

Current Affairs Of August 2017

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Contents

National.....	2
International.....	16
Appointments or Resign/Retired.....	21
Honours/ Awards.....	23
Sports.....	25
Obituaries.....	29
Important Days with theme.....	30

National

Delhi Metro Declared as World's first Green Metro i. The Delhi Metro Railway Corporation (DMRC) was recently declared as the world's first green metro after it added a green certification for all its major buildings and installations. DMRC was also awarded the platinum rating for its 10 residential colonies for adherence to green building norms by the Indian Green Building Council (IGBC).

ii. The declaration was made during National Conference on Green Metro Systems by the IGBC. **Important Takeaways from Above News-**

- The Managing Director of DMRC is Mangu Singh.
- Prem C. Jain is the Chairman of IGBC.

Swachh Survekshan-2018 launched to assess sanitation in all 4,041 cities and towns of the country

i. Central Government launched the third cleanliness survey 'Swachh Survekshan-2018' to rank all the 4,041 cities and towns of the country based on infrastructure development for improved sanitation services and their sustainability, outcomes, citizen connect and visible impact on ground.



ii. Under the survey, launched by Minister of Housing and Urban Affairs, 500 cities with more than 1 lakh population and state and UT capitals will have all-India ranking. Also, 3,541 cities with less than 1 lakh population will have state and zonal rankings.

Mukesh Ambani Becomes Asia's Second-Richest Person

i. Mukesh Ambani has elbowed past Li Ka-shing to become Asia's second-richest man as investors rallied behind his efforts to arm India's poor with cheap data-loaded phones. The chairman of Reliance Industries Ltd (RIL) has added \$12.1 billion to his wealth in 2017, according to the Bloomberg Billionaires Index.

ii. He passed Li Ka-shing, whose empire spans telecommunications, retail, and ports. Jio took just nine months after launching with a free introductory offer to rope in 117.3 million users and become India's fourth-largest operator, according to government data.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- Reliance Industries Ltd (RIL) was established in 1966 in Maharashtra.
- The owner of Alibaba, Jack Ma is the Richest Person in Asia.

Monetary Policy: RBI cuts policy rate by 25 basis points to 6%

i. Monetary Policy Committee (MPC), headed by Urjit Patel, decided to reduce the Policy Repo Rate under the liquidity adjustment facility (LAF) by 25 basis points from 6.25 per cent to 6.0 per cent with immediate effect.

ii. Consequently, the reverse repo rate under the LAF stands adjusted to 5.75 per cent, and the marginal standing facility (MSF) rate and the Bank Rate to 6.25 per cent.

Airtel Payment Bank ties up with HPCL for ATM services

i. Airtel Payments Bank, India's first payments bank has announced a strategic partnership with Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL) to give further boost to digital payments in the country and to add to customer convenience.



ii. All 14,000 HPCL fuel stations will act as banking points for Airtel Payments Bank. All Airtel Payments Bank customers would be able to access a range of convenient banking services at these fuel stations like opening new accounts, make cash deposits and withdrawals facility, and transfer money.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- Shashi Arora is the present MD and CEO of Airtel Payment Bank.
- First Airtel Payment Bank was opened in Rajasthan.

Supreme Court bans use of Five Metals in Firecrackers

i. The Supreme Court of India imposed a ban on the use of five harmful metals viz lithium, mercury, arsenic, antimony, and lead in firecrackers. The bench was headed by Justice Madan B Lokur.

ii. The Supreme Court maintained that it is the responsibility of the Petroleum and Explosives Safety Organisation (PESO) to ensure compliance of ban particularly in Sivakasi in Tamil Nadu where there are a large number of firecracker manufacturers.

iii. The court asked CPCB (Central Pollution Control Board) and PESO to make collaborative efforts for setting up standards with regards to air pollution caused by the bursting of fire crackers.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- PESO is a department that controls and administers manufacture, storage, transport and handling of explosives, petroleum, compressed gasses and other hazardous substances in India.
- It is headquartered at Nagpur, Maharashtra.

SBI debit cards now on Samsung Pay app

i. Smartphone-maker Samsung, which recently launched its digital wallet app Samsung Pay in India, has tied up with State Bank of India to store higher variants of SBI debit cards on the app.

ii. This collaboration turns the Samsung smartphones into electronic card-holders and users can pay at point-of-sale (PoS) terminals with just a tap on the cards stored in Samsung Pay. Samsung Pay works on 2.5 million PoS card machines across the country through its magnetic secure transmission (MST) technology.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- Samsung Electronics Co. Ltd. is Headquartered in South Korea.
- Lee Kun-hee is the Chairman of the Samsung Group.

SEBI forms committee headed by T K Viswanathan on fair market conduct

i. Regulator SEBI has set up a committee on 'fair market conduct' which will suggest measures for improving surveillance of the markets and strengthen rules for trades.

ii. The panel, under the **chairmanship of former law secretary T K Viswanathan**, would suggest measures for improvement in PIT (Prohibition of Insider Trading) norms, PFTUP (Prohibition of Fraudulent and Unfair Trade Practices) regulations and mainly related to 'trading plans' and handling of 'unpublished price sensitive information' during takeovers.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- Ajay Tyagi is the present chairman of SEBI.
- Headquarter of SEBI is in Mumbai.
- SEBI full form is Securities and Exchange Board of India.

Humraaz app: Army to launch app for soldiers

i. The Indian Army has developed a mobile application named 'Humraaz' through which serving soldiers can track details like postings and promotions. Through the app, soldiers can also view their monthly salary slips and the Form 16 and also download them.

ii. The mobile app has been developed in-house by the Army and will be launched in the second week of August for prompt communication of information to junior commissioned officers and other personnel.



Important Takeaways from Above News-

- The current Chief of Army Staff (COAS) is General Bipin Rawat.

India permitted to construct Kishanganga, Ratle projects under Indus Water Treaty: World Bank

i. World Bank allowed India to construct hydroelectric power facilities on tributaries of the Jhelum and Chenab rivers with certain restrictions under the 1960 Indus Waters Treaty (IWT).

ii. Pakistan opposes the construction of the Kishanganga (330 megawatts) and Ratle (850 megawatts) hydroelectric power plants being built by India in Jammu and Kashmir.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- Headquarter of World Bank is in Washington, D.C., United States.

IRCTC Launches Book Now, Pay Later Scheme For Tatkal Tickets

i. Customers can book their Tatkal railway ticket and choose to **pay later** under the new scheme announced by the **Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corp (IRCTC)**.

ii. Till now, this service was available only for general reservations. Now, the users can use 'pay on delivery' option to save payment time, increasing their chances of booking a confirmed ticket under the Tatkal quota.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- Current railway minister is Piyush Goyal.
- Dr. A.K. Manocha is present Chairman & Managing Director of IRCTC.

Justice B.N Srikrishna to head committee to study issues related to data protection

i. The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) has appointed an expert panel committee that would study various issues relating to data protection in the country and will suggest a draft data protection Bill.



ii. It is a **10 member panel** and it is headed by former Supreme court Judge **Justice B N Srikrishna**.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- Ravi Shankar Prasad is the present Electronics and Information Technology minister.

Lok Sabha passes Bill to replace NPA Ordinance

i. The Lok Sabha gave its nod for a Bill to replace the **NPA Ordinance** promulgated in May 2017. The Banking Regulation (Amendment) Bill 2017 sought to amend the Banking Regulation Act, 1949, for this purpose.

ii. The NPA Ordinance had conferred powers on the Centre for authorising the Reserve Bank of India to issue directions to banks to initiate the insolvency resolution process in respect of a default, under the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code 2016.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- Sumitra Mahajan is the Speaker of Lok Sabha.

Lok Sabha Passes Bill to Raise NABARD's Capital to Rs30,000 crore

i. A bill to enable exit of Reserve Bank of India (RBI) from Nabard and increase authorized capital of the development institution six times to Rs 30,000 crore was passed by the Lok Sabha.



Important Points About the Bill-

1. Increase in capital of NABARD: At present the authorized capital of Nabard is Rs 5,000 crore and there is a proposal to increase it to Rs 30,000 crore.
2. Transfer of the RBI's share to the Union Government: At present in Nabard, the Centre has a share of 99.6% and the RBI has the remaining share.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- NABARD was established in 1982.
- The Headquarter of NABARD is in Mumbai.
- Harsh Kumar Bhanwala is the Chairman of NABARD.

NCLT Approves Airtel-Telenor Merger

i. The National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) has approved the proposed merger between Bharti Airtel and Telenor India.

ii. Airtel would take over its spectrum in all seven circles — Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Maharashtra, Gujarat, UP (East), UP (West) and Assam. It would also acquire its licences and operations, including its employees and customer base of 44 million.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- Chairman and MD of Airtel is Sunil Bharti Mittal.

Govt inks MoA to set up IRRI's regional centre in Varanasi

i. The Agriculture Ministry signed a Memorandum of Association (MoA) for setting up a regional centre of the global rice research institute IRRI in Varanasi to develop high-yielding rice varieties.

ii. The Philippines-based International Rice Research Institute (IRRI), which has offices in 17 countries, is known for its work in developing rice varieties that contributed to the green revolution in 1960s.

iii. IRRI's South Asia Regional Centre will be set up at the campus of National Seed Research and Training Centre (NSRTC) in Varanasi.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- This will be the first international centre in eastern India which will play a major role in harnessing and sustaining rice production in the region.

Microsoft Ties Up With Telangana To Use AI To Screen Kids For Eye Issues

i. Microsoft ties up with the state of Telangana to use its artificial intelligence-based MINE platform to screen children for eye problems and prevent avoidable blindness.

ii. MINE -Microsoft Intelligent Network for Eyecare -is a global consortium of eye care providers, research and academic institutions that will apply artificial intelligence to help in eye care delivery.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- **Satya Narayana Nadella** is the current Chief Executive Officer of Microsoft.

HeliTaxi Services From Bengaluru Airport to Electronic City Launched

i. Thumby Aviation, a private helicopter service provider, and **Bangalore International Airport Ltd (BIAL)** have partnered to launch HeliTaxi services from Bengaluru Airport.

ii. The helicopter service will initially be launched from



Bengaluru Airport to Electronic City and gradually expanded to other parts of the city.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- **Ashok Gajapathi Raju** is current Minister of Civil Aviation.

Government to Develop Green Airports in Andhra Pradesh

i. As a part of Government of India's initiative to develop green airports, two airports in Andhra Pradesh- Tirupati and Vijayawada are going to go completely green. AAI has commenced installation of 1MWp solar power plant at Tirupathi and Vijaywada Airports.

ii. It has also completed installation of solar power plants at 29 airports/locations with a total capacity of 12.84 MWp.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- The Cochin International Airport Limited (CIAL) in Kerala is the first airport in the world to be completely powered by solar energy.

Mughalsarai to be Renamed as Deen Dayal Upadhyay Railway Station

i. The Centre recently approved the Adityanath-led UP government's proposal to rename the Mughalsarai railway station after the Jan Sangh leader as Deen Dayal Upadhyaya (DDU) station.

ii. This comes as the part of the state government's attempt to revive the legacy of Upadhyaya who died in 1968. The UP government in its proposal pointed to the mysterious death of Upadhyaya at the Mughalsarai station as one of the primary reasons to rename the station.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh is Yogi Adityanath.
- The Mughalsarai station was established near Varanasi in 1862 when the East India Company linked Howrah to Delhi by rail.

Delhi Police Ties Up with Uber for Women Safety

i. Passengers can now access the Delhi Police's women safety mobile application 'Himmat' via cab aggregator Uber's application while travelling in taxis.

ii. This is Delhi Police's first partnership with a technology company to intensify its focus on the safety of women in the city. With this partnership, Himmat will now be accessible to lakhs of women riders in one go. Uber also aims to act as a force multiplier and expand its access to all of its women riders.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- Travis Cordell Kalanick is an American businessman and founder of UBER.

Justice Srikrishna committee on Institutionalization of Arbitration Mechanism

i. A High-Level Committee set up to review the

Institutionalization of Arbitration Mechanism in India has submitted its report to the Union Law Ministry. It was headed by Justice (retired) **BN Srikrishna**.

ii. The Union Government is committed to the speedy resolution of commercial disputes and to make India an international hub of **Arbitration**. So the government has decided to look into the recommendations and amended laws according to need.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- **Ministry of Law And Justice** comprises of the Legislative Department and the Department of Legal Affairs.
- **Ravi Shankar Prasad** is the current Union Minister holding Law and Justice and Ministry of Information Technology portfolio in the Government of India.

Railways earned Rs.540 crore through flexi fare scheme

i. The Railways has earned an additional revenue of **Rs 540 crore** in less than a year through the flexi fare scheme and there is no plan to discontinue it.

ii. The scheme, launched on **09th September 2016**, is applicable in **Rajdhani, Shatabdi and Duronto trains**, allowing 10 per cent of the seats to be sold at the normal fare and thereafter increasing it by 10 per cent with every 10 per cent of berths sold with a ceiling of 50 per cent.

Govt declares entire Assam as 'disturbed' area under AFSPA for another month

i. The Centre has declared entire Assam as a "disturbed" area under the controversial **Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act (AFSPA)** for one more month, citing various violent activities by insurgent groups ULFA, NDFB, and others.

ii. The Union home ministry also declared Meghalaya's border areas adjoining Assam, and three districts in Arunachal Pradesh as "disturbed" under the AFSPA for two more months with effect from **August 03rd, 2017**.

Important Takeaways from above News-

- **The Armed Forces (Special Powers) Bill** was passed by both the Houses of Parliament and it received the assent of the President on **11th September 1958**.

'Dawn of cruise tourism in India' inaugurated in Mumbai

i. In order to promote cruise tourism in India, a special event, '**The dawn of cruise tourism in India**' was inaugurated in Mumbai.

ii. The preparedness of **Mumbai Port and Ministry of shipping** to host cruise vessels in the country is revealed to a worldwide audience at the event. It also saw the launch of three reports, "Mumbai Port SoP's for cruise operations", "Road map for Sea cruise tourism" and "Cruise terminals in India".

Important Takeaways from above News-

- Mumbai is the capital city of **Maharashtra**.
- **Nitin Gadkari** is the current Minister for Road Transport and Highways and Shipping.

