring e-sports to the games.

AUSTRALIA ABOLISHES VISA PROGRAMME POPULAR WITH INDIANS

- Australia has abolished a visa programme used by over 95,000 temporary foreign workers, majority of them Indians, to tackle the growing unemployment in the country.
- The programme known as 457 visa allows business to employ foreign workers for a period up to four years in skilled jobs where there is a shortage of Australian workers.
- The majority of the visa holders were from India followed by the UK and China.

SAUDI ARABIA ELECTED TO UN WOMEN'S RIGHTS COMMISSION

- **Saudi Arabia** has been elected to the **United Nations** Commission on the Status of **Women**
- The Middle Eastern kingdom was one of **12** new countries elected to the UN body in a secret ballot.
- It will serve a **four-year term** beginning next year, according to a statement from the UN Economic and Social Council.
- The role of the UN's Commission on the Status of **Women** is to promote gender equality and the empowerment of women.

SAUDI ARABIA'S KING SALMAN BIN ABDULAZIZ AL SAUD APPOINTED HIS SON AS THE NEW AMBASSADOR TO US

- **Saudi Arabia's** King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud appointed his son **Prince Khalid bin** Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud as the new country's ambassador to the United States among other appointments.
- **Malaysia Airlines - first to use new satellite-based airplane tracking system**
- **Malaysia Airlines** planes will be tracked minute-by-minute using the new system, which boasts complete worldwide coverage, even over "ocean, polar, and remote regions." The **satellite-tracking system** is operated by a trio of companies: **Aireon, SITAONAIR,** and **FlightAware.**

SRI LANKA TO HOST THE 14TH EDITION OF UNITED NATIONS INTERNATIONAL DAY OF VESAK 2017

- The **14th Edition of United Nations International Day of Vesak 2017** will be hosted by **Sri Lanka** from **12-14 May 2017**
- **Narendra Modi** will inaugurate UN Vesak Day in Colombo on **May 12, 2017.**
- "Vesak Day is also known as **Buddha Poornima.**
- **Vesak** Day is regarded by all Buddhist traditions as the anniversary of the birth of the **Buddha.**The theme of this edition is '**Buddhist teachings for social justice and sustainable world peace**'

DONALD TRUMP INTRODUCES BIGGEST REFORM PLAN IN US

- US president **Donald Trump** has introduced biggest **tax reform** plan in the history of United States .
- The income tax rates have been slashed from **39.6%** to **35%**.He proposed **tax relief** for families with child and dependent care expenses.
- The new plan proposes for a **15%** corporate tax rate which is a sharp drop from the existing **35%**.
- However, under the US law ,only the congress is empowered to make major changes to tax laws.

ITALIAN MAYOR GIUSI NICOLINI WINS UNESCO PEACE PRIZE

- The **Unesco** has awarded its **Peace Prize** to **Giuseppina (Giusi) Nicolini**, the mayor of the Italian island of Lampedusa, for her commitment to saving the lives of migrants and refugees.

Short News :

- 🚩 **North Korean leader Kim Jong Un** appeared in a massive parade in the **capital city on Saturday celebrating the birthday of his late grandfather and North Korea founder Kim II Sung**
- 🚩 United States and China have agreed to pursue a '100-day plan' aimed at reducing the US trade deficit with China.
- 🚩 **Lenin Moreno** elected as a President of Ecuador.
- 🚩 Serbia elects Prime Minister **Aleksandar Vucic** as a president.
- 🚩 US President **Donald Trump** has nominated prominent Indian-American law expert **Neomi Rao** as Administrator of the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs (OIRA)
- 🚩 US President **Donald Trump** has nominated Indian-American **Vishal Amin** as Intellectual Property Enforcement Coordinator in the Executive Office of the President (IP czar).
- 🚩 President **Abdel Fattah al-Sisi** declared a **three-month state of emergency** in **Egypt** following twin church bombings that killed dozens of people in two cities.
- 🚩 North Korea's failed ballistic missile launch drew no major international reactions. The missile was a medium-range projectile and failed in early few seconds.
- 🚩 **Mongol Sat-I** was launched by the Mongolia. Mongolia launched its first satellite, The satellite was launched in partnership with **Asia Broadcast Satellite (ABS)**, a telecoms and broadcast provider for the region.

SCHEMES

PROJECT SAKSHAM

- The Government has approved the **Project Saksham** to bolster the information technology network for the new GST regime.

About this Scheme:

- Project Saksham is the name given to CBEC's **IT Infrastructure Project**.
- This IT Infrastructure project will enable not just the implementation of Goods and Services tax (GST) but also support all existing services in Customs, Central Excise and Service Tax.
- In addition, it will also enable extension of the Indian Customs Single Window Interface for Facilitating Trade (SWIFT) and other taxpayer-friendly initiatives under Digital Indian and Ease of Doing Business of CBEC.
- It will enable setting up of an information exchange mechanism with GSTN through the use of pre-agreed Application Programming Interface (API) or other secure methods of message exchange.

SCHEMES :

There are three types of schemes:

Central schemes / Central Sector Schemes:

- ✓ These schemes are funded and implemented by the union government.
- ✓ Usually they are schemes related to the subjects over which union government has jurisdiction as per Schedule VII

Centrally Sponsored Schemes:

- ✓ These schemes are funded by the Union Government or Union as well as State government but implemented by State governments.
- ✓ Funding pattern may be 50:50,75:25 etc.
- ✓ North Eastern and Hilly states generally have pattern of 90:10

State schemes:

- ✓ These schemes are funded and implemented by the state governments.

GOVT LAUNCHED 'POWERTEX INDIA' - A SCHEME FOR POWERLOOM SECTOR DEVELOPMENT

- The Government has launched **PowerTex India**, a comprehensive scheme for **powerloom sector development**, simultaneously at over **45 locations** in the country.
- Launching the scheme in Bhiwandi, Thane district, Maharashtra, the **Union Textiles Minister, Smt. Smriti Zubin Irani** said that Bhiwandi will be known for resurgence in Powerloom sector. Recalling that the powerloom sector alone employs over **44 lakh people**, the Minister said that the scheme will especially benefit small powerloom weavers.

COMPONENTS OF THE 'POWERTEX INDIA' SCHEME

- ✓ In-situ Upgradation of Plain Powerlooms
- ✓ Group Workshed Scheme (GWS)
- ✓ Yarn Bank Scheme
- ✓ Common Facility Centre (CFC)
- ✓ Pradhan Mantri Credit Scheme for Powerloom Weavers
- ✓ Solar Energy Scheme for Powerlooms
- ✓ Facilitation, IT, Awareness, Market Development and Publicity for Powerloom Schemes
- ✓ Tex Venture Capital Fund
- ✓ Grant-in-Aid and Modernisation & Upgradation of Powerloom Service Centres (PSCs)

RASHTRIYA VAYOSHRI YOJANA

- Rashtriya Vayoshri Yojana was launched by the government.
- It was launched in District **Nellore, Andhra Pradesh**.

Aim of the Scheme:

- The Scheme **aims at providing Senior Citizens, belonging to BPL category and suffering from any of the age related disability/infirmary** with such assisted-living devices which can restore near normalcy in their bodily functions, overcoming the disability/infirmary manifested.

FAME INDIA SCHEME

- **Ministry** : Ministry of Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises
- **Aims** to support hybrid/electric vehicles market development and manufacturing ecosystem.
- FAME stands for Faster Adoption and Manufacturing of (Hybrid &) Electric Vehicles

What is mild hybrid vehicle?

- A mild hybrid vehicle has an electric motor, which on its own cannot run a vehicle but assists normal engine by using recovered energy stored in a battery and helps save fuel.
- It uses the energy generated while applying the brakes and turns it into electric energy which is then stored in a battery. This energy can then be used to turn the starter motor when the car's start stop system needs it.
- Mild-hybrids are 7-15% more fuel efficient as compared to conventional hybrid systems that can run on pure electric power for short distances too

ASSAM GOVERNMENT CONDUCTS GUNOTSAV PROGRAMME

- Assam government had conducted four-day long Gunotsav programme to improve quality of school education in the state.
- Gunotsav originally was Gujarat government's initiative which has been adopted by Assam government.

BIOTOILETS

- The environment-friendly bio-toilets for passenger coaches were developed jointly by Indian Railways and Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO).
- In the bio-toilet fitted coaches, human waste is collected in bio digester tanks below the toilets and is decomposed by a consortium of anaerobic bacteria.
- By the process of *hydrolysis, acetogenesis, acidogenesis and methanogenesis*, the anaerobic bacteria converts human faecal matter into water and small amount of gases (including methane).

SAUNI PROJECT - PHASE I PART 2 - LAUNCHED BY PM

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated phase-I of the Link-II pipeline canal of the ambitious **Saurashtra Narmada Avtaran Irrigation (SAUNI) Yojana** in Botad district of Gujarat.