Sri Lankan Navy commissions India-built AOPV

i. **Sri Lankan Navy** has commissioned an India-built state-of-the-art **Advanced Offshore Patrol Vessel (AOPV)**, the first-ever purchase from a foreign ship builder, to boost its search and rescue capabilities.

ii. Sri Lankan President and Armed Forces commander-in-chief **Maithripala Sirisena** commissioned the new patrol vessel "**SLNS Sayurala**". It is the largest vessel built by an Indian ship builder for a foreign navy to date. Built at the Goa Shipyard Ltd (GSL) in India, SLNS Sayurala is the first-ever brand new platform purchased from a foreign ship builder.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- **Ranil Wickremesinghe** is the PM of Sri Lanka.
- **Sri Jayewardenepura Kotte** is the official capital of Sri Lanka.

Coconut regains 'tree' status in Goa as Assembly passes bill

i. **The Goa Legislative Assembly** passed a bill which reclassifies **coconut as a 'tree'**, ensuring legal protection for it. **Goa Forward Party**, a partner in the **Manohar Parrikar-led** government, had promised to reclassify coconut.

ii. The previous **Laxmikant Parsekar-led** government had changed classification of coconut tree to a 'palm'. The Assembly, on the last day of Monsoon session, passed the **Goa, Daman and Diu (Preservation of) Trees Act, 1984** to regulate felling of coconut trees and reclassify it as a tree.

8th meeting of Regional Technical Group on Trade, Commerce and Investment CBM of the Heart of Asia – Istanbul Process held in New Delhi

i. **The eighth meeting** of the **Regional Technical Group of Confidence Building Measure on Trade, Commerce & Investment Opportunities under the Heart of Asia – Istanbul Process** was hosted by India in New Delhi.

ii. The meeting was co-chaired by the Acting Director General, Economic Cooperation Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Afghanistan, **Mr. Hassan Soroosh**, and Joint Secretary, Ministry of External Affairs, **Dr. Deepak Mittal** and attended by representatives of 17 participating countries and supporting international organisations, including Azerbaijan, Iran, Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan, Russia, Tajikistan, Turkey, Turkmenistan, UAE, Australia, Egypt, Germany, the UK, the US, the EU and the UN.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- **Istanbul** is a major city in Turkey.

India Ratifies 2nd Commitment Period of Kyoto Protocol

i. India has ratified the **second commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol** that commits countries to contain the emission of greenhouse gases, reaffirming its stand on climate action. With this, **India became the 80th country** to accept the amendment relating to the second commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol, the international emissions reduction treaty.

ii. The Kyoto Protocol is an international agreement linked to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change

(UNFCCC), which commits its Parties by setting internationally binding emission reduction targets.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- The Kyoto Protocol was adopted in Kyoto, Japan, in December 1997 and entered into force in February 2005.

Kerala, Haryana Top Sanitation Survey

i. According to the survey, almost all rural households in **Kerala and Haryana** had access to a toilet report. The survey is released by the Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation and was carried out by the **Quality Council of India (QCI)**.



ii. The survey, covering 4626 villages across all States and Union territories, claimed that 62.45% of the households had access to a toilet. **Bihar and Uttar Pradesh** has least access to toilets compared to other states.

Important Takeaways from above News-

- The capital of Kerala is Thiruvananthapuram.
- Governor of Haryana is Kaptan Singh Solanki.

NITI. Aayog Selects 6 States for Transformative Change in Health & Education Sectors

i. NITI Aayog has shortlisted **Uttar Pradesh, Assam and Karnataka** under its 'Sustainable Action for Transforming Human Capital', SATH initiative to handhold them and transform their **health sector**.



ii. The Aayog has also selected **Madhya Pradesh, Jharkhand and Odisha** under its SATH initiative to transform their **education sector**.

India Ranks 43rd in Global Retirement Index

i. **India ranked 43rd** position in 2017 **Global Retirement Index (GRI)**. It is published by French asset management company **Natixis Global**.

ii. The 43 countries include members of the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), International Monetary Fund (IMF) advanced economies and the BRICS countries. The top three countries in 2017 GRI are **Norway, Switzerland, and Iceland**.

Important Takeaways from above News-

- The capital of Norway is Oslo.

Gujarat First State to Implement Coal Utilisation Between Power Units

i. **The Gujarat government** has issued a tender for power developers to receive cheap coal marked for the state in return for selling coal-based power at **less than Rs 2.82 a unit**.

ii. Through the auction, Gujarat will transfer the coal allocated to

power generating stations owned by **Gujarat State Electricity Corporation (GSECL)** to more fuel-efficient private power plants. The aim is to reduce the cost of fuel for financially ailing distribution companies and ensure effective distribution of domestic coal.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- Vijaybhai R. Rupani is the Present CM of Gujarat.
- O. P. Kohli is the Governor of Gujarat.

SC strikes down instant triple talak

i. The SC of India has declared Islamic practices of instant divorce through triple talaq as unconstitutional, illegal, and void and not protected by article 25(Freedom of religion) of the constitution.

ii. The verdict was given by the 5 member multi-religion constitutional bench of the SC Justice Kurian Joseph, J. U.U Lalit, J. Rohinton F. Nariman gave majority judgement. Chief Justice J.S khehar, J. S. Abdul Nazeer dissented against the majority.

Judgement

- In a 3:2 majority judgement, the SC held that triple talaq(talaq-e biddat) is against the basic tenets of Quran and hence it is unacceptable.
- The three majority judges held that triple talaq is manifestly arbitrary and violative of the constitution of fundamental right under article 14(equality before law) so it must be struck down. Two dissenting judges were in favour of putting the practice on hold for six months and asking the govt. to come out with a law.

SEBI Launches Online Registration for Custodians of Securities

i. Markets regulator **SEBI** has introduced an online registration mechanism for custodians of securities to make it convenient for them to do business.

ii. The new system would help custodian of securities to complete registration and other regulatory filings with Sebi much faster and in a cost-effective manner.

Important Takeaways from above News-

- Chairman of SEBI is Ajay Tyagi.
- SEBI was set up in 12th April 1988.

10 Namami Gange Projects Approved

i. **National Mission for Clean Ganga** has approved ten projects in **Bihar, West Bengal and Uttar Pradesh** to the tune of about Rs 2,033 crore. Eight of the ten projects pertain to sewage infrastructure and treatment, one to river front development and one to Ganga Knowledge Centre.

ii. These projects were approved in the 5th meeting of the Executive Committee of National Mission for Clean Ganga. **In Bihar**, three major sewage infrastructure projects with total estimated cost of Rs 1461 crore have been approved.

iii. **In West Bengal**, three projects at an estimated cost of Rs 495.47 crore have been approved. **In Uttar Pradesh**, sewage

infrastructure work in Chunar, district Mirzapur, has also been approved at an estimated cost of Rs 27.98 crore.

Aajeevika Grameen Express Yojana (AGEY) Launched

i. The Government of India has decided to launch a new sub-scheme named “Aajeevika Grameen Express Yojana (AGEY)” as part of the Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana – National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM).
ii. The Self Help Groups under DAY-NRLM will operate road transport service in backward areas. This will help to provide safe, affordable and community monitored rural transport services to connect remote villages with key services and amenities. AGEY will be initially implemented in **250 Blocks in the country on Pilot basis.**



Important Takeaways from Above News-

- Narendra Singh Tomar is the Cabinet Minister of Rural Development.

Government Reconstitutes Existing CBFC for Three Years

i. The Centre has appointed **lyricist Prasoon Joshi as Chairman of the Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC)** for a period of three years. Mr. Joshi has replaced former **Chairman Pahlaj Nihalani.**

ii. The government has also reconstituted the existing CBFC with immediate effect for a period of three years. There are **12 members in the new board**, which include Ms. Gautami Tadimalla, Narendra Kohli, Naresh Chandra Lal, Vivek Agnihotri and Mrs. Vidya Balan.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- CBFC is a statutory body under Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, regulating the public exhibition of films under the provisions of the Cinematograph Act.
- It functions with headquarters at Mumbai.

Govt. launches national anthem video in sign language

i. Union Minister of State for HRD **Mahendra Nath Pandey** has launched an Indian National Anthem video in sign language, featuring differently-abled and partially differently-abled children.

ii. Directed by filmmaker **Govind Nihalani**, the three-minute video features Bollywood actor **Amitabh Bachchan** along with physically challenged children



performing the anthem in sign language with the Red Fort in the background. The video was also launched in **Goa, Bhopal, Chandigarh and Kolhapur.**

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- The national anthem of India is "Jana Gana Mana" which was written by the Nobel laureate Rabindranath Tagore.

- The Anthem was first sung on 27th December 1911 in the Calcutta Session of the Indian National Congress.
- The Anthem was officially accepted as the Indian National Anthem by the Constituent Assembly on 24th January 1950.
- Dr Mahendra Nath Pandey is a Lok Sabha MP from Chandauli Constituency, Uttar Pradesh.

Thaawarchand Gehlot inaugurates Inclusive Independence Day Celebrations

i. Minister for **Social Justice and Empowerment**

Thaawarchand Gehlot has inaugurated Inclusive Independence Day celebrations organized by the National Trust. Around 2500 people from all walks of life participated in the event along with 500 people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

ii. On the occasion, Mr Gehlot administered New India Pledge "**Sankalp se Siddhi**" to participants. The Initiative aims to provide equal access to people with intellectual and developmental disabilities, by means of **Inclusive Education, Inclusive Employment and Inclusive Community Life.**

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- Independence Day is an annual observance celebrated every year on 15th of August.
- 71st eve of Independence Day would be celebrated by the people all over the India on 15th of August 2017.

Gujarat Government to Give ‘Namo’ Tablets

i. Around **3.5 lakh college students in Gujarat** will get tablets at a subsidised rate of **Rs 1,000 each** under a state government scheme launched by chief minister **Vijay Rupani** in Ahmedabad. Under this scheme, the first year college students in the state will get 7-inch ‘**NAMO E-Tab**’ tablets, which have a market value of Rs 8,000 each, by just paying **Rs 1,000.**

ii. Several students, who had already registered for the scheme, received the tablets from the **chief minister** at the launch ceremony in **Ahmedabad.**

Jharkhand Assembly passes Religious Freedom Bill

i. **Jharkhand Assembly** has passed **Religious Freedom Bill 2017.** It aims to stop the forced conversions in the state. The bill will now be sent to the governor, following whose approval it would go to the President for assent.

ii. The Bill has provision for the imprisonment of **three years** and fine of **50,000 rupees or both**, and four-year imprisonment and 1 lakh rupee fine, or both, if the person converted is a minor, woman or a member of **Scheduled Caste or Scheduled Tribe.**

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- In the year 2000, Jharkhand was split from southern Bihar and was formed into another state.
- Raghubar Das is currently Chief Minister of Jharkhand.
- The present Governor of Jharkhand is Smt Droupadi Murmu. She is the first woman to hold this office.

India one of the most open economies globally for FDI

i. According to the **Economic Survey**, India has now emerged as one of the most open economies in the world for receiving **foreign direct investments (FDI)**, on the back of a host of liberalisation measures. It pointed out that measures taken by the government have resulted in FDI equity inflow of \$43.4 billion in 2016-17, which is not only an increase of **8% over the previous year** but also the highest ever.

ii. **Mauritius, Singapore and Japan** have been top three source countries of **FDI inflows** to India contributing **36.2%, 20% and 10.8%**, respectively, during 2016-17, according to the survey.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- FDI policy reforms are meant to provide ease of doing business and accelerate the pace of foreign investment in the country.

Flipkart world's 3rd most funded Pvt company

i. **With the \$2.4 billion** it just received from **Japanese technology** and telecom giant **SoftBank**, **Flipkart** has become the **third most funded private company globally**.

ii. The homegrown e-commerce company has to date raised almost \$7 billion in the capital, higher than that raised by global behemoths like online house rental aggregator Airbnb (\$3.3 billion) and mobile phone maker **Xiaomi (\$1.4 billion)**. The top two are both ride hailing platforms— **China based Didi Chuxing and the US based Uber**.

Hike Messenger acquires tech start-up Creo

i. Homegrown messaging and social media technology company **Hike Messenger** has acquired **Bengaluru-based tech start-up Creo** for an undisclosed amount.

ii. The Creo team constitutes over 50 members and was founded in **December 2013** by Sai Srinivas Kiran G and **Shubham Malhotra**. In the past, **Creo has launched** hardware products that include streaming media dongles and smartphones.

Finance Ministry issues norms for Central offices to retrofit energy efficient appliances

i. The **Union Finance Ministry** has issued guidelines for mandatory installation of energy efficient appliances in all Central Government buildings across India. It has directed that usage of **LED based lightings** and energy efficient cooling equipment such as fans and air conditioners in government buildings will lead to savings in the long run through the reduction in energy consumption.

ii. Under the programme, **Energy Efficiency Services Limited (EESL)** intends to bring in the investment of around **Rs. 1000 crore** covering more than 10,000 large government/private buildings **by 2020**.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- Energy Efficiency Services Limited (EESL) is a Joint Venture Company of PSUs of Ministry of Power, Government of India.
- KK Sharma is present Chairman of EESL.

'Fete de Puducherry' Begins

i. A **three-day annual cultural festival named 'Fete de Puducherry'** organised by the government of India begins in **Puducherry**. The festival is held in association with the South Zone Cultural Centre (Tamil Nadu) every year to bring to focus the multi-faceted cultural features of various states.

ii. The Puducherry government has been holding the festival since 1985 as part of celebrating Independence Day and also Liberation Day of Puducherry (August 16).



Festival of Fete De Puducherry

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- The union territory in a referendum in October 1954 favoured liberation of Puducherry and its constituent regions from French regime, paving the way for the merger of Puducherry with Indian Union.
- The de facto merger took place in 1954 followed by de jure transfer of power on August 16, 1962.
- Kiran Bedi is the present Lt.Governor of Puducherry.

Odisha Government and Facebook Launches 'SheMeansBusiness' Program

i. Chief minister **Naveen Patnaik** launched **'She Means Business' program** of Facebook for women entrepreneurs in **Odisha**. Under the scheme 25, 000 women entrepreneurs and self-help group (SHG) members will be given training on digital marketing skills within next one year.

ii. Facebook will also make a database of entrepreneurs in the state and will monitor their growth, turnover and profit after one year.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- Naveen Patnaik is the CM of Odisha.
- S C Jamir is the Governor of Odisha.

Maharashtra Government Launches 'Namo Yuva Rojgar Kendra'

i. **Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis** launched **Namo Yuva Rojgar Kendra** an initiative providing job opportunities to unemployed youth in Mumbai. There are various schemes like farmers weekly market, farmers mobile market and mother's Tiffin, under this Yuva Rojgar Kendra.

ii. These products will be made available with the help of mobile vans all over Mumbai and the information about the location of the vans is made available through an app. This app was also launched by the Chief Minister.



Indian Coast Guard Ship 'Shaurya' Commissioned

i. Indian Coast Guard ship 'Shaurya', the fifth in the series of six 105-metre **Offshore Patrol Vessels (OPVs)**, was commissioned in Goa by Union Minister for Petroleum and Natural Gas Dharmendra Pradhan.

ii. The OPV, which draws 2,350 tonne and is propelled by 9100 kilowatt diesel engine, has been designed and **built indigenously by Goa Shipyard Ltd** and is fitted with state-of-the-art navigation and communication equipment, sensors and machineries.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- Director General of Indian Coast Guard is Rajendra Singh.

Hindustan Unilever, Asian Paints in Forbes' top 10 Innovative Firms List

i. Three Indian firms, **Hindustan Unilever, Asian Paints and Bharti Airtel** are among Forbes' list of the world's 100 most innovative companies, where **Salesforce.Com** has replaced Tesla Motors on the top position.

ii. While HUL and Asian Paints have moved up in their ranks to seventh and eighth respectively (from 31st and 18th last year), Bharti Airtel has entered the ranking at 78th position.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- Forbes is an American business magazine and was founded in 1917.
- The headquarter of Forbes is in New York City, USA.

Environment Minister Launches 'Gaj Yatra' to Mark World Elephant Day 2017

i. Union Environment, Forest and Climate Change Minister, Dr. Harsh Vardhan, launched '**Gaj Yatra**' in Karnataka, a nationwide campaign to protect elephants on the occasion of **World Elephant Day (12 August)**. The campaign is planned to cover 12 elephant range states.

ii. The Environment Minister released the All India Census 2017 Report on elephants. The '**Gaju**' mascot, which was released by the Ministry in 2012, will be helm the campaign. The campaign will be led by the Wildlife Trust of India. **Actor and wildlife enthusiast, Ms. Dia Mirza**, participated in the walk and run event organized on the occasion.



Nation celebrates its 71st Independence Day on 15th August 2017

i. The nation celebrates its **71st Independence Day** today (15th August 2017) and the main function was held at the Red Fort of the national capital where **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** hoisted the National Flag.

ii. The unfurling of the **Tricolour** was synchronized with the **21 Gun**



Salute fired by the valiant gunners of the elite 2281 Field Regiment (Ceremonial).

112 Gallantry Awards to Armed Forces Personnel, members of Paramilitary Forces

i. On the occasion of 71st Independence Day, **112 Gallantry Awards** have been approved by the President Ram Nath Kovind for the Armed Forces and Paramilitary Forces. It includes five Kirti Chakras, 17 Shaurya Chakras, 85 Sena Medals (Gallantry), three Nao Sena Medals (Gallantry) and two Vayu Sena Medals (Gallantry). **Havaldar Giris Gurung** from first Gorkha Rifles who



was martyred during a major counter-infiltration operation along the Line of Control in Naugam sector of Kashmir has been awarded Kirti Chakra posthumously.

ii. **Major David Manlun**, who was martyred during an encounter with militants in Mon district of Nagaland, CRPF commandant Pramod Kumar who was martyred in a terror attack in Srinagar's Nowhatta hours before last Independence Day has also been awarded **Kirti Chakra Posthumously**.

iii. **CRPF commandant Chetan Kumar** Cheetah who miraculously recovered from the deep coma after being hit by at least nine bullets during a gun battle with terrorists in Jammu and Kashmir has been awarded Kirti Chakra, the **2nd highest peacetime gallantry award**.

Home Minister launches live twitter wall on 'Bharat Ke Veer'

i. Home Minister **Rajnath Singh** has launched the live twitter wall for promoting **Bharat Ke Veer** portal on the eve of **71st Independence Day**. On the occasion, Mr Singh and Ministers of State for Home Affairs **Hansraj Gangaram Ahir and Kiren Rijiju** contributed their one month salary for **Bharat Ke Veer** corpus.

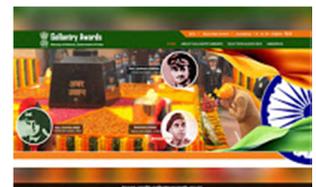
ii. Mr Singh has handed over a cheque of **1.59 lakh rupees** to the Union Home Secretary Rajiv Mehrishi in New Delhi.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- **Bharat Ke Veer portal** was launched by Rajnath Singh and actor Akshay Kumar in April 2017.
- 'Bharat Ke Veer' portal aims to facilitate online donation directly to the families of **paramilitary troopers** who have sacrificed their lives for the country in the line of duty from **January 1, 2016**.
- Bharat Ke Veer portal is technically supported by **National Informatics Centre (NIC)** and powered by **State Bank of India**.

PM launches website to honour gallantry award winners

i. Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** has launched a website to honour all the gallantry award winners since Independence. The portal will preserve and tell the stories of bravest **men and women**, civilians as well as armed forces personnel.



ii. In remembrance of heroes who have been awarded gallantry awards since Independence, launched the site <http://gallantryawards.gov.in>. PM also welcomed citizens' participation in the process.

Indian export grows nearly 4 percent in July

i. The country's exports grew three point nine percent in **July this year (2017)**, on a yearly basis to 22 (point) **5 billion dollars**. Exports rose due to an increase in shipments of petroleum, chemicals and marine products. Official data released today showed that imports rose 15.4 per cent in July, to 34 billion dollars, due to a rise in inward shipments of crude oil and gold.

ii. The country's trade deficit widened to **11.4 billion dollars** during the month under review, from **7.8 billion dollars** in July last year (2016). Gold import spurted **95 per cent, to 2.1 billion dollars** in July. Oil imports increased 15 per cent in July.

Indian Government asks Internet Giants and others to Remove Blue Whale links

i. The government has directed **internet majors- Google, Facebook, Whatsapp, Instagram, Microsoft** and Yahoo - to immediately remove the links of dangerous online game **Blue Whale Challenge**, which has led to the suicide of children in India and other countries. Mumbai and West Midnapore district have reported deaths linked to this game.



ii. **Ministry of Electronics and IT (Meity)** instructed the internet majors in a letter to ensure that any such link of this deadly game in its own name or similar game is immediately removed from their platform. The letter was issued following instructions from **Law and IT Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad**.

10-yr-old Indian youngest to climb 6,153m mountain

i. A 10-year-old mountaineer from **Visakhapatnam, Kaamya Karthikeyan**, successfully summited one of the highest peaks in the **Himalayas**, making her one of the youngest people in the world to achieve this feat.

ii. **Kaamya completed** the expedition three days before she turned 10, on August 7, thereby conquering Mount Stok Kangri. At a height of 6,153 metres (20,187 ft), Stok Kangri is not recommended for beginners and is considered ideal for advanced trekkers.

Nation Tribute to Sri Aurobindo on 145th Birth Anniversary

i. India paid tributes to **Sri Aurobindo on his 145th Birth Anniversary**. Sri Aurobindo's rich thoughts and grand vision for India continue to be a great source of inspiration.

ii. A **spiritual reformer and philosopher**, Sri Aurobindo had a major contribution in the Indian freedom struggle.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- Sri Aurobindo was born in **Calcutta on 15th August 1872**.
- Sri Aurobindo left his body on **05th December 1950**.

India to Host Next Steering Committee Meeting of TAPI Gas Pipeline

i. **India (New Delhi)** will host the next steering committee meeting of the proposed **1,814 kilometre-long Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan-India (TAPI) gas pipeline** senior officials on both sides confirmed. The decision came during the sixth joint Inter-Governmental Committee (IGC) meeting on trade, economic, scientific and technological cooperation.

ii. The meeting was followed by a meeting between visiting Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister of Turkmenistan Rashid Meredov and Minister of State for Petroleum and Natural Gas Dharmendra Pradhan.

About TAPI Gas Pipeline in Brief-The Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan-India Pipeline, also known as Trans-Afghanistan Pipeline, is a natural gas pipeline being developed by the **Asian Development Bank (ADB)**. On 24 April 2008, Pakistan, India and Afghanistan signed a framework agreement to buy natural gas from Turkmenistan. The intergovernmental agreement on the pipeline was signed on 11 December 2010 in Ashgabat, Turkmenistan.

India Opens First Partition Museum in Amritsar

i. **India's first museum on Partition of the Indian subcontinent** will open this week in **Amritsar Punjab**, as India and Pakistan celebrate 70 years as independent nations.

ii. The museum will include photographs, newspaper clippings, donated personal items, and screens showing video interviews with survivors.

iii. It will also have '**The Gallery of Hope**', where visitors can scribble messages of love and peace. Tickets are priced low at Rs10 for Indians and Rs150 for foreigners.

Important Takeaways From Above News-

- The CM of Punjab is Captain Amarinder Singh.
- VP Singh Badnore is the Governor of Punjab.

'Indira Canteen Scheme' Launched in Bengaluru

i. Congress vice-president Rahul Gandhi launched the '**Indira Canteen**' scheme, dedicated to former Prime minister Indira Gandhi- a state government initiative to provide food at low cost to cater to the urban poor.

ii. The canteen, located in Kanakana Palya (Jayanagar) in Bengaluru, is one of 101 such that opened across various locations in Bengaluru. The canteens are loosely modelled on the late Tamil Nadu chief minister J. Jayalalithaa's "Amma canteens".

RCom's Merger with Aircel Gets NCLT Nod

i. **The National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT)** admitted proposals for the merger between **Aircel and Reliance Communications** wireless business, as well as the latter's sale of its tower business to Canada's Brookfield.

ii. The telecom department had also asked NCLT to direct RCom and Aircel to get permission from the Supreme Court before filing their merger plea. The Merged entities will be called as 'Aircom'

and both will have 50% equity stake.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- Mahesh Mittal Kumar is the President of NCLT.
- NCLT has been constituted by the Central Government with effect from 01 June 2016.

Reliance Defence is Now Reliance Naval and Engineering

i. Anil Ambani's Reliance Infrastructure-controlled **Reliance Defence and Engineering** is changing its name to **Reliance Naval and Engineering Ltd**

(RNEL). According to the Company, change of name is in line with company's focus on building capabilities for the Indian Navy and the Coast Guard.



ii. The company is set to seek shareholders' approval for the name change in its AGM on August 22. After the Reliance Group acquired a controlling stake in Pipavav Defence and Offshore Engineering in 2016, it changed the name of the company to Reliance Defence and Engineering.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- Shri Anil Ambani is the Non-Executive Chairman of Reliance Defence.
- K. Subramaniam is the Whole Time Director and Chief Executive Officer of Reliance Defence and Engineering Limited.

Government Slaps USD264 Million Penalty on RIL

i. The government has imposed a new **penalty of USD 264 million (about Rs 1,700 crore) on Reliance Industries Ltd and its partners** for producing less than the targeted natural gas from eastern offshore KG-D6 fields in 2015-16.

ii. The Production Sharing Contract (PSC) allows RIL and its partners BP Plc of the UK and Canada's Niko Resources to deduct all capital and operating expenses from the sale of gas before sharing profit with the government.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- Mr. Mukesh Ambani is the CMD of RIL.

RBI Makes Aadhaar Linkage Mandatory for Farmers

i. To ensure hassle-free benefits to farmers under Interest Subvention Scheme, the **Reserve Bank of India** has advised banks to make **Aadhaar linkage mandatory for availing short-term crop loans** up to Rs 3 lakh in 2017-18.

ii. In order to provide short-term crop loans to farmers at an interest rate of 7 percent during the year 2017-18, the RBI said it has been decided to offer interest subvention of 2 percent to lending institutions, public sector banks, private sector commercial banks on use of their own resources.

Cabinet Approves Completion of North Koel Reservoir Project

i. The Union Cabinet **chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi** has given its approval to the proposal to

complete the balance works of the **North Koel Reservoir Project in Jharkhand and Bihar** at an estimated expenditure of **Rs.1622.27 crore** to be incurred during three financial years from the start of the project.

ii. The Cabinet also approved storage of water in dam restricted at lower level than envisaged earlier to reduce the submergence and to protect Betla National Park and Palamau Tiger Reserve.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- The project is situated on North Koel river which is a tributary of Sone river finally joining the river Ganga.

Government to Conduct 'World's Largest Sample Survey' for Students

i. The **Human Resource Development (HRD) Ministry** has announced **November 13** as the date for conducting its **National Assessment Survey (NAS) for the students of class 3, 5, and 8.**

ii. So far, during several rounds of the survey, a total of 4.45 lakh students have been tested for various learning outcomes. This time, approximately 30 lakh students will be assessed in the year 2017-18 making it the world's largest sample survey of student learning achievement.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- Prakash Javadekar is the HRD Minister.

Government Bans Export of Gold Items Above 22-Carat Purity

i. The government has **banned exports of gold jewellery, medallions and other articles above 22- carat purity** in a bid to check round tripping of the precious metal.

ii. According to the Directorate-General of Foreign Trade (DGFT), certain provisions of the foreign trade policy (2015-20) are amended to allow export of gold jewellery and articles containing gold of 8 carats and above up to a maximum limit of 22 carats only from domestic tariff area and export-oriented units, electronics hardware technology parks, software technology parks and bio technology parks.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- India is the world's second-biggest gold consumer after China.

Environment Minister Launches "Harit Diwali, Swasth Diwali" Campaign

i. Union Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change, **Dr. Harsh Vardhan**, launched the **"Harit Diwali, Swasth Diwali" campaign.**

ii. Addressing a gathering of about 800 children from schools of Delhi and NCR, the Minister impressed upon the children the importance of their contribution towards reducing pollution by not bursting harmful fire crackers during Diwali.