- This will be the second milestone in the Rs 12,000 crore project to pump Narmada water in 115 dams of arid Saurashtra region after the PM dedicated to public phase-I of the Link-I canal in August 2016.

What is the SAUNI Yojana?

- The project is not a part of the Narmada project but is based on it.
- 1 MAFT (million acre feet) flood water has been allotted to Saurashtra by the state government and this water will be pumped to major reservoirs in the region under the SAUNI Yojna.
- **Unlike traditional irrigation projects**, SAUNI is technically a 'linking' project, where the water will be filled in **irrigation dams that are already equipped with canal network**.
- This network of canals will then help channel **water into farms**.
- Also, SAUNI project involves making **pipe canals instead of the conventional open canals**.
- The pipelines in the SAUNI project are underground, which means that no land needs to be acquired.

ECONOMY

INDIA'S IS THE WORLD'S 7TH LARGEST TOURISM ECONOMY IN TERMS OF GDP

- India's travel and tourism sector **ranks 7th** in the world in terms of its total contribution to the country's GDP, according to a new report of the **World Travel and Tourism Council (WTTC)**.
- **Additionally India 2nd** in the world in terms of **total employment generated**.

WTO SETS UP PANEL TO DECIDE ON IMPORT DUTY ON STEEL

- The **World Trade Organisation (WTO)** has decided to set up a panel to resolve dispute between **India and Japan** on **safeguard duty** imposed by India on certain categories of **steel**.
- Japan, which is the **second largest steel producer**, had argued that duties imposed by India are against the WTO norms.

Points To Remember

- **China is the largest steel producer** in the world. Japan ranks second while **India is on third place**.

INDIA SIGNS FIRST LOAN AGREEMENT FOR US\$ 350 MILLION WITH BRICS NEW DEVELOPMENT BANK

- 01 April 2017 Current Affairs GK: The Loan Agreement for New Development Bank (NDB) financing of **US\$ 350 Million** for Development and Upgradation of Major District **Roads Project in Madhya Pradesh** was signed between **Government of India and the New Development Bank (NDB)**.

About New Development Bank (NDB)

- The New Development Bank, formerly referred to as the **BRICS Development Bank**, is a multilateral development bank established by the BRICS states.
 - **Headquarters:** Shanghai, China
 - **President:** K. V. Kamath
 - **Founder:** BRICS (**Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa**)
 - **Founded:** 15 July 2014

ADITYA BIRLA GROUP GETS RBI LICENCE TO START PAYMENTS BANK

- **Aditya Birla Idea Payments Bank Ltd** becomes the **seventh** entity to receive a final licence from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to set up a **payments bank**, according to a stock exchange notification.
- Among payment bank licence holders, **two** entities namely **Airtel Payments Bank** and **India Post Payments Bank (IPPB)** have started operations so far

'KARNATAKA BANK' AND 'SBI CARD' LAUNCHES CO-BRANDED CREDIT CARDS

- Karnataka Bank, a leading private sector Bank of the country, has entered into the collaboration with SBI Card, India's second-largest credit card issuer, to launch co-branded credit cards for Karnataka Bank customers. RBI to set up separate Enforcement department
- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has decided to set up a separate enforcement department to oversee possible breaches of rules and take punitive actions against those who violate them. It will serve as a centralised wing to deal with banks only for enforcement action.

POWER GENERATION

- State-run NTPC (National Thermal Power Corporation Limited) has crossed the milestone of 50 Gigawatts power generation capacity.
- 2nd unit of Kudankulam Nuclear Power plant starts commercial power generation The second unit of Kudankulam Nuclear Power plant (KNPP) in Tamil Nadu has started commercial generation of power. It had attained its full power generation capacity of 1000 Megawatt in January 2017.

BAN ON CASH TRANSACTIONS OF OVER RS 2 LAKH NOT APPLICABLE FOR BANK, POST OFFICE WITHDRAWALS

- The Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) has clarified that the ban on cash transaction in excess of Rs. 2 lakh will not be applicable to withdrawals from banks and post office savings accounts.
- Central Government has banned cash transactions of over 2 lakh through the Finance Act 2017. Under it, cash transactions of over 2 lakhs will a penalty of an equal amount would be levied on the receiver.

POSTAL DEPT, SBI JOIN HANDS TO PROMOTE CASHLESS TRANSACTIONS

- **Department of Posts** has joined hands with **State Bank of India** to promote SBI buddy e-wallet and POS machines for cashless transactions at Post Office counters while booking speed post and registered post items.

INCOME TAX DEPARTMENT LAUNCHES 'OPERATION CLEAN MONEY-II'

- The **Income Tax department** has launched the **second phase** of the '**Operation Clean Money**' on **April 15th** to investigate over **60,000 individuals** with an aim to detect black money generation post demonetisation.

AMAZON GETS RBI NOD FOR E-WALLET IN INDIA

- **Amazon India** has received the **Reserve Bank of India's (RBI)** approval to launch its own **digital wallet** in India.
- In December, Amazon had launched its Pay Balance service in order to boost cashless transactions.

SEBI MAKES P-NOTE NORMS STRICTER TO CURB BLACK MONEY IN MARKETS

- Markets regulator Sebi has barred resident as well as non-resident Indians (NRIs) from making investments through participatory notes (P-Notes).
- P-notes are mostly used by overseas individual investors, hedge funds and foreign institutions to invest in the Indian securities markets through registered foreign institutional investors (FIIs).

Short News:

- **Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL)** has successfully commissioned yet another coal-based supercritical thermal unit of **800 MW** in **Karnataka**
- 🚩 **Kotak Mahindra Bank** has launched the '**811 banking app**' to double its customer
- 🚩 The government has lowered the interest rates on small savings schemes like PPF, Kisan Vikas Patra and Sukanya Samriddhi scheme by 0.1 per cent for the April-June quarter, a move that would prompt banks to cut their deposit rates.
- 🚩 Export-Import Bank of India (Exim Bank) plans to work with African Development Bank (AfDB) on co-financing of projects in Africa.
- 🚩 The monetary policy committee (MPC) headed by **RBI governor Urjit Patel** left the policy lending rate unchanged at 6.25%.
- 🚩 Private carrier **Jet Airways** fliers can now buy tickets online, using the industry's latest payment mechanism, **Unified Payments Interface (UPI)**.
- 🚩 Ebay sells its India operations to Flipkart
- 🚩 **India** toppled **Japan** as the world's **second-largest importer** of **liquefied petroleum gas** as Prime Minister Narendra Modi's pledge to provide cooking gas cylinders to the poor and wean them off polluting fuels, drove up consumption.
- 🚩 The **Reserve Bank** has opened a new ombudsman office in **Jammu** as part of its efforts to expand banking grievances complaint cells across the country.

- ✚ The Central government has given its nod to allow Cash and ATM management companies to attract 100% foreign direct investment and exempted them from compliance to the Private Security Agencies (Regulation) Act (PSARA).
- ✚ **The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)** which is finalising a memorandum of understanding with **BHEL** to help develop low-cost lithium ion batteries for electric vehicles, also envisages a buyback commitment for such batteries.
- ✚ The Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) plans to build a new oil terminal at Motihari in Bihar to supply fuel to neighbour Nepal through the planned pipeline up to Amlekganj in Nepal.

AWARDS & HONOURS

NATIONAL FILM AWARDS 2016

- The 64th National Film Awards 2016 were announced today.
- The Most Film Friendly State award which was introduced as a new category was announced by Shri Radha Krishna Jagarlamudi, a popular Director in Telugu film industry.
- The National Film Awards would be presented by Hon'ble President of India on May 3rd, 2017.
- Award Films from Tamil Nadu
 - Best Tamil Film : Joker
 - Best Lyrics : Vairamuthu – Dharma Durai for the “Endha Pakkam song”
 - Best Production Design : 24
 - Best Cinematography : 24
 - Best Male Playback Singer : Sundharayyar for “Jasmine song” from Joker film
- The US India Business Council has selected Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu for award of ‘Transformative Chief Minister’. Naidu would be receiving coveted award at second annual West Coast summit

HANCHINAL RECEIVES M.S. SWAMINATHAN AWARD

- The sixth prestigious M.S. Swaminathan Award for contribution in the field of agriculture was given to R.R. Hanchinal, Chairperson of Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers Rights Authority, government of India.

KRISHI KARMAN AWARD FOR HIMACHAL PRADESH

- The Union **Ministry of Agriculture** has selected **Himachal Pradesh** for the **Krishi Karman Award 2015-16** for best in increase in food grains.

About the Award:

- Krishi Karman awards were instituted in the year 2010-11 to reward the best performing States in foodgrains and individual crops of Rice, Wheat, Pulses and Coarse Cereals.
- Krishi Karman awards are given to **Best performer States** for raising country's food grain production.