BSNL Launches Digital Wallet Powered by MobiKwik

i. **Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd (BSNL)** went digital by launching a **bespoke mobile wallet** (mobile payment App) that would enable its existing 100 million customers to make Bill payments.

This digital wallet was launched at an event by Manoj Sinha, Minister for Telecommunications in the capital.

ii. The wallet has been developed and issued by MobiKwik on behalf of BSNL.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- Chairman & Managing Director of BSNL is Shri Anupam Shrivastava.
- Bipin Preet Singh is the Founder CEO & Director of Mobikwik.

Tata Power, First Power Utility to Use QR Code

i. **Tata Power has become the first power utility to introduce a QR code based bill payments system in India.** The QR code linked to Unified Payments Interface (UPI) will be printed on the electricity bills.

ii. The customers can scan the QR code with BHIM app or any other UPI linked bank app and pay their bills without any hassle.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- Mr. Anil Sardana is the MD and CEO of TATA Power.
- Tata Power established India's first large hydro-electric project in Khopoli, Maharashtra in 1915.

India's First World Peace University Inaugurated in MIT, Pune

i. **MIT World Peace University**, the first of its kind in India, was inaugurated by Chief Minister of Maharashtra **Devendra Fadnavis**.

ii. Following the celebrations, a two-day **'Global Summit Science and Spirituality for World Peace'** was organized on the next day discussing issues of national and international importance and how a different outlook towards education could solve many of them.

Navika Sagar Parikrama: Indian Navy's All women Team to Circumnavigate Globe

i. Under project **Navika Sagar Parikrama**, a team of women officers of the Indian Navy would circumnavigate the globe on an Indian-built sail boat **INSV Tarini**. This is the first ever Indian circumnavigation of the globe by an all-women crew.

ii. The project is considered essential towards promoting Ocean Sailing activities in the Navy while depicting Government of India's thrust for 'Nari Shakti'.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- Current Chief of the Naval Staff is Admiral Sunil Lanba.
- Tarini was inducted into the Indian Navy on February 18, 2017.

Smriti Irani Inaugurates Handicraft Manufacturing Unit in Jharkhand

i. **Smriti Irani** has inaugurated Jharkhand's first textiles manufacturing and export unit **'Orient Craft Ltd'**.

ii. Irani will also lay foundation stones of numerous companies under special make in Jharkhand drive, called **"Momentum**

Jharkhand" in Jamshedpur. The ongoing ceremony, named as **"Second Groundbreaking Ceremony"** foundation stones for 70 companies.

Union Ministry of Defence Approves Delegation of Powers to Border Roads Organisation

i. **The Ministry of Defence** has decided to delegate administrative and financial powers to the **Border Roads Organisation (BRO)** to avoid delays on account of references between the Chief Engineer, HQ DGBR and the Ministry.

ii. The Ministry of Defence has approved that for both departmental and contractual mode of execution. A chief engineer of the BRO can accord administrative approval up to Rs. 50 crore, ADGBR up to Rs. 75 crore and DGBR up to Rs. 100 crore. Defence Ministry has approved policy guidelines based on which the BRO may engage big construction companies for taking up road projects on a turnkey basis.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- The director general of Border Road Organisation is Lt.Gen Sanjeev Kumar Shrivastava



Home Minister Rajnath Singh launches digital police portal

i. A digital police portal under the **CCTNS project**, which aims to create a national database of crimes and criminals has launched by **Home Minister Rajnath Singh**. The digital police portal will provide the citizen, facility for online complaint registration and request for antecedent verification.

ii. The police portal will provide **11 searches and 46 reports** from the national database for state police and central investigation agencies. Central investigating and research agencies have also been provided logins to the digital police database to access crime statistics.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- **CCTNS stands for Crime and Criminal Tracking Network and Systems Project** or the crime and criminal tracking network system.
- **Kiren Rijju** is current Union Minister of State for Home Affairs of India.

Android Oreo released by Google

i. Keeping up its tradition of naming its **Android upgrades** with delectable desserts, Google has launched its version 8.0 o the operating system as Android Oreo.

ii. **The Oreo boasts** of a two times faster boot speed, autofill option, and a longer battery life. The new update comes with a Picture-in-Picture feature that allows the user to see two apps simultaneously.

I & B Ministry Constituted 40-Member Preview Panel for IFFI

i. The Information and Broadcasting Ministry on 21 August 2017 constituted a 40-member 'preview committee' for the

International Film Festival of India 2017, which is going to be held in Goa.

ii. While filmmaker **Vivek Agnihotri** has been chosen as the convenor of the committee. Besides this, the I and B Ministry also constituted a new 13-member steering committee and a 12-member technical committee, which will be headed by **Jahnu Barua** and Nagesh Kukunoor respectively.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- **International Film Festival of India (IFFI)** is scheduled to be held in Goa from 20 – 28 November 2017.

World's Highest-Paid Actors 2017: Forbes List

i. The former rapper-turned-actor **Mark Wahlberg** is **Hollywood's highest-paid leading man**, earning \$68 million pretax in 12 month scoring period. From India, **Shahrukh Khan is the highest paid actor** (Rank 8) followed by Salman Khan and Akshay Kumar. Wahlberg has replaced out last year's top-ranked star, Dwayne "The Rock" Johnson.

ii. The Top 10 Highest Paid Actors in the List are:

1. Mark Wahlberg (\$68 million)
2. Dwayne "The Rock" Johnson (\$65 million)
8. Shah Rukh Khan (\$38 million)
9. Salman Khan (\$37 million)
10. Akshay Kumar (\$35.5 million).

8th World Renewable Energy Technology Congress in New Delhi

i. Union Minister of State (IC) for Power, Coal, Renewable Energy and Mines, Shri Piyush Goyal, addressed the **3-day 8th World Renewable Energy Technology Congress in New Delhi**.

ii. The annual conference is visualized and planned in the backdrop of India's vision of achieving "Energy Independence and Power for all by 2022". The theme of the conference was "**Renewable Energy: What Works**".

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- 7th World Renewable Energy Technology Congress & Expo-2016 was held in August 2016.

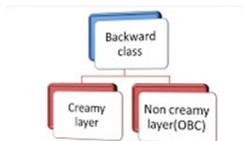
RBI to issue Rs200 notes

i. The government gave its go-ahead to the **Reserve Bank of India to issue Rs 200 notes** that will ease pressure on lower-denomination currency bills.

ii. The new Rs 200 notes are likely to be in circulation shortly. The exercise of printing Rs 200 denomination notes is being undertaken to further improve the currency situation in the country.

Creamy Layer Ceiling Raised to Rs 8 LPA

i. The government has hiked the ceiling for the **creamy layer from Rs. 6 lakh per annum to Rs. 8 lakh per annum** for central government jobs, according to the Finance Minister Arun



Jaitley. In the OBC category, those earning up to Rs. 8 lakh per annum will get reservation benefits.

ii. The Cabinet also approved a commission to examine sub-categorization of OBCs. The better-educated member of Other Backward Classes who cannot avail government-sponsored educational and job benefits are called the creamy layer.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- The Supreme Court had raised this ceiling from Rs. 1,00,000 to Rs. 6,00,000 in 2013 and is to be revised every 3 years.

Supreme Court Declares Right to Privacy as Fundamental Right

i. The **Supreme Court of India** pronounced that individual privacy is a fundamental right protected by the Constitution. A **nine-judge Constitution Bench** of the Supreme Court, **led by Chief Justice of India J.S. Khehar** ruled that the right to privacy is intrinsic to life and liberty, thus coming under Article 21, and comes under the various fundamental freedoms in PART III of the Indian Constitution.

ii. All the nine judges arrive at the same conclusion, though through different but concurring judgments, that right to privacy is intrinsic to right to life and liberty. With this now India has total seven fundamental rights.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- Right to equality, Right to freedom, Right against exploitation, Right to freedom of religion, Cultural and Educational rights, and Right to constitutional remedies are the 6 fundamental rights of India.
- Deepak Misra will be the new Chief Justice of India.
- Supreme Court of India came into existence on 26th January 1950.

Cabinet Renames SAMPADA Scheme as PMKSY

i. The **Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs** has approved the renaming of the **new Central Sector Scheme- SAMPADA (Scheme for Agro-Marine Processing and Development of Agro-Processing Clusters)** as

"Pradhan Mantri Kisan Sampada Yojana (PMKSY)" for the period of 2016-20 coterminous with the 14th Finance Commission cycle.

ii. The new Central Sector Scheme-SAMPADA was approved in May 2017 with same allocation and period. The objective of PMKSY is to supplement agriculture, modernize processing and decrease Agri-Waste.



TRAI Signs Deal with Malaysian Communications & Multimedia Commission

i. The **Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI)** signed a **letter of intent (LoI)** with the Malaysian Communications and Multimedia Commission (MCMC) to jointly conduct capacity building exercises in the fields of broadcasting and telecommunications regulation.

ii. The agreement would help both regulators to work closely in enhancing mutual cooperation and bilateral relations.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- R. S. Sharma is the Present Chairman of Telecom Regulatory Authority of India.

Sushma Swaraj to Inaugurate First Videsh Bhavan in Mumbai

i. External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj will inaugurate the country's first Videsh Bhavan, assimilating all Regional Passport Offices under one roof, at the Bandra Kurla Complex (BKC).

ii. As a first pilot project, four offices of MEA - Regional Passport Office (RPO), Protector of Emigrants (PoE) office, Branch Secretariat and Regional Office of ICCR - have been assimilated and brought under one roof at the state-of-art office.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- Sushma Swaraj is an Indian politician, former Supreme Court lawyer and the current Minister of External Affairs of India.

Andhra Pradesh First to Implement Bharat QR Digital Payments

i. Andhra Pradesh's Eastern Power Distribution Company Ltd (EPDCL) and the Southern Power Distribution Corporation of AP Ltd. (SPDCL) have become the first state-owned distribution companies in India to accept payments through Bharat QR.

ii. As part of the 'Vizag less-cash city' initiative underway between Visa and the Andhra Pradesh government, the state has witnessed a slew of initiatives aimed at increasing the rate of digital payment adoption across the masses.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- Bharat QR Code is the world's first interoperable quick response code acceptance solution launched by the Reserve Bank of India.

UIDAI Launches Door Step Aadhar Enrolment in Delhi

i. UIDAI has joined hands with CSC India for launching door step enrolment facility in the national capital for the elderly, patients and others who cannot travel the Aadhar centers.

ii. The van was flagged off by Law and IT Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad. The van will provide Aadhaar enrolment service at door step in Delhi area.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- Shri J Satyanarayana (Part Time) is the Chairman of UIDAI.
- UIDAI stands for Unique Identification Authority of India.

Raghuram Rajan Pens Book 'I Do What I Do' on his RBI Stint

i. Former RBI Governor Raghuram Rajan has penned a book titled 'I Do What I Do: On Reform, Rhetoric & Resolve'. Raghuram Rajan explains economic concepts and talks of issues like tolerance and connection between political freedom and prosperity in his new book.

ii. The book is a collection of essays and speeches during his stint as Reserve Bank of India (RBI) governor. The book will hit stores on 4 September, exactly a year after he quit as the RBI governor.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- He co-authored Saving Capitalism from the Capitalists with Luigi Zingales and wrote Fault Lines: How Hidden Fractures Still Threaten the World Economy, for which he was awarded the Financial Times-Goldman Sachs prize for best business book.

Indian Navy Band Participates in International Military Music Festival in Russia

i. The International Military Music Festival "Spasskaya Tower" is the parade of the best military music bands of Russia and other countries that takes place every year at Red Square in Moscow. This time Indian Navy Band is participating in the festival.

ii. Every year about 1500 musicians, military men and other artists from around 40 countries perform at the "Spasskaya Tower". The Festival is duly considered one of the largest international events in Russia and attracts tremendous response of the general public.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- Moscow is the Capital of Russia.
- Vladimir Putin is the Present President of Russia.

Nungthaang Tampak- North East's First 100% Computer Literate Village

i. Manipur's Nungthaang Tampak village has emerged as the '100 percent computer literate' not only in the state but in the entire North East. The computer course was organized by Mangal Rural as a part of the Digital India program.

ii. Nungthang Tampak has become India's second 100 percent computer literate village. Kerala's Chamravattom village is the country's first 100 percent computer literate village.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- N Biren Singh is the present CM of Manipur.

E-waste Disposal from Schools Kicks Starts in Kerala

i. E-waste removal from Kerala schools has begun with about 12,500 kg being disposed statewide on a single day under a programme aiming to clear accumulated junk, reportedly estimated at over one crore kg.

ii. It is aimed at disposing e-Waste such as desktop computers,



CRT monitors, laptops, disk drives, printers, UPS, camera, speaker system, television, network components and generators from 10,000 odd schools and educational offices in the state.

Jammu and Kashmir Government to Set Up First Eco-Park

i. The Jammu and Kashmir government has decided to **build an Eco-Park** on over 34 acres of land reclaimed from encroachers in the state's Rajouri district.

ii. The park is a first-of-its-kind project in the region. It will have a botanical garden, a cactus garden, a cafeteria and other amenities.



Important Takeaways from Above News-

- Mehbooba Mufti Sayeed is the present CM of Jammu and Kashmir.
- N. N. Vohra is the Present Governor of Jammu and Kashmir.

Coast Guard Training Ship Varuna Decommissioned

i. The Indian Coast Guard Ship Varuna, which was part of the **First Training Squadron of the Navy**, was decommissioned with full armed forces honors at a ceremony. The ship had an illustrious service spanning about 30 years.

ii. ICGS Varuna was the fourth of in its class of offshore patrol vessels built by the Mumbai-based Mazagon Dock.



The ship had numerous operational achievements to its credit, including a record number of apprehension of smugglers with gold worth crores of rupees during the late 1980s.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- ICGS Varuna has now been replaced by ICGS Sarathi in the First Training Squadron of the Indian Navy.

Two-day Indian Ocean Conference in Colombo

i. External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj will participate in the two-day **Indian Ocean Conference to be held in Colombo**, Sri Lanka in which Sri Lankan prime minister and the president are among key speakers.

ii. The theme of the conference is peace, progress, and prosperity. It will see participation from around 35 countries and have speakers from 25 countries. The conference will be held in Temple Trees, the official residence of the Lankan prime minister.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- This will be second ICO conference, the first was held in Singapore in 2016.