PRESIDENT CONFERS NATIONAL GEOSCIENCE AWARDS FOR 2016 ON 26 GEOSCIENTISTS

- The President of India, Shri Pranab Mukherjee conferred the **National Geoscience Awards 2016** (#NGA2016) on **twenty-six** geoscientists in New Delhi, **Dr. Abhishek Saha** from National Institute of Oceanography Goa who got the Young Scientist Award was especially lauded by the President and the Mines Minister.

GNFC WINS GOLDEN PEACOCK AWARD

- The Gujarat Narmada Valley Fertilizers & Chemicals Ltd (GNFC) won the Award in the category of Innovative Product/Service for pioneering a cashless township transformation model.
- The Golden Peacock Awards were established by the Institute of Directors (IOD) in India in 1991

DINANATH MANGESHKAR AWARD

- Actor Aamir Khan and cricket icon Kapil Dev will receive the 75th Master Dinanath Mangeshkar Awards, at a ceremony on April 24.
- Khan will be honoured with the Vishesh Puraskar for Best Film 'Dangal', while Dev for his outstanding contribution to Indian Cricket.

CANADA'S MINISTER GIFTS PUNJABI ACTOR COIN OF HONOUR

- **Canada's Minister** of National Defence **Harjit Sajjan** gifted his coin of honour (which he received from the Government of Canada) to Punjabi Singer and Actor **Diljit Dosanjh** on the sets of the reality show 'Rising Star'.

DADASAHEB PHALKE EXCELLENCE AWARD

- Veteran actress- politician **Hema Malini** along with **Aishwarya Rai Bachchan**, filmmaker **Shoojit Sircar** and **Zeenat Aman** bagged the **Dadasaheb Phalke Excellence Awards 2017**.

CARTIER WOMEN'S INITIATIVE AWARD FOR INDIAN ENGINEER TRUPTI JAIN

- An Indian environmental engineer "**Trupti Jain**" has won this year's "Cartier Women's Initiative Awards" for the Asia-Pacific Laureate.
- She was awarded for providing women working on farms with water management solutions and protecting small farmers against droughts and flash floods.

AEROSPACE ENGINEER LEADERSHIP AWARD

- An **Indian-born aeronautics engineer Arvind Sinha** from Australia has been honoured with the 'World's Outstanding Aerospace Engineer Leadership Award' by the American Helicopter Society (AHS) International

PREM BAHADUR RESMI MAGAR POSTHUMOUSLY CONFERRED KIRTI CHAKRA

- President Pranab Mukherjee has posthumously conferred Kirti Chakra, the second highest peacetime gallantry award on Lance Havildar Prem Bahadur Resmi Magar of Gorkha Rifles.

GHANTASALA NATIONAL AWARD

- Playback singer Vani Jairam was selected for the Ghantasala national award instituted by the Ghantasala National Art Academ
- She is known in the North as Meerabai for her rendition of songs sung by the medieval poet in praise of Lord Krishna.

GOLDMAN ENVIRONMENTAL PRIZE

- Social activist Prafulla Samantra was announced one of six winners of the Goldman Environmental Prize, in San Francisco

INDIAN BUSINESSMAN YUSUFF ALI WINS QUEEN'S ENTERPRISE AWARD

- A prominent Indian businessman's food processing plant in Britain has won the prestigious Queen's Enterprise Award 2017 for its exceptional contribution to the UK's trade, industry and economy.

RDPR BAGS E-PURASKAR

- The Rural Development and Panchayat Raj (RDPR) Department of Karnataka has bagged e-Puraskar Award for the best performance in empowering panchayats by using Information and Communication Technology (ICT) tools, for 2016-17.

PRESS FREEDOM RANKINGS

- India slipped three places in the 2017 world press freedom rankings to 136th among 180 countries, the dismal performance blamed on "Modi's nationalism" and growing "self-censorship" in the mainstream media.

DOCTORS ARTWORK FINDS PLACE IN GUINNESS BOOK

- A fingerprint painting, created by a group of Indian doctors as a symbolic representation to end frequent attacks against the fraternity, has found place in the Guinness Book of World Records as the world's largest such artwork.
- This painting is titled "Ray of Hope".
- The record title is in the name of Dr Naveen Koval,

GUINNESS WORLD RECORD BY FAMILY COURT JUDGE

- Tej Bahadur Singh, the principal judge of a family court in Muzaffarnagar has set a Guinness World Record by disposing of as many as 6,065 cases in 327 working days.
- The judge said that his move was aimed to reduce the number of pending cases in the court and provide justice to the litigants

BRITISH-INDIAN EDUCATIONIST ASHA KHEMKA NAMED 'ASIAN BUSINESSWOMAN OF THE YEAR'

- **Bihar-origin Asha Khemka**, who arrived in the **United Kingdom** with her family in 1978 without English language skills and went on to change the lives of thousands as an educationist, was named **"Asian Businesswoman of the Year"** at an event in **Birmingham**
- She has received accolades such as 'Asian Women of Achievement', 'National Jewel Award', 'Business Women of the Midlands' and 'Inspirational Women of the Year.'

SAHITYA AKADEMI TRANSLATION PRIZE 2016

- Sahitya Akademi announced the Translation Prize 2016 to English language to **Sri Aniruddan Vasudevan** for his book.
- He was selected for his book **"One part Woman"** translation of **Sri Perumal Murugan's** Tamil Novel **"Maadhorubagan"**.

NEWTON FILM WON THE BEST FILM HONOR AT HONG KONG INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

- Bollywood film, **"Newton"** has won the best film honor at the Hong Kong International Film Festival.
- The leading cast in the film is **Mr. Raj Kumar Rao**. **Amit Masurkar** has directed this movie as a complete political satire.

SRISHTI KAUR WINS MISS TEEN UNIVERSE PAGEANT

- Srishti Kaur from India was crowned Miss Teen Universe 2017. Kaur, a resident of Noida, also won the prize for best national costume.

MISS USSR UK CONTEST

- **Anastasia Boil** from Russia was crowned the winner of the **Miss USSR UK contest**.

Short News :

- ✚ Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte has won the Time magazine's Reader Poll of the 100 most influential people in the world.
- ✚ Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** and Paytm founder **Vijay Shekhar Sharma** were the **only two Indians** to make it to an annual list
- ✚ Vermont Senator and Democratic presidential candidate Bernie Sanders had won the Reader Poll last year while Russian President Vladimir Putin had won in 2015.
- ✚ **BEML**, a **defence** public sector, has received the **Hindustan PSU Award** under the category '**Fastest Growing Organisation – Miniratna**'
- ✚ **Astronaut** Peggy Whitson on Monday broke the record for most cumulative days spent in space by an American astronaut, surpassing **Jeff Williams'** record of **534** days.
- ✚ Kailash Satyarthi was honored with the award for his **Global Crusade** against **Child Slavery** and Exploitative on Child Labour.

SCIENCE & TECH

NORTH INDIA TO GET ITS FIRST DNA BANK FOR WILD ANIMALS

- **Indian Veterinary Research Institute (IVRI)** is planning to set up a DNA bank for wild animals, **the first of its kind in North India.**
- Scientists have so far collected samples of 140 species.
- **A DNA bank exists in Hyderabad at present.**

NEW TREE-LIVING CRAB SPECIES FOUND IN KERALA

- Scientists have discovered a **new species of long legged, tree-dwelling crabs in Western Ghats of Kerala.**
- This is the **first report of its kind** to offer a record of an **arboreal crab** – a species that **lives in trees.**

About this species:

- The new species named **Kani maranjandu** after the Kani tribe in Kerala, are substantially different from other congeners.
- The characteristic traits of the crab include the structure of its **hard upper shell**, its **male abdominal structure** and reproductive parts and diagnostic elongated walking legs.

SCIENTISTS DISCOVERS PROTEIN THAT INCREASES EFFECTIVENESS OF VACCINES AGAINST CANCER SCIENTISTS FROM BOSTON UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

- US have discovered a protein that could help make vaccinations more effective and provide protection from diseases such as cancer. They had purified a protein found on the exterior of bacteria – neisseria meningitis and used it as an accessory to provide a better vaccination response. Typically, vaccines can either increase the amount of antibody production or they can stimulate cells called cytotoxic T cells to directly kill the offending agent. In this case, the protein called PorB is unique as it can do both.

ASTRONOMERS DISCOVER VENUS-LIKE PLANET ORBITING A DIM STAR KEPLER-1649

- Astronomers using NASA's Kepler space telescope have discovered a Venus-like planet orbiting a dim star called Kepler-1649.
- The newly found planet is one-fifth the diameter of our Sun and is only slightly larger than Earth. It is located 219 light years away from Earth.

SCIENTISTS ALL SET TO DRILL WORLD'S HIGHEST GLACIER

- Scientists are headed towards Himalayas to become the first team to drill through the highest glacier in the world in the foothills of Mt. Everest. The team is slated to spend 6 weeks on the Khumbu glacier to be able to drill 200 m in the ice to study the internal structure and measure its temperature

APPLE OPENS NEW APP ACCELERATOR IN BENGALURU FOR INDIAN DEVELOPERS

- **Apple** has announced the opening of its **new App Accelerator in Bengaluru**, India as part of an effort to support engineering talent and boost growth in India's iOS developer community.
- **IOS** is the **world's most powerful mobile operating system** and the foundation for iPhone and iPad, and the App Accelerator Bengaluru will provide specialised support for developers, including tools and best practices to hone their skills and transform the design, quality and performance of their apps on the iOS platform.

WORLD-FIRST TRANSPLANT - JAPANESE MAN IS FIRST TO RECEIVE 'REPROGRAMMED' STEM CELLS FROM ANOTHER PERSON

- A Japanese man has become the first recipient of donated, reprogrammed stem cells as a treatment for **macular degeneration**.
- A Japanese man in his **60s** became the first person to receive cells derived from **induced pluripotent stem (iPS)** cells that had been donated by another person.
- **Yamanaka** is establishing an iPS cell bank, which depends on matching donors to recipients via three genes that code for human leukocyte antigens (HLAs) – proteins on the cell surface that are involved in triggering immune reactions.

CASSINI'S GRAND FINALE

- On April 4, NASA will hold a press conference to unveil the beginning of Cassini's last mission segment, called the Grand Finale.

About Cassini:

- Cassini is an unmanned spacecraft sent to study **Saturn** by the NASA.
- After spending nearly two decades in space, NASA's Cassini is ready for its **final mission (Grand Finale)**.

When was Cassini launched?

- Cassini was launched on October 15, 1997.
- After taking on a voyage passing through the flybys of Earth, Venus and Jupiter, Cassini began orbiting Saturn since June 2004, studying the planet, its rings and its moons.

What does this final mission involve?

- Cassini will explore areas of Saturn that have been untouched up until this point.
- It will get the closest look ever at Saturn's outer rings.

NOTE:

- Cassini discovered previously unknown moons in orbit within the planet's rings. These include Methone, Pallene, Polydeuces, Daphnis, Anthe and Aegaeon.
- One of its most important discovery was Enceladus – a frozen moon that shoots out icy jets as it gets warped by Saturn's gravity.

IIT MADRAS, INDIAN ARMY SIGN MOU TO STRENGTHEN CRITICAL TECHNOLOGICAL AREAS

- The Indian Institute of Technology, Madras (IITM) and the Indian Army have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to identify the critical technological areas that can be enhanced in the armed forces.

BRABO - INDIA'S FIRST EVER INDUSTRIAL ARTICULATED ROBOT

- TAL Manufacturing Solutions of Tata Motors, launched India's first industrial-articulated robot and it is named as "**BRABO**".

About BRABO:

- BRABO is meant to complement the human workforce and perform repetitive, high volume, dangerous and time-consuming tasks from raw material handling to packaging of finished products.
- This is the first time that an industrial robot has been designed and manufactured in India.
- It is expected to increase productivity by 15-30%, with a payback period of 15 to 18 months.
- BRABO- BRAVO ROBOT : It has been developed indigenously for MSME in India.

ISRO TO LAUNCH FIVE SATELLITES BY 2017- END TO BOOST COMMUNICATION CAPABILITY

- The Indian Space Research Organisation (**ISRO**) will launch **five communication satellites** by the year-end .

- The satellites launched by the ISRO and their purposes in the areas of weather forecasting, disaster management, space exploration, geo-spatial applications, education and agriculture .
- ISRO and the Government has made GPS - aided Geo Augmented Navigation (**GASAN**) mandatory for all aircraft by 2019 to ensure safety and precision landing.

SCIENTISTS CREATE ARTIFICIAL WOMB

- Researchers have created a **fluid - filled** transparent container called the biobag to simulate how fetuses float in amniotic fluid inside the uterus of their mothers.
- So far the device has only been tested on **fetal lambs**.

A SAFER ALTERNATIVE TO LITHIUM-ION BATTERIES

- Researchers at the U.S. Naval Research Laboratory (NRL) developed the **nickel-zinc (Ni-Zn)** batteries.
- These batteries are made up of three-dimensional **Zn "sponge"**.
- These batteries replaces the normally or traditionally used **powdered zinc anode or positively charged electrode** in the batteries.

BENEFITS OF NI-ZN BATTERIES

- With Zn, the battery provides an energy content and rechargeability.
- **Zinc-nickel battery** provides nearly the same electrical jolt, but not the fire risk of Li-ion cells.

RAJNATH SINGH TO INAUGURATE 'BHARAT KE VEER' WEB PORTAL

- Home Minister Rajnath Singh will launch a "**Bharat ke Veer**" web portal and mobile application that will enable donors **contribute** towards the **families of soldiers** who lost their lives in the line on duty.

BHIM-AADHAR -A DIGITAL PAYMENT PLATFORM

- Enroute to the digital payments gaining the proportions of a mass movement, the Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched a series of initiatives on the 126th birth anniversary of Dr. Bhim Rao Ambedkar in Nagpur.
- He launched the **BHIM Aadhaar** platform for merchants, Cash back and Referral bonus schemes for BHIM and declared about 75 townships going less-cash.

- The Prime Minister felicitated the winners of the Mega draw of the two major incentive schemes to promote digital payments- Lucky Grahak Yojana and Digidhan VyapaarYojana..
- The Prime Minister also launched two new incentive schemes for the **BHIM - Cash back** and **Referral bonus** - with an outlay of Rs. 495 crore for a period of six months.

GOOGLE LAUNCHES AERO FOR HYPER LOCAL SERVICES IN INDIA

- Google has launched an app named Aero in India to cater to restaurant delivery and home services. This is the first time that Google is entering the business of food delivery and home services in India.
- However, the new app by Google- Aero is an accreditor that provides services through other startups in the domain. Google Aero app work as an aggregator for the users to find restaurants nearby and order food and fix appointments with local electricians, painters, cleaners, plumbers, and others.

ONLINE STATEMENT OF TRANSACTION (E-SOT) AND THE E-PRAN CARD LAUNCHED

- With a view to digitally empower the Atal Pension Yojana (APY) subscribers and improve the quality of service, the facility of online viewing of the statement of transaction (e-SOT) and also the e-PRAN card have been launched.

NOTE;

- The Atal Pension Yojana (APY) was launched by the Prime Minister of India Narendra Modi on 09th May, 2015 and became operational from 1st June, 2015.
- APY is available for all citizens of India in the age group of 18-40 years.
- Under the APY, the subscribers would receive a minimum guaranteed pension of Rs. 1000 to Rs. 5000 per month from the age of 60 years, depending on their contributions, which depends on the age of the subscriber at the time of joining the APY.

MSEFC PORTAL AND MYMSME APP;

- M. Venkaiah Naidu, Union Minister for Urban Development, Housing & Urban Poverty Alleviation and Union Minister for Information & Broadcasting launched two important initiatives of the Ministry of MSME, viz. Micro and Small Enterprises Facilitation Council (MSEFC) portal and MyMSME Mobile App on the occasion of the 15th Meeting of the National Board for MSME.

HARYANA LAUNCHES E-SEWA APP TO PROVIDE INFO ABOUT WELFARE SCHEMES

- Haryana Chief Minister **Manohar Lal Khattar** launched a mobile application to inform people about various welfare schemes and programmes of the state government.

CHANDRABABU NAIDU LAUNCHES CM CONNECT APP

- Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu launched a new mobile app CM Connect, which runs on Microsoft's Kaizala platform, at Secretariat at Velagapudi.

KILKARI

- **Haryana launches mobile , Kilkari app to create awareness among pregnant women**
- The National Health Mission (NHM) in **Haryana** has launched a mobile-based application **Kilkari** to create awareness among pregnant women, parents and health workers.

GOVERNMENT LAUNCH E-CHALLAN AND M-PARIVAHAN APPS TO REPORT TRAFFIC VIOLATIONS

- The **Union Ministry of Road Transport and Highways** has launched two mobile applications - **e-challan** and **m-parivahan** to provide a comprehensive digital solution for enforcement of traffic rules.
- These applications will provide access to various services and information, and enable citizens **to report any traffic violation or road accident**.

URJA MITRA

- URJA MITRA App was launched recently by the Ministry of Power, empowers citizens by **real time information sharing on power supply**.
- The app provides for State Power Distribution utilities to circularize power usage information to urban/rural power consumers across India through SMS notifications.

"NAKSHE" PORTAL

- A new web portal "nakshe" was launched by the Union Minister for Science & Technology and Earth Sciences, Dr. Harsh Vardhan in New Delhi, on the occasion of 250th anniversary of Survey of India(SoI).
- Topographic maps or Open Series Maps (OSM) containing natural and man-made geographical features including terrain or topography are prepared by the SoI since its inception in 1767 and is in conformity with the National Map Policy-2005.