Arun Jaitley hands over LRSAM to Indian Navy

i. Defence Minister Arun Jaitley handed over the **Long-Range Surface-to-Air Missile (LRSAM)** jointly developed by **India and Israel**, to the Indian Navy, at Bharat Dynamics Ltd (BDL).

LRSAM is an advanced combat suit for missile defence against air targets and missiles, and has full capabilities of air and surface surveillance, threat alert and fire control.

ii. The minister also dedicated a first-of-its kind 50-tonne Rocket Motor Static Test Facility. He inaugurated the ASTRA Manufacturing Unit at the BDL's Bhanur unit.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- Admiral Sunil Lanba is the present CNS of Indian Navy.
- The ASTRA weapon system is an indigenously developed air-to-air Beyond Visual Range (BVR) missile developed by the DRDO.

PM Modi to Attend 9th BRICS Summit in China

i. Prime Minister Narendra Modi will attend the **9th BRICS Summit, Xiamen in China's Fujian province** during 3rd to 5th of September. Subsequently, the Prime Minister will pay a State visit to Myanmar from September 5th to 7th.

ii. This will be Prime Minister Modi's first bilateral State visit to Myanmar.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- The 8th BRICS Summit held on 16th October 2016 at Goa, India.
- BRICS countries include- Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa.

Shri Rajnath Singh Inaugurates "YUVA – A Skill Development Program"

i. The Union Home Minister Shri Rajnath Singh inaugurated the **YUVA – a skill development program.** It is an initiative by Delhi Police under Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana.

ii. Delhi Police has tied up with National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) and Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) for providing mass job linked skill training for the selected youth.

Important Takeaways From Above News-

- Anil Bajjal is the present Lieutenant Governor of Delhi.

ISRO All Set to Launch IRNSS-1H

i. The Indian Space Research Organisation is all set to launch **PSLV-C39 carrying Indian Regional Navigation Satellite System (IRNSS-1H).** The satellite will lift off from the second launch pad of the Satish Dhawan Space Centre at Sriharikota, on board the rocket PSLV C39.

ii. The satellite IRNSS-1H is a part of the indigenous navigation system called 'NavIC,' that was initially planned to have a constellation of seven satellites. ISRO's most trusted work horse PSLV, in its forty-first flight (PSLV-C39), will carry and put the 1,425 kg IRNSS-1H into the required orbit.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- The current chairman of ISRO is A. S. Kiran Kumar.
- ISRO was founded in 1969 and is headquartered in Bengaluru, Karnataka.

- Satish Dhawan Space Centre is located in Sriharikota Andhra Pradesh.

International

Island of Tuvalu World's Least Visited Country: UN Report

i. According to a report by the **United Nations World Tourism Organization (UNWTO)**, the island of Tuvalu was the least visited country in 2016.

ii. According to the report, 2,000 people visited Tuvalu in 2016, while 1,000 people visited the country in 2014. Located in the South Pacific Ocean, Tuvalu is 4.6 meters above sea level and has a population of 11,000 people.

Important Takeaways From Above News-

- The island of Tuvalu is the fourth smallest country in the world in terms of land area.
- Funafuti is the capital of Tuvalu.

In a First, Nepal launches Climate-Smart Snow Leopard Plan

i. In a first, Nepal launched its **climate-smart snow leopard landscape management plan**, leading the way in safeguarding this endangered species, also found in India, and its habitat.

ii. This is the first **climate-smart** landscape management plan for snow leopard conservation in the world. The plan aims to safeguard the endangered species of snow leopard and its habitat.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- Leopard is listed as Endangered on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species.
- Sher Bahadur Deuba is the present PM of Nepal.

ICEX Launches World's First Diamond Futures Contracts

i. The **Indian Commodity Exchange (ICEX)** launched the **world's first diamond futures** contracts to provide exporters with a hedging tool. India is a global diamond polishing hub where 14 out of every 15 rough diamonds in the world are polished.

ii. At the launch, the first diamond contract for delivery in November was traded at Rs 3,279/cent. With over 103 registered members so far, ICEX has launched 1 ct diamond futures contract for delivery in November.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- Indian Commodity Exchange Limited is deemed recognized Stock exchange under the SCRA,1956.
- Mr. Ashok Sinha is the Chairman of Public Interest Director of ICEX.

IAEA Opens Atomic Fuel Reserve in Kazakhstan

i. The **International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)** decided to open the **Low Enriched Uranium Bank in Kazakhstan**. The IAEA opened the bank to ensure the supply of nuclear fuel in the

event of disruption due to political or market problems.

ii. The reserve opened will store 90 tons of Low-Enriched Uranium (LEU), the essential ingredient needed to make the fuel for light-water nuclear reactors, which generate electricity.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- The IAEA is an international organization that seeks to promote the peaceful use of nuclear energy.
- The agency was established as an autonomous organization in 1957.
- It is headquartered in Vienna.

Kenya Imposes World's Toughest Law Against Plastic Bags

i. In Kenya, selling or even using plastic bags will risk **imprisonment of up to four years or fines of \$40,000**. It is the **world's toughest law** which is aimed at reducing plastic pollution came into effect.

ii. The East African nation joins more than 40 other countries that have banned, partly banned or taxed single use plastic bags, including China, France, Rwanda, and Italy.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- Uhuru Kenyatta is the President of Kenya.
- Nairobi is the Capital of Kenya.

Alibaba's Jack Ma is Asia's Richest Man: Forbes

i. **Alibaba Group's Jack Ma** is back on top as Asia's richest man following gains in the company's earnings and share price. Jack Ma is worth \$37.4 billion, according to the Forbes real-time billionaires list.

ii. In the latest rankings, Chinese Internet billionaire- Tencent Chairman **Ma Huateng, the latter has slipped to No. 2**, with a fortune worth \$36.7 billion. Jack Ma currently ranks as the world's No. 18 richest man and is No. 1 in Asia.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- Alibaba Group Holding Limited is a Chinese e-commerce company.
- Alibaba Headquarters in Hangzhou, China.



UK Scientists Create World's Smallest Surgical Robot

i. **British scientists** have developed the **world's smallest surgical robot** which could transform daily operations for tens of thousands of patients. A team of 100 scientists and engineers have used low-cost technology originally developed for mobile phones and space industry.



ii. The robot, called **Versius**, mimics the human arm and can be used to carry out a wide range of laparoscopic procedures. The robot is set to be launched next year.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- The Capital of UK is London.
- Theresa May is the PM of UK.

NASA Launches Satellite to Help Astronauts Talk to Earth

i. NASA launched the latest in a series of satellites aimed at ensuring astronauts at the International Space Station can communicate with Earth. The \$408 million Boeing-made **Tracking and Data Relay Satellite (TDRS-M)** soared into space atop an Atlas V rocket that launched from Cape Canaveral, Florida.



ii. The satellite will support critical space communication into the mid-2020s. **TDRS-M is the last of 13** such satellites that have been launched since 1983.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- National Aeronautics and Space Administration is the full form of NASA.
- Robert M. Lightfoot Jr. is NASA Acting Administrator.
- NASA was established in 1958.

Nepalese PM Deuba to Begin Four-Day Visit to India

i. In his first foreign visit after assuming office, **Nepalese Prime Minister Sher Bahadur Deuba** will arrive on a **four-day trip**.



ii. Deuba will be accompanied by a high-level delegation and will also call on the President and the Vice-President.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- Deuba took over as prime minister in June 2017.
- He has replaced Pushpa Kamal Dahal.
- Kathmandu is the Capital of Nepal.

First Regional Centre of NDB Opens in S Africa

i. The first regional centre of the **New Development Bank**, set up by India and other BRICS nations, was officially opened by South African President Jacob Zuma and the bank's Indian head K V Kamath.

ii. NDB has authorized capital of the bank is USD 100 billion. In 2018 it is expected to present about 15 to 20 projects involving a total lending of about USD 4 billion for the boards consideration.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- Headquarter of NDB is in Shanghai, China.

Malala Yousafzai Gets a Place at Oxford **i.** Pakistani rights activist Malala Yousafzai secured a place at Oxford University after getting her A-level results.

ii. She will philosophy, politics, and economics at the prestigious

varsity.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- Malala was made the youngest ever UN Messenger of Peace.
- She was also the youngest person to win the Nobel Peace Prize aged 17 in 2014.

Indian Oil buys first shale oil from the US

i. State-owned **Indian Oil Corporation (IOC)** has brought the country's first shale oil from the US and is looking to step up imports from America as part of its crude diversification strategy. IOC bought **1.9 million barrels of US crude** in its second import tender seeking oil from the Americas.

ii. India, the world's third-largest oil importer, joins Asian countries like **South Korea, Japan and China** to buy US crude after production cuts by **Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC)** drove up prices of Middle East heavy-sour crude, or grades with a high sulphur content.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- Sanjiv Singh is present Chairman of IOC.
- The Head Office of Indian Oil Corporation is in New Delhi.
- Vienna, Austria is Headquarter of OPEC.

UN Declares Somalia Free of Polio

i. The **World Health Organisation (WHO)** declared **Somalia** free of polio. The UN health agency announced that it had not recorded any case of polio disease in Somalia in the last three years.

ii. The declaration by WHO keeps Somalia outside the last group of countries which still record cases of polio in the world. **Afghanistan, Nigeria, and Pakistan** are the remaining countries where polio is still being recorded.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- The disease was first recognized as a distinct condition by Michael Underwood in 1789 and the virus that causes it was first identified in 1908 by Karl Landsteiner.
- Headquarter of WHO is in Geneva, Switzerland.

China Bans Imports from North Korea

i. **China** halts iron, iron ore and seafood imports from **North Korea**, following through on new UN sanctions over its ally's nuclear program.

ii. The United Nations Security Council, including permanent member Beijing, approved tough sanctions against Pyongyang that could cost the country \$1 billion a year. China, which is suspected of failing to enforce past UN measures, accounts for 90% of North Korea's trade.



Important Takeaways from Above News-

- Pyongyang is the capital of North Korea.
- Kim Jong-un is the Supreme Leader of North Korea.

Norway has World's Fastest Mobile Internet

- According to global leader in broadband testing **Ookla**, **Norway** has the fastest mobile Internet in the world. The **Netherlands and Hungary** are ranked number two and three on the list of the world's fastest mobile networks.
- In only 13 months, Norway has jumped from 11th to first place on the list of world best providers of fast Internet connection.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- Oslo is the capital city of Norway.

Australia to Get World's Biggest Single Tower Solar Thermal Plant

- Australian state government** has approved the **world's biggest single tower solar thermal power plant**, a 150-megawatt structure to be built in South Australia by 2020.



- Solar thermal technology uses mirrors to concentrate the Sun's light at the top of a tower. This heats the stored molten salt and the heat is then used to operate steam turbines.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- The largest solar thermal installation in the world is currently in California which features three towers and has a capacity of 392 MW.

Melbourne Named 'World's Most Liveable City'

- Melbourne (in Australia)** has been named **world's most liveable city** for a record **seventh year in a row**, according to the **Economist Intelligence Unit's Global Liveability Report 2017**. Melbourne scored an overall rating of 97.5 out of 100 on the liveability index.

- Damascus in Syria** was deemed the **world's worst among the 140 cities surveyed**. It is the first time in the survey's 15-year history that a city has held the No 1 rank in its own right for seven consecutive years. **Vienna (in Austria)** and **Vancouver (in Canada)** were on **2nd and 3rd Positions**, respectively.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- Canberra is the Capital of Australia.

Earth's Largest Volcanic Region Discovered in Antarctica

- The **largest volcanic region on Earth**, with nearly 100 volcanoes, has been discovered two km below the surface of the vast ice sheet in **West Antarctica**. Researchers from the University of Edinburgh in Britain found a staggering 91 previously unknown volcanoes, adding to the 47 others.
- These newly discovered volcanoes range in height from 100 to 3,850 meters, with the highest almost as tall as Switzerland's

3,970 meters Eiger mountain.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- Antarctica is Earth's southernmost continent.
- It contains the geographic South Pole and is situated in the Antarctic region of the Southern Hemisphere.

Italy to Host G-7 Interior Ministers' Summit on Security

- Italy** will host a summit of **G-7 interior ministers** centered on security issues in the fall. According to Italian Interior Minister Marco Minniti, the meeting is being organized at the request of Italy's G-7 partners: Canada, France, Germany, the United Kingdom, Japan and the United States.



- Italy currently holds the rotating helm of the Group of Seven industrialized nations. The summit is expected to be held in October 2017.

About G-7 in Brief-

1. Originally the group comprised six members- France, Italy, West Germany, Japan, United Kingdom and the United States.
2. It was founded in 1975.
3. Canada became the seventh member to begin attending the summits in 1976, after which the name 'Group 7' or G7 Summit was used.
4. Russia formally joined the group in 1998, resulting in the creation of a new governmental political forum, the Group of Eight or G8.
5. However, Russia was eliminated from the group in 2014 after it annexed the Ukrainian territory of Crimea.

World's longest pedestrian suspension bridge opens in Switzerland

- Spanning an awesome 1621 feet and rising as high as 279 feet, the newly opened **Charles Kuonen Suspension Bridge in Switzerland** has broken the record for the world's longest pedestrian suspension bridge, according to Zermatt Tourism.

- The bridge, which has replaced an older bridge that was damaged by falling rocks, was named after its chief sponsor, a psychologist and co-owner of a Swiss winery.



Important Takeaways from Above News-

- The Currency of Switzerland is Swiss franc.
- The Capital of Switzerland is Bern.

China opens its first overseas Military base in Djibouti

- China** formally opened its **first overseas military base** with a flag raising ceremony in **Djibouti** in the Horn of Africa, the same day as the People's Liberation Army marks its 90th birthday.
- Djibouti's position on the northwestern edge of the Indian

Ocean has fueled worry in India that it would become another of China's "string of pearls" military alliances and assets ringing India, including Bangladesh, Myanmar, and Sri Lanka.

7th Meeting of BRICS Trade Ministers held in Shanghai, China

i. The 7th Meeting of BRICS Trade Ministers was held in Shanghai, China. A six-member delegation led by Commerce and Industry Minister Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman.
ii. Mr. Zhong Shan, Minister of Commerce from China, presided over the meetings. Sitharaman discussed with her Chinese counterpart, Zhong Shan, the trade deficit in India-China bilateral trade which stands at \$51 billion for 2016-17 from the \$71.48 billion bilateral trade between the two countries.

JK Rowling: World's Highest Paid Author by Forbes

i. Harry Potter creator JK Rowling has been named the world's most highly-paid author with earnings of £72.2m (\$95m).
ii. It is the first time that Rowling has topped Forbes' list of the 10 highest earners in the global industry for the first time in almost 10 years. Other authors included in the list were Paula Hawkins and EL James.



Iran signs its biggest-ever car deal with France's Renault

i. Iran's official news agency says two Iranian companies have signed the country's biggest-ever car deal with French multinational automobile manufacturer Group Renault to produce 150,000 cars, beginning in 2018.
ii. The Euro €660 million — or \$778 million — deal follows the lifting of international sanctions after Iran's 2015 nuclear agreement with world powers.

Important Takeaways from above News-

- Emmanuel Macron is present President of France.
- Tehran is the capital of Iran.
- Hassan Rouhani is the current President of Iran.

Oxford Launches Tamil, Gujarati Online Dictionaries

i. After the Hindi version, Oxford University Press (OUP) has launched online dictionaries in Tamil and Gujarati as part of its special focus on Indian languages.
ii. Launched in September 2015 Oxford Global Languages (OGL) is a major initiative from Oxford Dictionaries which aims to build dictionaries and lexicographical resources for around 100 of the world's languages and to make them available online.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- Judy Pearsall, Director for Oxford Dictionaries

India and US to Co-host the Global Entrepreneurship Summit at Hyderabad

i. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has stated that India and the United States will co-host the Global Entrepreneurship Summit at Hyderabad from November 28, 2017. President

Donald Trump's daughter Ivanka will lead the American delegation. **ii.** The Summit is a unique opportunity for bringing together entrepreneurs and start-ups with global leaders. The summit is being organized by the NITI Aayog in coordination with the Ministry of External Affairs.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- Donald John Trump is the 45th and current President of the United States.

15th Ministerial Meeting of BIMSTEC Concludes at Kathmandu

i. The 15th Ministerial Meeting of Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) concluded at Kathmandu, Nepal.
ii. They agreed to emphasize the need for greater cooperation in trade and investment in order to deepen regional integration in the Bay of Bengal region.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- Indian Side was lead by Smt Sushma Swaraj, Minister of External Affairs.
- Sher Bahadur Deuba is the PM of Nepal.
- Kathmandu is the Capital of Nepal.

5 Indian-Origin Persons in Fortune's Annual '40 Under 40' List

i. Five Indian-origin persons, including Irish Prime Minister Leo Varadkar, have featured in Fortune's annual list of 40 young and influential people in the field of business. Fortune's 2017 '40 Under 40' list is an annual ranking of the most influential young people who are under 40 in business.
ii. The list has been topped by 39-year-old French President Emmanuel Macron "France's youngest leader since Napoleon". The Indian-origin persons on the list are 26-year-old Divya Nag, who oversees Apple's ambitious ResearchKit and CareKit programmes, Rishi Shah, 31, and Shradha Agarwal, 32, 31-year-old Leila Janah. The list also includes Facebook founder Mark Zuckerberg on the second spot.

Emma Stone Named as 2017's Highest-Paid Female Actor

i. Emma Stone has been named Hollywood's best-paid female actor in Forbes annual list of top earners.

ii. The 28-year-old made \$26m in the last 12 months, the majority of which was earned from her Oscar-winning performance in the musical romance La La Land. The film made over \$445m worldwide.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- Stone won an Academy Award, a BAFTA Award, and a Golden Globe Award for Best Actress.



US Declares Hizbul Mujahideen as Global Terrorist Group
i. The United States named Pakistan-based **Hizbul Mujahideen (HM)** as a **Foreign Terrorist Organisation and a Specially Designated Global Terrorist group.**

ii. The Hizb is one of the two most active Pakistan-based terrorist groups operating in Jammu and Kashmir, and claimed responsibility for several attacks, including the April 2014 explosives attack in Kashmir.



China Launches First Cyber Court in e-commerce Hub

i. China launched its first cyber court specializing in handling Internet-related cases in the **e-commerce hub of Hangzhou.**

ii. The Hangzhou Internet Court in Hangzhou will handle cases such as online trade disputes and copyright lawsuits. Hangzhou is home to many Internet companies, including e-commerce giant Alibaba.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- Xi Jinping is the present President of China.
- The Capital of China is Beijing and its Currency is Renminbi.

Sri Lanka Appoints First Tamil Navy Chief After Four Decades

i. Rear Admiral Travis Sinniah was appointed as the **chief of Sri Lanka's naval forces**, making him the **first from the minority Tamil community** to head the Navy since the brutal civil war erupted in the country 45 years ago.



ii. He was appointed as the Navy chief by **President Maithripala Sirisena.** Sinniah succeeds Vice Admiral Ravi Wijegunaratne who has retired.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- He is the second Tamil to head the Lankan Navy after Rajan Kadirgamar, who was the commander in the late 1960s.

Appointments or Resign/Retired

US Senate Confirms Christopher Wray as FBI Director

i. The US Senate has confirmed **Christopher Wray** to lead the **FBI**, replacing James Comey, who was abruptly fired by President Donald Trump.

ii. Christopher Wray was also the former high-ranking official in President George W. Bush's Justice Department who oversaw investigations into corporate fraud.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- The first president of America was George Washington.

Sanjaya Baru New Secretary General of FICCI

i. Sanjaya Baru has appointed as the **Secretary General of the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI).**

ii. Sanjay will assume the charge from 1st September 2017. He succeeds A Didar Singh, who served as Secretary General for 5 years.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- The Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) is an association of business organizations in India.
- It was formed in 1927 and is headquartered in New Delhi.
- Pankaj Patel is the President of FICCI.

Akshay Kumar Roped in as Brand Ambassador for Swachh Bharat Mission in Uttar Pradesh

i. Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath today announced the appointment of Bollywood actor Akshay Kumar as the brand ambassador of the Swachh Bharat Mission in the state.



ii. The chief minister also announced to make the film tax-free in the state. The chief minister also released the film's toilet anthem, 'Karle Toilet Ka Jugar', which has been sung by the actor himself.

R.K. Raghavan is New High Commissioner of India to Cyprus

i. According to the External Affairs Ministry, **Former CBI Director R.K. Raghavan** has been appointed **High Commissioner to Cyprus.** His specialization is cyber security.

ii. He had been CBI Director from January 1999 to April 2001. The Supreme Court appointed him head of the Anti-Ragging Monitoring Committee in 2006.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- Nicosia is the capital of Cyprus.
- Nicos Anastasiades is the President of Cyprus.

Rajiv Gauba Takes Over as Union Home Secretary

i. Mr. Rajiv Gauba took over as **Secretary to the Government of India in the Ministry of Home Affairs.** Mr. Gauba joined the Ministry of Home Affairs as Officer on Special Duty on June 27, 2017 and took charge as the Union Home Secretary upon the superannuation of **Shri Rajiv Mehrishi.**

ii. Mr. Gauba also served in the International Monetary Fund representing the country for four years on the Board of IMF.

SEBI approves appointment of Dharendra Swarup as BSE chairman

i. SEBI has approved the appointment of **Dharendra Swarup** as the chairman of the board of directors of the **BSE.**

ii. Dharendra Swarup, who was a public interest director at the BSE, replaces incumbent **Sudhakar Rao.** Swarup was the former Chairman of the Pension Funds Regulatory and

Development Authority (PFRDA).

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- Ajay Tyagi is the present chairman of SEBI.

Sameer Garde named Cisco president for India, SAARC region

i. Tech giant Cisco has named former Philips Healthcare executive, **Sameer Garde** as president for its India and SAARC operations. He has **succeeded Dinesh Malkani**.

ii. Malkani will remain associated with Cisco as the strategic advisor till the end of September 2017.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- Cisco Systems is a Networking hardware company based in the USA.

BSE Board Approved Another 5-year Term for Ashish Chauhan as CEO

i. Top stock exchange BSE's board has approved another **five-year term for its chief Ashish Chauhan**. Chauhan has joined BSE as deputy chief executive officer (CEO) in 2009. He was made MD and CEO for a period of five years with effect from November 2, 2012.

ii. Mr. Chauhan will be BSE's Managing Director and CEO until November 1, 2022.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- Chauhan holds a B Tech in Mechanical Engineering from IIT Bombay and a PGDM from IIM Kolkata.
- Under his leadership, the BSE set up the country's first international exchange, India International Exchange in January 2017 at Gandhinagar, GIFT City.

Dharmendra Kumar Appointed Director General of RPF

i. CISF ADG Dharmendra Kumar has been appointed as **Director General of the Railway Protection Force**. Kumar, who is a 1984 batch IPS officer of Arunachal Pradesh-Goa-Mizoram-Union Territories (AGMUT) cadre, took charge.

ii. After the retirement of S K Bhagat in June 2017, the additional charge of DG, RPF, was being handled by National Security Guard (NSG) DG, Sudhir Pratap Singh. Kumar will retire on September 30, 2018.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- Shri B.N.Laihri was the first DG of RPF.

Nandan Nilekani Returns to Infosys as New Chairman

i. **Nandan Nilekani** has been appointed as the **New Chairman of the software giant Infosys**. Nilekani has replaced R Seshasayee, who resigned as chairman of the board. Vishal Sikka stepped down as CEO of the company recently.

ii. Sikka, who was appointed executive vice-chairman after he resigned as CEO, has also stepped down.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- Nilekani served as Infosys's CEO from 2002 to 2007.
- Infosys is country's no. 2 software services exporter.

AIADMK Merger: O Panneerselvam Sworn in as Deputy CM of Tamil Nadu

i. O Panneerselvam was on 21 August 2017 sworn in as the Deputy Chief Minister (CM) of Tamil Nadu, following the much-speculated merger of All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (AIADMK) factions.

ii. The two factions of the AIADMK merged six months after their split following the death of then Chief Minister J Jayalalithaa. Panneerselvam was appointed as the Coordinator of the merged AIADMK.

Arvind Panagariya resigns as NITI Aayog Vice-Chairman

i. **Arvind Panagariya**, the first vice-chairman of Niti Aayog who was considered to be Prime Minister Narendra Modi's personal pick for economic reforms, announced his **resignation**.

ii. The 62-year-old Panagariya is an Indian-American economist and **Professor of Economics at Columbia University**.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- Chairman of NITI Aayog is Narendra Modi.

Venkaiah Naidu Is New Vice President of India

i. **Venkaiah Naidu** is going to succeed Hamid Ansari as the new **Vice-President of India**. Naidu's victory was a foregone conclusion, the NDA candidate having the support of a majority of MPs who ally with the BJP.

ii. The Election Commission said that **771 votes** were polled, of which **760 were** valid and 11 were Unvalid. Venkaiah Naidu secured 516 and Gopalkrishna Gandhi 241 votes. This means, that Venkaiah Naidu will become the **13th Vice President of India**.

Air Marshal Hemant Narayan Bhagwat Appointed as Air Officer-in-Charge Administration of IAF

i. Air Marshal Hemant Narayan Bhagwat took over as Air Officer-in-Charge Administration (AOA) of Indian Air Force at Air Headquarters in New Delhi.

ii. Air Marshal Bhagwat, the Ati Vishisht Seva Medal (AVSM) and Vayu Sena Medal (VM) awardee, was commissioned in Administrative branch of the Indian Air Force in June 1981.

After serving for seven years as an Air Traffic control Officer in three different operational bases of the IAF, he qualified as Parachute Jump Instructor and served in instructional capacity for fifteen years.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- The current CAS is Air Chief Marshal Birender Singh Dhanoa who took office on 31 December 2016.



AIFF Names Banerjee as Chairman of Transfers Dispute Committee

- i. The AIFF has appointed senior advocate Ushanath Banerjee as the chairman of a special committee. It will deal with the players' transfer disputes'.
- ii. The Committee entrusted the Chairman to make a detailed and reasoned paper based on the review of the rules and regulations as mentioned above for consideration of the members for a decision thereafter.



Important Takeaways from Above News-

- President of All India Football Federation (AIFF) is Praful Patel.

Economist Rajiv Kumar to be new Vice Chairman of NITI Aayog

- i. Noted economist **Rajiv Kumar** will be the next Vice-Chairman of NITI Aayog, which is a think-tank that replaced the Planning Commission. He will succeed **Arvind Panagariya**, who had recently quit as Vice Chairman of Niti Aayog.
- ii. Meanwhile, the Centre has also appointed **Vinod Paul**, a Paediatrician at AIIMS, as a member of NITI Aayog.

Justice Dipak Misra to be next Chief Justice of India

- i. The Union government appointed **Justice Dipak Misra** as the next **Chief Justice of India**. He will be replacing incumbent **Justice J S Khehar**, who is set to retire on August 27, 2017.



- ii. It was Khehar who had recommended Misra's name to succeed him as the next Chief Justice of India. Justice Misra will be sworn in as the **45th Chief Justice of India** by President Ram Nath Kovind on August 27. Justice Misra will retire on October 2, 2018.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- Justice H.J Kania was the first Chief Justice of India.

Indian American Appointed US County's Deputy Comptroller For Minority Affairs

- i. Indian American **Dilip Chauhan** has been appointed to a key position of Deputy Comptroller for **Minority Affairs in New York's Nassau county**.
- ii. Chauhan had joined the Comptroller's office in 2015 as Director for Community Affairs, South and East Asia. He has served as senior advisor to the Comptroller since early 2017.

Milkha Singh Appointed WHO Goodwill Ambassador

- i. **Legendary Indian athlete Milkha Singh** has been appointed **WHO Goodwill Ambassador** for Physical Activity in South-East Asia Region.
- ii. Mr. Milkha will promote WHO South-East Asia Region's NCD

(non-communicable diseases) Prevention and Control Action Plan which seeks to reduce the level of insufficient physical activity by 10 percent and NCDs by 25 percent by 2025.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus is the Director-General of WHO for the term of 5 Years.
- WHO headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland.