- These OSM maps have been made available for free download from “nakshe” web portal in pdf format on 1:50,000 scale through Aadhaar enabled user authentication process, in line with Digital India programme of the Government of India.

PNB LAUNCHES THREE NEW PRODUCTS

- On the occasion of its 123rd Foundation Day, Punjab National Bank (PNB) launched three new products. These are: automated electronic toll collection to facilitate hassle-free toll payment/collection; credit card mobile app; and a scheme for financing grid connected roof solar power project

Short News :

- 🚩 **Amazon India** has launched an initiative called '**Amazon Classroom**', a virtual training programme to help teach them the nuances of online selling.
- 🚩 **Facebook** launched its digital assistant named "**M**" for US users of its **Messenger** application.

SPORTS

WISDEN'S KING OF THE WILLOW - VIRAT KOHLI

- India's **Virat Kohli** was named **Wisden's Leading Cricketer** in the World for 2016.
- Kohli was additionally declared **Wisden India Almanack's (Annual Publication) Cricketer of the Year** for the second time in its 2017 edition.

SACHIN TENDULKAR LAUNCHES '100MB CRICKET' APP

- The app allows its users to interact live with Sachin Tendulkar, while giving them access to latest scores, schedules & player statistics.
- The app features post-match scenes for each IPL match along with predictions and analysis.
- **AND SOUTH AFRICAN CRICKETER AB DE VILLIERS ALSO LAUNCHED HIS OWN MOBILE APP 'AB 17'.**

WOMEN'S PLAYER OF THE YEAR AWARD

- Indian Women's T20I captain **Harmanpreet Kaur** has been given **Sydney Thunder's Women's Player of the Year award** for the second season of the Women's Big Bash League.
- Harmanpreet earlier had become the **first Indian cricketer** to play in Australia's Big Bash League, when she was picked by the team last year.

SINDHU LIFTS INDIA OPEN BADMINTON TITLE 2017

- Olympic silver-medallist **P.V. Sindhu** defeated **Carolina Marin** at the **India Open badminton championship** in **New Delhi**. 21-year-old Ace Indian Shuttler PV Sindhu will take on Olympic champion Carolina Marin at the Siri Fort Indoor Stadium in New Delhi.

About India Open badminton championship

- The India Open (officially titled as the **Yonex-Sunrise India Open**) is an annual badminton event which has been held in India since 2008.

BWF RANKINGS – P V SINDHU REACHED WORLD NO.2

- P V Sindhu achieved a **career best world number two ranking** in the latest Badminton World Federation (BWF) rankings.
- The 21-year-old shuttler from Hyderabad became only the second Indian woman after Saina Nehwal.

ATHLETICS

- **Kenya's Jepkosgei smashes three world records at Prague Half Marathon**
- **Usain Bolt successor 12-yr-old Jamaican sprinter 'Brianna Lyston' runs 200m in 23 secs, 2 secs short of world record**

32ND EDITION OF MIAMI OPEN TENNIS TOURNAMENT 2017 (ALSO KNOWN AS THE MIAMI MASTERS 2017)

- It was recently held at Key Biscayne, Florida, United States, **presented by Itau.**
- **2017 MIAMI OPEN WINNERS LIST:-**
- **Men's Singles :** Roger Federer (Switzerland)
- **Women's Singles :** Johanna Konta (United Kingdom)
- **Men's Doubles :** Łukasz Kubot (Poland) / Marcelo Melo (Brazil)
- **Women's Doubles :** Gabriela Dabrowski (Canada) / Xu Yifan (China)

BOXER SHYAM KUMAR WINS GOLD MEDAL AT THAILAND INTERNATIONAL

- Indian boxer K Shyam Kumar has won gold medal at the Thailand International Tournament in the 49- kilogram category held in Bangkok. It was Kumar's second gold medal (first gold medal in the 2015)

INDIA-AUSTRALIA LAUNCH SPORTS PARTNERSHIP IN MUMBAI

- India and Australia launched **Sports partnership in Mumbai** aimed at increasing cooperation in sports.
- The Partnership, which was launched by the Union Minister for Youth Affairs & Sports **Mr. Vijay Goel** and the visiting Australian **Prime Minister Mr. Malcolm Turnbull**, in the presence of cricketing legend **Sachin Tendulkar**.

Key Facts:

- It will advance India – Australia cooperation in four areas:
- Athlete and coach training and development
- Sport science
- Sport governance and integrity
- Grassroots participation.

A 101-YEAR-OLD MANN KAUR, TO REPRESENT INDIA AT 'OLYMPICS FOR VETERANS'

- **Mann Kaur**, a 101-year-old great-grandmother, will represent India at the **World Masters Games**, considered as the "Olympics for veterans", in **Auckland from April 21**. Kaur will **compete in the 100-metre, 200-metre, shot put and javelin events** in the 100-plus category. Currently training at Punjabi University, Patiala, Kaur is presently clocking 1 minute, 10 seconds in the 100-metre sprint.

PANKAJ ADVANI WINS ASIAN BILLIARDS CHAMPIONSHIP TITLE

- Sixteen-time world champion Pankaj Advani won his seventh Asian title of the Asian Billiards Championship, in Chandigarh.
- This is his sixth Asian Billiards and seventh overall Asian championship. The other title being 6-red snooker which he won last year.

CRICKET REMOVED FROM 2018 ASIAN GAMES PROGRAMME

- One of the sports to miss out from the programme list of the **2018 Asian Games in Jakarta and Palembang** is **cricket**.
- Apart from **cricket, skateboarding, sambo and surfing** are among the other sports which have been removed from the programme in order to reduce the burden on Indonesian organisers.

BOSTON MARATHON COMPLETED BY VISUALLY IMPAIRED INDIAN RUNNER SAGAR BAHETI

- **Sagar Baheti from Bangalore**, has become the first visually impaired Indian runner to complete the historic Boston Marathon.
- **Boston Marathon is the world's oldest, most competitive** and the hardest marathon to qualify for.

Notes

- ✓ 31-year-old **Baheti** became the first visually impaired Indian to participate in the famous marathon.
- ✓ Baheti completed the approximately 42.16 km distance in just over four hours.

JEHAN DARUVALA BECOMES 1ST INDIAN TO TAKE POLE IN FIA F3 EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIP

- **Jehan Daruvala**, 18-year-old product of Force India Academy, (FIA) became the first Indian to take pole in the **F3 (Formula - 3) European series**, securing the top spot on the starting grid for Race 1 of the second round of the championship in Monza, Italy.

INDIA WON 6 MEDALS IN 2ND LEG OF ASIAN GRAND PRIX ATHLETICS MEET

- India won **six** medals in the second leg of the Asian Grand Prix Athletics Meet in Jiaying, China.

Note;

- ✓ **Neena Varakil** won the **Gold Medal** in women's long jump.
- ✓ Javelin thrower **Neeraj Chopra** won the **Silver Medal**.
- ✓ **Manpreet Kaur** won the **Silver Medal** in women's Shot put.
- ✓ **Dutee Chand** won the **Silver Medal** in Women's 100 metre Race.
- ✓ **Tintu Luka** won the **Silver Medal** in the Women's 800 metre race.
- ✓ **Om Prakash Karhana** won the **Bronze Medal** in Men's Shot put.
- ✓ India had won **seven** medals, including a gold and 4 silver in the **first** leg.

INDIA WINS 16 MEDALS AT US OPEN KARATE CHAMPIONSHIP

- India finished with a rich haul of three gold, two silver and 11 bronze medals at the US Open Karate Championship held in Las Vegas.
- Shaifali Agarwal, Abhishek Sengupta won a gold medal, a silver in two different individual events. India also won a gold medal in the team event.
- The Indian team was led by Sensei Yashpal Singh Kalsi and Members of the Indian contingent -- Abhishek Sengupta, Rantej Singh, Harcharan Singh Chowhan and Shaifali Agarwal were trained under Sensei Kalsi.

ADITI ASHOK, SSP CHAWRASIA WIN GOLF INDUSTRY AWARDS

- **SSP Chawrasia** and **Aditi Ashok** were among the winners at the second **Golf Industry Association (GIA) Awards**.
- Aditi bagged Outstanding Achievement as a Player award.
- Chawrasia bagged the Award for the Men's Player of the Year.

MCC OFFERS LIFE MEMBERSHIP TO FORMER INDIA CAPTAIN SANDHYA AGARWAL

- The Marylebone Cricket Club (MCC) has offered honorary life membership to Sandhya Agarwal, former captain of the Indian women's Test team.