Kenya President Uhuru Kenyatta Re-elected

- i. In Kenya, **Uhuru Kenyatta has been re-elected as President** following the election. Election Commission Head Wafula Chebukati announced in Nairobi that Kenyatta got 54.27 per cent votes beating his rival Raifa Odinga who got 44.74 per cent of votes.
- ii. The opposition rejected the results even before they were declared, calling the process a charade.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- The Capital of Kenya is Nairobi.
- Its Currency is Kenyan shilling.

Dilip Asbe Appointed as Acting Chief Executive of NPCI

- i. **National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)** has appointed **Dilip Asbe** to act as its chief executive officer in the wake of the retirement of A. P. Hota, its founding managing director.
- ii. Hota who had served as the MD of NPCI since its inception retired recently. As be who currently serves as the organisations' chief operating officer will continue in the same designation, but will also act as the chief executive of NPCI.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- Headquarter of NPCI is in Mumbai.
- It was founded in 2008.

Jet Airways Appoints Vinay Dube as CEO

- i. **Jet Airways India Ltd** named **Vinay Dube** as its **Chief Executive Officer (CEO)**. Jet Airways has been without a full-time CEO since Cramer Ball quit in February 2016.
- ii. Mr. Dube is currently senior vice president, Asia Pacific with Delta Air Lines Inc., one of the world's largest and most profitable airlines.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- Jet Airways is an Indian airline based in Mumbai.
- Its Parent company is Tailwinds Private Limited.

Prasar Bharati Chief Vempati Given Additional Charge of Rajya Sabha

- i. **Shashi Shekhar Vempati**, Chief Executive Officer (CEO) at public broadcaster Prasar Bharati has been appointed as the **chief of Rajya Sabha TV**.
- ii. Rajya Sabha TV is owned and operated by Rajya Sabha and covers the proceedings of the upper house of the Parliament. Vempati will replace Gurdeep Singh Sappal who has been serving

as the CEO and editor-in-chief of Rajya Sabha TV since 2011.

Important Takeaways From Above News-

- Rajya Sabha TV was founded in 2008.
- Prasar Bharati runs Doordarshan television and All India Radio.

S. Aparna Appointed Executive Director, World Bank

i. S. Aparna, an IAS officer from Gujarat cadre has been appointed as **Executive Director, World Bank** to represent the constituency of India, Bangladesh, Bhutan and Sri Lanka for three years.

ii. A 1988-batch IAS, she is currently Principal Secretary to Gujarat Chief Minister Vijay Rupani. At the World Bank, she will replace **Subhash Garg**, who was recently appointed Economic Affairs Secretary, Ministry of Finance.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- The World Bank is headquartered in Washington D.C.
- It was Founded in 1944.
- Jim Yong Kim is the President of The World Bank.

Lalit Modi resigns from Rajasthan Cricket Association

i. Lalit Modi has resigned as president of the **Nagaur District Cricket Association (RCA)**, which was banned by the Board of Control for Cricket in India (**BCCI**) for allowing him in its fold.

ii. The 50-year-old, who left India after being charged with money laundering, sent his resignation to both the RCA as well as BCCI CEO **Rahul Johri**.

Sohail Mahmood- Pakistan's High Commissioner to India

i. Sohail Mahmood has assumed the charge of **Pakistan's High Commissioner to India** in New Delhi.

ii. Mahmood, who joined foreign service in 1985, was earlier deputed in Turkey as Ambassador of Pakistan. **He replaced Abdul Basit** after his premature retirement.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- Shahid Khaqan Abbasi has been recently elected as Pakistan Prime Minister.

Neymar Becomes Goodwill Ambassador for Disabled

i. World's Most expensive player Neymar (Brazilian Footballer) became the **Goodwill Ambassador for Handicap International**.

ii. The charity was founded in 1982 to assist 6,000 Cambodian refugees who had lost limbs and later co-founded the International Campaign to Ban Landmines (ICBL) in 1992 which won the Nobel Peace Prize.

Important Takeaways from

Above News-



- Neymar is from Brazil.

Putin Appoints Nikolay Kudashev as Russia's New Ambassador to India

i. Russian President Vladimir Putin appointed career diplomat **Nikolay Kudashev** as **Russia's new ambassador to India**.

ii. The appointment of Kudashev comes nearly seven months after the death of Russia's previous ambassador to India Alexander Kadakin.

Railway Board Chairman Ashok Mittal Resigns

i. Ashok Mittal, Chairman of the Railway Board submitted his resignation to Railway Minister Suresh Prabhu. His resignation comes in the wake of a number of a high-profile accidents and derailments on the Indian Railways.

ii. Two Indian Rails namely Kaifyat Express and Utkal Express derailed, recently.

Ashwani Lohani: New Railway Board Chairman

i. Ashwani Lohani, the CMD of Air India has been named as the **new Chairman of Railway Board**, following the resignation on A.K. Mittal. Ashwani Lohani, an IRSME cadre has previously served as DRM, Delhi Division.

ii. Mr. Lohani holds four engineering degrees, has authored two books and is credited with the turnaround of the Madhya Pradesh Tourism Development Corporation and the India Tourism Development Corporation.

Government Announces Rajiv Bansal as New Air India CMD

i. Rajiv Bansal, additional secretary in the petroleum ministry, has been **named the interim CMD of Air India**.

ii. Bansal is an Indian Administrative Services officer from the 1988 batch. The government has appointed current Air India CMD Ashwani Lohani chairman of the Railway Board. Lohani's appointment came a day after AK Mital resigned from the post of railways chairman.

Honours/ Awards

PV Sindhu, First Brand Ambassador for Bridgestone India

i. Badminton ace PV Sindhu, who recently won Silver at the World Championship, was appointed the **first brand ambassador of tyre maker Bridgestone India**.

ii. The shuttler has signed a **three year deal with Bridgestone India**, a subsidiary of Bridgestone which is one of the sponsors for the Olympics **2020 in Japan**. The Padma Shri recipient became the first Indian woman to win an Olympic silver medal in the Olympic Games Rio 2016.

Important Takeaways From Above News-

- Registered Office of Bridgestone India Private Limited is in Pune, Maharashtra.

NITI Aayog Announced Winners of the Women Transforming India Awards 2017

i. NITI Aayog, in partnership with MyGov and the United

Nations, announced the winners of the **Women Transforming India Awards, 2017**. Launched on International Women's Day on 8 March, the contest aimed to gather lesser-known stories of women leading change.

ii. Honourable Minister for Textiles and Information and Broadcasting, Smriti Irani has awarded top 12 winners, honoring their courage and role in transforming societies.

Top 4 Contestants-

1. **Laxmi Agarwal**- a champion of violence against women.
2. **Safeena Husain**- working for girls' education in India's most backward districts.
3. **Subasini Mistry**- working for two decades to build a hospital for the needy.
4. **Arunima Sinha**- Is the first female amputee to scale the highest mountain in the world.

Nitasha Biswas Crowned First Miss TransQueen India

i. Nitasha Biswas, a transwoman from Kolkata was crowned the **first Miss TransQueen India**. The competition was held in Gurugram, Haryana. Biswas is currently pursuing Masters in Business Management in Kolkata, West Bengal.

ii. On the other hand, Manipur's Loiloi was crowned the first runner-up. Biswas will now go to Thailand for Miss International Queen, while Loiloi will compete at Miss Transsexual Australia.



Important Takeaways from Above News-

- Miss TransQueen India 2017 is the first ever transgender beauty contest of the country.

NRDC Wins Two Awards

i. National Research Development Corporation (NRDC), the technology transfer and commercialization arm of the Ministry of Science & Technology, has won two accolades. It has won the **Assocham Services Excellence Award 2017** and its **Chairman and Managing Director, H Purushotham, an international recognition**.

ii. The International Association of Advanced Materials (IAAM) Sweden honored Purushotham with the IAAM Medal 2017 for his outstanding R&D contributions in the Advanced Materials Science & Technology during its award ceremony in Stockholm, Sweden.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- National Research Development Corporation (NRDC) was established in 1953 by the Government of India.

12-year-old Indian-Origin Crowned Child Genius in UK

i. A 12-year-old Indian-origin boy named **Rahul Doshi** has been crowned as the **UK's 'Child Genius'** in a popular television quiz competition, days after he became an overnight sensation after

answering all questions correctly.

ii. Rahul Doshi won the Channel 4 show 'Child Genius' by beating his nine-year-old opponent – Ronan – 10-4. The school boy is from north London.

Trump Awarded First Medal of Honor to Vietnam Army Medic

i. An Army medic from **Michigan** who risked his life multiple times to rescue Vietnam War comrades is the **first person to receive the Medal of Honor from President Donald Trump** in Washington.

ii. Trump presented America's highest military honor to **James McCloughan** at a White House ceremony.

East Bengal honours Dhanraj Pillay with 'Bharat Gaurav'

i. Former India hockey captain **Dhanraj Pillay** was honored by **East Bengal football club** on its foundation day with its highest award, **Bharat Gaurav**.

ii. Former India international **Subhash Bhowmick**, a member of the 1970 Asian Games bronze medal-winning national football team, and former national team coach **Syed Naemuddin** were honored with **lifetime achievement awards**.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- P. R. Sreejesh is present captain of Indian hockey team.
- In 2012, Sanskriti Yuva Sanstha started "Bharat Gaurav Award" felicitation program.

Dev Patel to be honored with Asia Society Game Changers Award

i. Indian-origin actor Dev Patel is to be honored by a leading educational organization for making a "transformative and positive" difference for the future of Asia and the world.

ii. London-born Dev Patel, who became popular with his debut film *Slumdog Millionaire*, will be felicitated with the Asia Society 2017 Asia Game Changers Award at a ceremony to be held at the United Nations, New York, in November 2017.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- He was recently seen in Garth Davis' *Lion*, which earned him an Academy Award nomination for the best actor in a supporting role.

The Obelisk Gate' wins Best Novel 2017

i. The Hugo Award for Best Novel 2017 was given to **Nora K. Jemisin**, an American speculative fiction writer for her work 'The Obelisk Gate'. The award was presented at the **75th World Science Fiction Convention** in Helsinki.

ii. The awarded book was the second in the trilogy that started with '**The Fifth Season**', which was New York Times **Notable Book of 2015** and won Jemisin the Hugo Award for Best Novel in 2016.



Aishwarya becomes the first woman to raise Indian flag at IFFM 2017

- i. Bollywood star **Aishwarya Rai Bachchan** has become the first female actor ever to hoist the **Indian National Flag at the Indian Film Festival of Melbourne (IFFM)**, Australia's annual celebration of film from India and the subcontinent.
- ii. The official Twitter handle of IFFM **posted a picture** of the 43-year-old actress.

T J S George Bags First-Ever Kesari Media Award

- i. Veteran journalist **T J S George** has been chosen for the first **Kesari Media Award**, instituted by the Kesari Memorial Journalist Trust.
- ii. The award comprises a purse of Rs 50,000, citation and a statuette designed by renowned artist Bhatathiri.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- TJS George, is a writer and biographer who received a **Padma Bhushan** award in 2011 in the field of literature and education..

Gabriel Chundan Lifts 65th Nehru Trophy

- i. **Gabriel Chundan** won the 65th edition of the prestigious Nehru Trophy (Boat Race) held at the Punnamda Lake in Kerala.
- ii. While 'Mahadevikkad Kattilthekekethil' came second, 'Payippad' and 'Karichal', last year's winner, secured the third and fourth spots respectively.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- The Nehru trophy was instituted to commemorate the visit of the first Indian Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru to the area and his boat ride in the lake.

NABARD Awards for Corporation Bank

- i. **Corporation Bank** has bagged the best performance awards for SHG-bank linkage program for Karnataka for 2015-16 and 2016-17 from **National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (Nabard)**.
- ii. The bank was given the award for its overall performance under SHG-bank linkage program for 2015-16 and 2016-17 among commercial banks operating in Karnataka. The bank has formed more than 1.32 lakh self-help groups (SHGs).

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- Jai Kumar Garg is the Managing Director & CEO of Corporation Bank.

Telangana CM Chosen for Agriculture Leadership Award

- i. **Telangana Chief Minister K Chandrashekhara Rao** has been selected for the prestigious **Agriculture Leadership Award-2017**. The award will be presented on September 5 at Taj Palace Hotel in New Delhi.

- ii. The Chief Minister has been selected for the award for his innovative services rendered to the welfare of farmers and the farm sector.



Important Takeaways from Above News-

- The award, instituted by Indian Council of Food and Agriculture in 2008, is presented every year since then.
- E S L Narasimhan is the present Governor of Telangana.

Sports

FIFA U-17 World Cup Logo for Kochi Venue

- i. **Kerala Chief Minister Shri Pinarayi Vijayan** launched the host **city logo for Kochi**, one of the venues of FIFA U-17 World Cup India 2017. The logo represents and reflects Kochi's identity and will be a valuable tool in linking the local community in a global World Cup.



- ii. The tournament will be hosted in the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium of the city. In October 2016, Kochi became the first Indian city to be officially declared as one of the venues for hosting the 2017 FIFA U-17 World Cup.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- The Official Mascot of the FIFA U-17 World Cup India 2017 is a clouded leopard called **Kheleo**.
- This is the first FIFA tournament hosted by India.
- The final will be held at the Salt Lake Stadium in Kolkata on 28 October 2017.

Indian U-15 Football Team Wins SAFF Championships

- i. **The Indian U-15 football team** completed a brilliant comeback win over Nepal to win the **SAFF U-15 Championships in Kathmandu, Nepal**.
- ii. India beat Nepal by 2-1 in the final and the match took place at ANFA Complex, Lalitpur in Nepal.

Hamilton Wins Belgian Grand Prix

- i. **Mercedes' British Formula One driver Lewis Hamilton** registered his **58th career race win** after claiming the Belgian Grand Prix title.
- ii. Hamilton's rival Ferrari's Sebastian Vettel came second, while Daniel Ricciardo was placed third. With the win, Hamilton has cut Vettel's lead at the top of the drivers' championship to seven points.



Important Takeaways from Above News-

- He recently won the **British Grand Prix** for the fifth time.