Short News :

- 🚩 The **Indian football team** achieved its best ever FIFA ranking in over two decades as it jumped to **101** in the latest list.
- 🚩 The **National Basketball Association (NBA)** has launched the first **NBA Basketball School** in **Mumbai**.
- 🚩 **India** sealed a 4-1 win against **Uzbekistan** in the second round of the **Davis Cup Asia/Oceania**
- 🚩 **Lewis Hamilton** claimed his **fifth win in Chinese Grand Prix 2017**
- 🚩 Indian shuttler **B Sai Praneeth** clinched his maiden Super Series title at the Singapore Open after defeating compatriot **K Srikanth** in a historic final.
- 🚩 **Nine-year-old Elinor from the West Midlands** designs chosen as mascots for the upcoming **IAAF World Championships** and **World Para Athletics**.

PERSONALITIES

Books and authors:

VEERAPPA MOILY PRESENTS COPY OF HIS NEW BOOK TO PRESIDENT

- Former Union minister and senior Congress leader **M Veerappa Moily** presented the first copy of his book '**The Flaming Tresses of Draupadi**' to President Pranab Mukherjee.
- The book Chronicles the epic character of Mahabharata, **Draupadi**.

THE DALAI LAMA LAUNCHES THE BOOK OCEAN AND BLUE MOUNTAINS

- The **Dalai Lama** released a book titled "**Ocean and Blue Mountains**"
- The book title refers 'Ocean' as His Holiness and 'Blue Mountains' as the people of Arunachal Pradesh and is a collection of memoirs of the special bond shared between the two.
- He also released a book titled – "**Crossing of the Frontiers**" describing his exile route from Tibet to India,

Short News :

- ✚ **Padma Vibhushan** recipient classical singer **Kishori Amonkar** passed away at the age of 84 at her house in **Mumbai**.
- ✚ As per **National Institute Ranking Framework** rankings, **Bengaluru's Indian Institute of Science** has been once again named as the best higher education institute in the country.
- ✚ **Mahendra Singh Dhoni** was named the chief executive officer of **Gulf Oil India** for a day.
- ✚ A top ranking leader of the outlawed Communist Party of India-Maoist [CPI-Maoist], **Narayan Sanyal** passed away
- ✚ Prime Minister Narendra Modi released a book '**Matoshree**', based on life of Maratha Queen **Ahilyabai Holkar**, authored by Lok Sabha Speaker **Sumitra Mahajan**.
- ✚ "The Entrepreneur's Guidebook," the book is authored by **Suresh Bharwani**
- ✚ **Luis de Assis Correia** has released his book "**Portuguese India and Mughal Relations 1510-1735**"
- ✚ Union Minister of Railways releases Book Titled "**Indian Railway- The weaving of a National Tapestry**"

DEFENCE

NEPAL, CHINA TO HOLD FIRST EVER MILITARY EXERCISE

- Nepal and China will hold the first-ever joint military exercise from April 17 with a special focus on combating terror and disaster management, the Nepal Army announced. The Military Exercise Named 'SAGARMATHA

INDO - MONGOLIAN JOINT EXERCISE : NOMADIC ELEPHANT

- Twelfth joint military Exercise of Indian and Mongolian armies is named as "Nomadic Elephant" is being conducted at Vairengte, Mizoram from 05 April 2017 till 18 April 2017.
- **Nomadic Elephant** is aimed at training the troops in Counter Insurgency & Counter Terrorism Operations under the United Nations mandate.

TU-142M ANTI-SUBMARINE AIRCRAFT

- Navy's flagship anti-submarine aircraft Tu-142M will be turned into a museum.
- The aircraft will be given to the Andhra Pradesh government to be converted into a museum and kept on the Beach Road close to the Submarine Kursura in Visakhapatnam.

THREE PAKISTAN COMMANDOS KILLED IN MID-SEA COLLISION OFF GUJARAT COAST

- In a freak accident in mid sea off the Gujarat coast, three commandos of the Pakistan Marine Security Agency (PMSA) lost their lives, one went missing and two rescued by the Indian Coast Guard after their boat capsized. Coast Guard ship *Arinjay*, on receiving a message of accident, reached the spot and found three bodies floating. Its personnel rescued two commandos

INDIA, RUSSIA TO UPGRADE MILITARY EXERCISES

- India and Russia have agreed to upgrade their annual Indra bilateral military exercise to a multilateral level involving the three services. This will be a first for India in bilateral military exercises with any other country.
- This year's edition of Indra exercises are scheduled to be held around October or November in Russia.

BRAHMOS LAND ATTACK SUPERSONIC CRUISE MISSILE TEST FIRED

- Indian Navy successfully undertook the firing of BrahMos Land Attack Supersonic Cruise Missile from a ship. It has been jointly developed by India and Russia
- This Missile was fired from Indian Naval Ship Teg, a Guided Missile Frigate, on a target on land.

AGNI III BALLISTIC MISSILE TEST FIRED

- India successfully test fired the 3,000-kilometer range **Agni-III ballistic missile** from **Abdul Kalam Island off Odisha coast**.
- The missile has a strike range of 3000 km to 5000 km and is capable of carrying both conventional and nuclear warheads upto 1.5 tonnes.

INDIA, FRANCE CARRY OUT JOINT NAVAL EXERCISE

- The **Indian Navy** has began a joint maritime exercise with the **French Navy** at the Mediterranean Sea to further deepen combat coordination between the two navies.
- Guided missile destroyer INS Mumbai, stealth frigate INS Trishul and fleet tanker INS Aditya are taking part in the '**Varuna**' exercise which will continue till April 30.

Note :

- The 'Varuna' series of exercises began in 2000 and have grown into an institutionalised form of interaction between the two navies.
- Bilateral exercises such as '**Garuda**', '**Shakti**' and '**Varuna**' have been a regular feature between the two nations.

GENERAL KNOWLEDGE

INDIAN NATIONAL CONGRESS

Important Points

| | |
|--|---|
| Indian National Congress was founded in the year | - 1885 |
| Indian National Congress was founded by | - Allan Octavian Hume |
| First session of Indian National Congress was held at | - Mumbai (1885) |
| Who was the Viceroy of British India when the Indian National Congress was founded | - Lord Dufferin |
| First woman president of Indian National Congress | - Mrs Annie Besant (1917) |
| First Indian woman president of Indian National Congress | - Mrs. Sarojini Naidu (1925) |
| Woman Presidents of Indian National Congress | - Mrs Annie Besant (1917), Mrs Sarojini Naidu (1925) and Mrs. Nellie Sengupta (1933) |
| First split of Indian National Congress | - 1907 at Surat session |
| First Englishmen to become president of Indian National Congress | - George Yule (1888) |
| Youngest president of Indian National Congress | - Maulana Abul Kalam Azad |
| First Muslim to become president of Indian National Congress | - Badrudin Tayabji (Madras, 1887) |
| National Song, Vande Mataram was first sung in the session | - Calcutta (1896) |
| First joint session of Indian National Congress and Muslim League | - Lucknow (1916) |
| Session of Indian National Congress where wearing of Khadi was made compulsory for its workers | - Mrs Annie Besant (1917) |
| National Anthem, Jana Gana Mana was first sung in the session | - Calcutta (1911) |
| The only session of Indian National Congress presided over by Mahatma Gandhi | - Belgaum (1924) |
| Session of Indian National Congress where demand for complete independence was made | - 1929 at Lahore |
| President of Indian National Congress at the time of Independence | - Acharya J B Kriplani (1946) |

INDIAN NATIONAL CONGRESS : SPLITS

Split 1 :

- The early phase of Congress from 1885 to 1905 was dominated by moderate ideology. Which did not believed in organizing mass movements. But partition of Bengal in 1905, and subsequent Swadeshi movement resulted in rise of mass movement.

- As a result in 1907 Congress was split into two halves – the moderate (Naram Dal) led by Gopal Krishna Gokhale and extremist (gram dal) led by Bal Gangadhar Tilak.
- In 1915, with efforts of Bal Gagadhar Tilak and Annie Beasant, extremist were allowed to rejoin Congress in December 19015. Later in 1916, Congress reached an agreement (Lucknow Pact) with Muslim League and joint session was held at Lucknow.

Split 2 :

- In 1919, British came up with Montagu-Chelmsford Reform under Government of India Act 1919. Indian nationalist were not happy with concessions and in demanded effective self-government instead. Some of the veterans led by Surendra Natha Banerjee were in favour accepting government proposals and founded **Indian liberal Federation**.

Split 3 :

- Non-Cooperation movement was withdrawn in Feb 1922 and Gandhiji was arrested and congress continued boycott of legislative councils. As time passed, hating inactivity of Congress, a group led by C.R. Das and Motilal Nehru suggested to end boycott of legislative councils in Gaya Session December, 1922.
- But the proposal was defeated and CR Das, Motilal Nehru resigned to form **Congress-Khilafat Swaraj Party**. The split was put to end by Gandhiji on 6-November 1924. When he signed joint statement with Das & Nehru that Swarajist would carry on work in legislatures on behalf of Congress Party.

Split 4 :

- In 1939' Subhas Chandra Bose, the elected president in both 1938 and 1939, resigned from the Congress over the selection on the working committee and formed The Forward Bloc as a new party within Congress.

THE FOUNDING YEARS (1885-1900)

| Session | Place | Date | President |
|--------------|-----------|------------------|--------------------------|
| 1st Session | Bombay | Dec. 28-30, 1885 | Womesh Chandra Bonnerjee |
| 2nd Session | Calcutta | Dec. 27-30, 1886 | Dadabhai Naoroji |
| 3rd Session | Madras | Dec. 27-30, 1887 | Badruddin Tyabji |
| 4th Session | Allahabad | Dec, 26-29, 1888 | George Yule |
| 5th Session | Bombay | Dec. 26-28, 1889 | Sir William Wedderburn |
| 6th Session | Calcutta | Dec. 26-30, 1890 | Pherozechah Mehta |
| 8th Session | Allahabad | Dec. 28-30, 1892 | Womesh Chandra Bonnerjee |
| 10th Session | Madras | Dec. 26-29, 1894 | Alfred Webb |
| 11th Session | Poona | Dec. 27-30, 1895 | Surendranath Banerjee |
| 12th Session | Calcutta | Dec. 28-31, 1896 | Rahimatullah M. Sayani |
| 13th Session | Amraoti | Dec. 27-29, 1897 | C. Sankaran Nair |
| 14th Session | Madras | Dec. 29-31, 1898 | Ananda Mohan Bose |
| 15th Session | Lucknow | Dec. 27-30, 1899 | Romesh Chunder Dutt |
| 16th Session | Lahore | Dec. 27-29, 1900 | N.G. Chandavarkar |
| 7th Session | Nagpur | Dec. 28-30, 1891 | P. Ananda Charlu |
| 9th Session | Lahore | Dec. 27-30, 1893 | Dadabhai Naoroji |

THE PRE INDEPENDENCE ERA (1900-1947)

| Session | Place | Date | President |
|-----------------------|-----------|----------------------------|--|
| 17th Session | Calcutta | Dec. 26-28, 1901 | Dinshaw Eduljee Wacha |
| 18th Session | Ahmedabad | Dec. 28-30, 1902 | Surendranath Banerjee |
| 19th Session | Madras | Dec. 28-30, 1903 | Lal Mohan Ghosh |
| 20th Session | Bombay | Dec. 26-28, 1904 | Sir Henry Cotton |
| 21st Session | Benares | Dec. 27-30, 1905 | Gopal Krishna Gokhale |
| 22nd Session | Calcutta | Dec. 26-29, 1906 | Dadabhai Naoroji |
| 23rd Session | Surat | Dec. 26-27, 1907 | approx Rash Behari Ghosh |
| 23rd Session (contd.) | Madras | Dec. 28-30, 1908 | Rash Behari Ghosh |
| 24th Session | Lahore | Dec. 27-29, 1909 | Madan Mohan Malaviya |
| 25th Session | Allahabad | Dec. 26-29, 1910 | Sir William Wedderburn |
| 26th Session | Calcutta | Dec. 26-28, 1911 | Bishan Narayan Dar |
| 28th Session | Karachi | Dec. 26-28, 1913 | N. Syed Mohammed Bahadur |
| 30th Session | Bombay | Dec. 27-29, 1915 | Satyendra Prasanna Sinha |
| 31st Session | Lucknow | Dec. 26-30, 1916 | Ambica Charan Mazumdar |
| 32nd Session | Calcutta | Dec. 26-29, 1917 | Annie Besant |
| (Special Session) | Bombay | Aug. 29-Sept. 1, 1918 | Syed Hasan Imam |
| 33rd Session | Delhi | Dec. 26-31, 1918 | Madan Mohan Malaviya |
| 34th Session | Amritsar | Dec. 26-30, 1919 | Motilal Nehru |
| 35th Session | Nagpur | Dec. 26-31, 1920 | C. Vijayaraghavachariar 1 |
| 36th Session | Ahmedabad | Dec. 27-28, 1921 | Hakim Ajmal Khan (Acting President for C.R. Das) |
| 37th Session | Gaya | Dec. 26-31, 1922 | C.R. Das |
| (Special Session) | Delhi | | Abul Kalam Azad |
| 39th Session | Belgaum | Dec. 26-27, 1924 | M.K. Gandhi |
| 40th Session | Kanpur | Dec. 26-28, 1925 | Shri B.K. Hariprasad |
| 41st Session | Gauhati | Dec. 26-28, 1926 | S. Srinivasa Iyengar |
| 42nd Session | Madras | Dec. 26-28, 1927 | M.A. Ansari |
| 43rd Session | Calcutta | Dec. 29, 1928-Jan. 1, 1929 | Motilal Nehru |
| 45th Session | Karachi | Mar. 29-31, 1931 | Vallabbhai J. Patel |
| 46th Session | Delhi | Apr. 24, 1932 (Banned) | Ranchod Lal Amrit Lal |
| 47th Session | Calcutta | March, 1933 (Banned) | Nellie Sen Gupta |
| 48th Session | Bombay | Oct. 24-28, 1934 | Rajendra Prasad |
| 51st Session | Haripura | Feb. 19-21, 1938 | Subhash Chandra Bose |
| 52nd Session | Tripuri | Mar. 10-12, 1939 | Subhash Chandra Bose |
| 53rd Session | Ramgarh | Mar. 19-20, 1940 | Abul Kalam Azad |
| 54th Session | Meerut | Nov. 23-24, 1946 | J.B. Kripalani |

THE POST INDEPENDENCE ERA (1947-1990)

| Session | Place | Date | President |
|--------------|----------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|
| 55th Session | Jaipur | Dec. 18, 1948 | B. Pattabhi Sitaramayya |
| 56th Session | Nasik | Sept. 21-22, 1950 | Purushottam Das Tandon |
| 60th Session | Avadi (Madras) | Jan. 21-23, 1955 approx. | Shri Bharat Kumar |

| | | | |
|-----------------------------|------------|----------------------------|----------------------|
| 61st Session | Amritsar | Feb. 11-12, 1956 approx. | Shri Bharat Kumar |
| 62nd Session | Indore | Jan. 5-6, 1957 approx. | Shri Bharat Kumar |
| 63rd Session | Gauhati | Jan.18-19, 1958 | Shri Bharat Kumar |
| 64th Session | Nagpur | Jan. 9-11, 1959 | Shri Bharat Kumar |
| 65th Session | Bangalore | Jan. 16-17, 1960 | N. Sanjiva Reddy |
| 66th Session | Bhavnagar | Jan. 6-7, 1961 | N. Sanjiva Reddy |
| 71st Session | Hyderabad | Jan. 10-11, 1968 | S. Nijalingappa |
| 72nd Session | Faridabad | Apr. 27-28, 1969 | S. Nijalingappa |
| 73rd Session | Bombay | Dec. 28-29, 1969 | Jagjivan Ram |
| 74th Session | Calcutta | Dec. 28-29, 1972 | Shankar Dayal Sharma |
| 75th Session | Chandigarh | Dec. 31, 1975-Jan. 1, 1976 | D.K. Barooah |
| 76th Session | New Delhi | Jan. 1-2, 1978 | Indira Gandhi |
| 77th Session | Calcutta | Dec. 29-30, 1983 | Indira Gandhi |
| 78th (Centenary) Session | Bombay | December 28, 1985 | Rajiv Gandhi |

THE POST LIBERALIZATION ERA (1990-2010)

| Session | Place | Date | President |
|-------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------|
| 79th Session | Tirupati (A.P.) | April 14-16, 1992 | P.V. Narasimha Rao |
| Special Session | Surajkund (Haryana) | March 27-28, 1993 | P.V. Narasimha Rao |
| Special Session | Talkatora Stadium, New Delhi | June 10- 11, 1994 | P.V. Narasimha Rao |
| 80th Session | Calcutta | August 8-10, 1997 | Sitaram Kesri |
| Special Session | New Delhi | April 6, 1998 | Smt. Sonia Gandhi |
| Chintan Shivir | Panchmarhi (M.P.) | Sept. 4-6, 1998 | Smt. Sonia Gandhi |
| Special session | Talkatora Stadium, New Delhi | December 18, 1998 | Smt. Sonia Gandhi |
| Special Session | Talkatora Stadium, New Delhi | May 25, 1999 | Smt. Sonia Gandhi |
| 81st Session | Bangalore | February 14, 16, 2001 | Smt. Sonia Gandhi |
| Chintan Shivir | Shimla (H.P.) | July 9, 10, 11, 2003 | Smt. Sonia Gandhi |
| Special session | Talkatora Stadium, New Delhi | August 21, 2004 | Smt. Sonia Gandhi |
| 82nd Session | Hyderabad | January 2006 | Smt. Sonia Gandhi |
| 83rd Plenary Session | New Delhi | 2010 | Smt. Sonia Gandhi |
| Chintan Shivir | Jaipur | January 18-19, 2013-08-24 | Smt. Sonia Gandhi |

WORLD'S ONLY FLOATING NATIONAL PARK IS IN INDIA

- The **Keibul Lamjao National Park**, placed in the Loktak Lake in **Manipur, India**, is known as the **single floating national park in the world**.
- The region is defined by '**phumdis**', a Manipuri word relating to floating mats of soil and vegetation.
- Among various animal species, the park is a roof to the brow-antlered **deer**, which is regionally known as the '**Sangai**'.
- The park which was initially declared to be a sanctuary in 1966, was subsequently declared to be a national park in **1977** through a gazette notification.

INTERNATIONAL ENERGY AGENCY (IEA)

- Located in **Paris**
- Autonomous intergovernmental organization
- Established in **1974** in the wake of the 1973 oil crisis
- The IEA was initially dedicated to responding to physical disruptions in the supply of oil, as well as serving as an information source on statistics about the international oil market and other energy sectors.
- The IEA acts as a **policy adviser** to its member states, but also works with non-member countries, especially China, India, and Russia
- India has become an **associate member** of IEA
- The Agency's mandate has broadened to focus on the "3Es" of effectual energy policy:
 - ✓ energy security,
 - ✓ economic development, and
 - ✓ environmental protection
- The IEA has a broad role in **promoting alternate energy sources** (including renewable energy), rational energy policies, and multinational energy technology co-operation

WTO

- The World Trade Organization (WTO) is an intergovernmental organization which **regulates international trade**.
- The WTO officially commenced on **1 January 1995** under the **Marrakesh Agreement**, signed by 123 nations on 15 April 1994, replacing the **General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT)**, which commenced in 1948.
- WTO is headquartered in **Geneva**, Switzerland.
- **Roberto Azevedo** is the Director General of WTO, which has **164 members**

INSOLVENCY AND BANKRUPTCY BOARD OF INDIA

- The Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI) is the regulator for overseeing insolvency proceedings and entities like Insolvency Professional Agencies (IPA), Insolvency Professionals (IP) and Information Utilities (IU) in India.
- It was established on 1 October 2016 and given statutory powers through the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, which was passed by Lok Sabha on 5 May 2016.
- It covers Individuals, Companies, Limited Liability Partnerships and Partnership firms.
- Madhusudan Sahoo is the Chairperson of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India.

SUMMIT

G20 DIGITAL MINISTERIAL MEET

- The G20 Digital Ministerial Meeting was held in **Dusseldorf, Germany**.
- It concluded with adaptation of declaration on **“Shaping Digitalisation for an Interconnected World”**.

About G20:

- Its members include Australia, Argentina, Brazil, Canada, China, India, France, Germany, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, South Korea, Mexico, Saudi Arabia, Russia, Turkey, South Africa, UK, US and EU.
- The ministerial conference was held according to the G20 Task Force on the digital economy established in G20 summit held in Hangzhou, China in 2016.

G-7 FOREIGN MINISTERS MEETING HELD IN LUCCA, ITALY

- The G7 Ministers of Foreign Affairs held their annual meet on 10-11 April in Lucca.
- A traditional meeting held once a year between the seven most industrialised countries of the world with the participation of the European Union, the G7 Foreign Ministers Meeting usually deals with the most urging problems in the international agenda.
- This year in Lucca, under the Italian Presidency, Ministers will focus on the common fight against terrorism, the situation in Libya and Ukraine, the latest worrying developments in North Korea.

Note :

- The Group of 7 (G7) is a group consisting of Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the United Kingdom, and the United States. The European Union is also represented within the G7.
- The 42nd G7 summit was held in Japan in May 2016. 43rd G7 summit will be held in Taormina, Italy in 2017.

IMPORTANT INDEX

INDIA JUMPS TO 8TH PLACE ON GLOBAL FDI CONFIDENCE INDEX

- India has jumped one spot to 8th rank in the 2017 A.T. Kearney Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) Confidence Index.
- While US topped the list, Germany and China were at the second and third respectively. United Kingdom and Canada make up the rest of top 5.
- The Index is an annual analysis of how political, economic, and regulatory changes will likely affect FDI inflows into countries in the coming years.

INDIA JUMPS 12 SPOTS IN WEF'S GLOBAL TRAVEL & TOURISM RANKING

- The **Travel & Tourism Competitiveness Report 2017** has been released by the **World Economic Forum**.

Performance of India:

- India is ranked **40** among 136 countries.
- India is one of the countries that improved the most as it gained 12 places in Asia.
- India has seen continued growth in international arrivals over the past 15 years, reaching the 8 million mark in 2015.

Global scenario:

- In the global ranking **Spain, France and Germany** were ranked at the top three positions, making them the most tourism friendly economies.

INDIA WILL GROW AT 7.2% THIS YEAR: WORLD BANK

- A World Bank report said that the Indian economy is expected to grow from 6.8% in 2016 to 7.2% by 2017.
 - It said growth is expected to further gather momentum by 2019.
 - The report also confirms that South Asia remains the fastest-growing region in the world.

Note

- ✓ The World Bank is an international financial institution that provides loans to countries of the world for capital programs.
- ✓ It comprises two institutions: the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD), and the International Development Association (IDA).
- ✓ The World Bank is a component of the World Bank Group, which is part of the United Nations system.
- ✓ It was established in July 1945. It has 189 Members.
- ✓ Jim Yong Kim is the present President of the World Bank. It is headquartered in Washington D.C.

INDIA IS NOW WORLD'S FIFTH LARGEST MILITARY SPENDER

- **India's** military expenditure grew around 8.5 per cent in 2016, making it the world's **fifth largest** spender at \$55.9 billion.
- According to figures by the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (**Sipri**),
- **US** remains the **world's largest** military spender registering a growth of 1.7 per cent between 2015 and 2016 to \$611 billion.
- **China** was **second** largest spender in 2016.
- The **third** largest military spender was **Russia**, while **Saudi Arabia** dropped to **fourth** position in 2016 from third in 2015.

WADA DOPING CHARTS - INDIA RANKS 3RD FOR THIRD YEAR

- Sporting minnows **India** has been ranked **third** for the **third year** in a row in a doping violation report published by **World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA)** for **2015** with **117 athletes** from the country being punished after testing positive for banned substances.
- India followed **Russian Federation (176)** and **Italy (129)** at third spot in the doping violation chart released by the WADA, the same position as in the reports of 2013 and 2014.

About WADA

- The World Anti-Doping Agency is a foundation initiated by the International Olympic Committee based in Canada to promote, coordinate and monitor the fight against drugs in sports.
- **Headquarters:** Montreal, Canada

APPOINTMENT

MUKULITA VIJAYAWARGIYA

- **Mukulita Vijayawargiya** appointed as full Time Member of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI)
- **Sunita Sharma** and **B Venugopal** were appointed as Managing Directors in Life Insurance Corporation of India.

JUSTICE INDIRA BANERJEE

- **Justice Indira Banerjee**, a sitting judge of the **Delhi High Court**, has been appointed as the **new Chief Justice of the Madras High Court**. Indira Banerjee will succeed **Justice Sanjay Kishan Kaul**, who was elected to the Supreme Court on February 18.
- The Union Government has appointed **Girish Shankar**, Secretary of the Department of Heavy Industry as chairman of newly constituted National Board of Electric Mobility (NBEM)

Short News

- ✚ The Reserve Bank of India has appointed Smt. **Malvika Sinha** as **Executive Director** Sunaina Singh has been appointed as a new Vice Chancellor of Nalanda University.
- ✚ **Ms. Vanaja N. Sarna** has been appointed as Chairman, **Central Board of Excise and Customs (CBEC)**.
- ✚ Bollywood star **Shah Rukh Khan** will be honored at the **60th San Francisco International Film Festival (SFILM)** on **April 14** at the Castro Theater.
- ✚ Senior IPS Officer **Geeta Johari** was appointed as new Director General of Police (DGP) of Gujarat. With this, she became first woman IPS officer to be appointed as DGP of the state.
- ✚ **Rajiv Kumar Chander** was appointed as **Ambassador** and **Permanent Representative** of India to the **United Nations** Offices in **Geneva**.
- ✚ **UNHCR**, the **UN Refugee Agency**, appointed the internationally acclaimed actress and philanthropist **Kristin Davis** as its Goodwill Ambassador.
- ✚ **Mukta Dutta Tomar** has been appointed as the next Ambassador of India to the Federal Republic of Germany.
- ✚ **Laos's National Assembly** appointed Communist Party chief **Bounnhang Vorachit** as the country's new president
- ✚ **B.N.Mohapatra** has been appointed as the new **Financial Commissioner (FC) (Railways)** and ex-officio Secretary to the Government of India
- ✚ Senior IPS officer **Rajiv Rai Bhatnagar** was appointed as the new Director General of the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF).
- ✚ The Haryana Government appointed senior IPS officer **Baljit Singh Sandhu** as the new Director General of Haryana Police (DGP)