Sri Lankan Selection Committee Headed By Sanath Jayasuriya Resigns

i. The Sanath Jayasuriya-led Sri Lankan cricket selection panel has stepped down in the wake of the country's horrible performance against India.

ii. Sri Lanka suffered 3-0 defeat in the Test series and have already lost the five-match ODI series against Virat Kohli's Indian cricket team. Sri Lanka Cricket vice-president Mohan de Silva has confirmed that Sanath Jayasuriya's panel has indeed stepped down.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- Dayasiri Jayasekara is the present Sports Minister of Sri Lanka.

P V Sindhu Won Silver at World Badminton Championship 2017

i. PV Sindhu won the Silver medal in World Badminton Championship 2017. She lost the historic match against Japan's Nozomi Okuhara in an epic final, **in Glasgow, Scotland.** In the longest match of the tournament, Sindhu lost (19-21 22-20 20-22) after battling hard for one hour and 49 minutes.



ii. For India, it still is a historic edition since for the first time country's shuttler are returning with two medals. **Saina Nehwal won a bronze.**

Important Takeaways From Above News-

- Prakash Padukone was the first Indian to win a medal in this event when he took a bronze in the men's singles in 1983.
- Women's doubles pair of Jwala Gutta and Ashwini Ponnappa bagged another bronze in 2011.

Rural Games to Take Place in Delhi

i. Union Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports Minister Mr. Vijay Goel announced that the first edition of Rural Games or Grameen Khel Mahotsav will kick-start from Delhi.

ii. The Rural Games will aim at popularising the indigenous games like wrestling, athletics etc. and will also have fun games like Matka Race, Tug of War for senior citizens to add the fun element in the games.

England to Host 2018 ITTF Team World Cup

i. England has been awarded the right to host the 2018 Table Tennis Team World Cup, which will be held in **London.** The event will take place at the Copper Box Arena in the Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park from 22-25 February 2018.

ii. It will be the first major table tennis-only event to be held in London since Wembley hosted the 1954 World Championships. A total of 12 men's and 12 women's teams will compete at the event.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- Thomas Weikert is the president of ITTF.

Messi Becomes First Ever Player to Score 350 La Liga Goals

i. Barcelona forward Lionel Messi scored a second-half brace against Alaves, becoming the **first ever player to score 350 goals in La Liga.**

ii. Messi's best goal tally for a season came in 2011/12 when he netted 50 goals in 37 appearances. Messi, who has played 384 league matches, is now 66 goals ahead of rival Cristiano Ronaldo.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- Lionel Andrés Messi is an Argentine professional footballer who plays as a forward for Spanish club FC Barcelona and the Argentina national team.

Summer Olympics: Los Angeles to host 2028 Games and Paris gets 2024

i. Los Angeles reached an agreement with the leaders of the **International Olympic Committee** on plans to host the 2028 Summer Games. Los Angeles formally announced its bid for the **2028 Summer Olympics** after agreeing on a deal that paves the way for **Paris to host in 2024.**



ii. The Los Angeles Olympic and Paralympic bid committee in cooperation with the International Olympic Committee (IOC), announced it recently. The LA bid committee stated that Los Angeles will host the Olympic Games and Paralympic Games 2028.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- The first modern Olympic Games were held in Athens, Greece in 1896.

Neymar Becomes World's Most Expensive Footballer

i. Brazil's Neymar has become the **world's most expensive footballer,** with Paris Saint-Germain signing him for a five-year deal from Barcelona for a fee of Rs1,680 crore (€222 million)

ii. The 25-year-old will earn Rs6.5 crore-a-week before tax. His transfer fee is more than double that of Paul Pogba's record move to Manchester United.



Important Takeaways from Above News-

- Previously, Paul Pogba who Plays for Manchester United was the most expensive player.

Vijender beats Zulpikar to win WBO Oriental Super Middleweight title

i. Indian professional boxer **Vijender Singh** outslugged his Chinese opponent **Zulpikar Maimaitiali** to retain the WBO Asia Pacific Super Middleweight title and win the WBO Oriental

Super Middleweight title.

ii. In the pro boxing bout, termed as 'Battleground Asia', at **Mumbai**, Vijender recorded a unanimous decision win over his Chinese opponent and continued his undefeated streak. It was Beijing Olympic bronze medallist's ninth successive win in his professional career.

Usain Bolt was beaten by Justin Gatlin in 100m final

i. **Justin Gatlin** tore up Usain Bolt's farewell script as he stole world 100m gold with the run of his long and controversial career. Bolt was left with only a bronze in his final individual 100m race as 21-year-old Christian Coleman made it a USA one-two.

ii. The **35-year-old Gatlin**, twice banned for doping, came through almost unnoticed in lane seven in 9.92 seconds, with Coleman's 9.94 holding off the greatest sprinter of all time.

Kynan Chenai Wins Bronze at 7th Asian Shotgun Championships

i. **Indian shooter Kynan Chenai** won a bronze in men's trap event, his first international medal at the senior level, at the 7th Asian Championship Shotgun at **Astana, Kazakhstan**.

ii. He shot a score of 30 to finish behind gold medallist Abdulrahman Al Faihan of Kuwait, who shot 39 for a new Asian finals record and another Kuwati Talal Al Rashidi, who bagged the silver with an effort of 38.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- The Capital of Kazakhstan is Astana.
- Nursultan Nazarbayev is the President of Kazakhstan.

Davinder Singh Kang, First Indian to Qualify for Javelin Throw Finals

i. **Davinder Singh Kang** has become the first Indian to qualify for the final round of the **javelin throw World Championships** while his compatriot Neeraj Chopra crashed out in the qualification round.

ii. He had an 82.22m in his opening throw and then came up with 82.14m in his second. No Indian has ever qualified in the men's javelin throw final round in any world championship.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- Davinder Singh Kang has a personal best of 86.48m which he did while setting a junior world record in 2016.

Maheshwari bags memorable bronze at Asian Shotgun Championship

i. Shooter **Maheshwari Chauhan** bagged a bronze medal at the Asian Shotgun Championship to earn India's first women's skeet individual medal at a top international competition in **Astana, Kazakhstan**.

ii. Maheshwari also led India to the team silver alongside compatriots **Rashmi Rathore and Saniya Sheikh**.

Legendary Sprinter Usain Bolt Retires

i. The greatest sprinter of modern times, **Usain Bolt** from **Jamaica** retired from the Athletics world. But at farewell Race,

he injured himself while running the last lap of the **men's 4x100m relay race** in the World Athletics Championships in London.

ii. Running the final race of his career, the 30-year-old Bolt, after taking the baton from his Jamaican teammate Yohan Blake, suffered cramps on his left hamstring.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- Usain Bolt only non-drug offender in 30 fastest ever 100m sprints.

Mairaj-Rashmi Pair Bags Gold at Asian Shotgun Championship

i. On the concluding day of the **7th Asian Championship Shotgun in Astana**, India bagged a gold medal in the skeet mixed team event.

ii. The Indian duo of **Mairaj Ahmad Khan and Rashmi Rathore** won over the Chinese pair of Liu Jiangchi and Gao Jianmei.

iii. India finished the championship with a total of eight medals.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- Astana is the Capital of Kazakhstan.
- Ankur Mittal had earlier won a gold in the men's double trap.
- Kynan Chenai won a bronze in the men's trap.
- Maheshwari Chauhan clinched a bronze in the women's skeet.

Cristiano Ronaldo hit with five-match ban

i. **World Player of the Year, Cristiano Ronaldo** was banned for **five-match** by the Spanish football federation. He has been banned for pushing the referee after being sent-off in Real Madrid's 3-1 win over Barcelona in the First Leg of **Spanish Super Cup**.

ii. **Ronaldo** received an automatic one-match ban for his dismissal and an extra four games for his reaction towards referee Ricardo de Burgos Bengoetxea. He has also been fined **4,500 US dollars** and has 10 days to appeal the ban.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- **Cristiano Ronaldo** is a Portuguese professional footballer.
- Ronaldo plays as a forward for Spanish club **Real Madrid** and the Portugal national team.
- Cristiano Ronaldo has won **Fifa's world player of the year** award for the fourth time after winning both major European titles in **2016**.

Alexander Zverev Beats Roger Federer to Win Rogers Cup

i. **Alexander Zverev** won 6-3 6-4 at the **Rogers Cup** to claim his second Masters 1000 title and extend his winning run to 10 matches.

ii. Zverev is the youngest Rogers Cup finalist since Novak Djokovic in 2007. Alexander Zverev and Roger Federer now have five tournament titles this year.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- The Current ranking of Alexander Zverev is eighth.
- Alexander Zverev is from Germany.
- Roger Federer is from Switzerland.

IAAF World Championships 2017

i. The 16th edition of IAAF (International Association of Athletics Federations) World Championships 2017 was held in London. The championships were held in the London Stadium in Stratford. '**Hero-the Hedgehog**' was a Mascot of 2017 IAAF World Championships and '**Whizbee-the Bee**' was the Mascot for the Para Athletics.

ii. The USA topped the tally of Medals with 30 medals.

Top 5 Countries in the list of Medals were-

1. US (30 Medals)
2. Kenya (11 Medals)
3. Great Britain (6 Medals)
4. Poland (8 Medals)
5. China (7 Medals)

Important Highlights of The Event-

1. Legendary Sprinter Usain Bolt Retires.
2. Justin Gatlin wins men's 100m gold.
3. Davinder Singh Kang has become the first Indian to qualify for the final round of the javelin throw at World Championships.
4. High jump champion Ruth Beitia of Spain receives Fair Play Award.

Real Madrid Beats Barcelona to Win 2017 Spanish Super Cup

i. Real Madrid defeated Barcelona in the second leg of the 2017 Spanish Super Cup to seal the win at the Bernabeu, Spain.

ii. Real Madrid achieved the feat without Cristiano Ronaldo, who was slapped with a five-game ban for pushing the referee after he was sent-off in the first leg.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- Madrid is the Capital of Spain.

Lakshya Sen Wins Bulgaria Open International Series

i. Young Indian shuttler Lakshya Sen clinched the Bulgaria Open International Series title after notching up a hard-fought win over Croatia's Zvonimir Durkinjak in the men's singles final in Sofia, Bulgaria.

ii. The 16-year-old shuttler defeated second seed Zvonimir in a 57-minute match.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- The Capital of Bulgaria is Sofia.
- Rumen Radev is the President of Bulgaria.

Ronaldo First to be named Men's Player of the Year for Three Times

i. Real Madrid forward Cristiano Ronaldo has won the UEFA Men's Player of the Year award for the 2016/17 season. He

received the award at the 2017/18 UEFA Champions League group stage draw in Monaco.

ii. Ronaldo picked up the trophy for the second consecutive season and third time in total. Ronaldo received 482 points in the poll, with Messi (141 votes) and Buffon (109 votes) finishing second and third respectively.

Other Award Given are as follows-

1. UEFA Women's Player of the Year: **Lieke Martens.**
2. Best Goalkeeper of the 2016/17 UEFA Champions League season: **Gianluigi Buffon.**
3. Best Defender of the 2016/17 UEFA Champions League season: **Sergio Ramos.**
4. Best Midfielder of the 2016/17 UEFA Champions League season: **Luka Modrić.**
5. Best Forward of the 2016/17 UEFA Champions League season: **Cristiano Ronaldo.**

Serena Williams- The Highest-Paid Female Athlete of 2017

i. American Tennis Player Serena Williams has topped the Forbes' list of highest paid female athletes of 2017 with \$27 million in earnings between June 2016 and June 2017.

ii. Her earnings, which include prize money and endorsements, is twice that of any other female athlete.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- Sharapova was the highest-paid female athlete for 11 years until Williams unseated her in FORBES' 2016 look at the top-paid women in sports.
- Williams ranked 51st on the list in 2016.

National Sports Awards 2017 Announced

National Sports Awards are given every year to recognize and reward excellence in sports. Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna Award is given for the spectacular and most outstanding performance in the field of sports by a sportsperson over a period of four year, Arjuna Award is given for consistency outstanding performance for four years, Dronacharya Award for coaches for producing medal winners at prestigious International sports events, Dhyan Chand Award for life time contribution to sports development. The Union Government announced the National Sports Awards. Para athlete Devendra and hockey player Sardar Singh will be honoured with the Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna Award.

The awardees will receive their awards from the President of India at a specially organized function at the Rashtrapati Bhawan on 29 August 2017.

(i) Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna 2017

S. No.	Name of the Awardee	discipline
1.	Shri Devendra	Para Athlete
2.	Shri Sardar Singh	Hockey

(iii) Arjuna Awards 2017

Arjuna Award has given to 17 sportsperson. Some of them are (I) Cheteshwar Pujara, cricket (ii) Ms. Harmanpreet Kaur, cricket (iii) A.Amalraj, Table-Tennis (IV) Sub L. Debendro Singh, Boxing

Nita Ambani awarded Rashtriya Khel Protsahan Puruskar by the President

important Takeaways from Above News-

- Selection Committee for Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna Award and Arjuna Awards was headed by Justice C.K. Thakkar.
- Apart from a medal and a citation, Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna Awardee will receive a cash prize of Rs. 7.5 lakh. Arjuna, Dronacharya and Dhyan Chand Awardees will received statuettes, certificates and cash prize of Rs. 5 lakh each.

Obituaries

Olympian Footballer Ahmed Khan Passes Away

i. India's two-time Olympic footballer and East Bengal legend

Ahmed Khan passed away at the age of 90.

ii. Khan, who played in the 1948 and 1952 Olympics, was one of the most famous of the legendary quintet of forwards called the "Five Pandavas" who played for East Bengal in an India that had just become an independent nation.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- He made his debut against France in the London Olympics.

Dhrupad maestro Ustad Hussain Sayeeduddin Dagar passes away

i. Ustad Hussain Sayeeduddin Dagar, a classical vocalist and one of the leading exponents of Dhrupad tradition, passed away following a brief illness in Pune. He was 78.

ii. Dhrupad is a Sanskrit blend of Dhruva (immovable) and Pad (verse). It has its roots in ancient times, it was first mentioned in 3rd Century B.C. in the Natyashastra.

Former Union Minister Santosh Mohan Dev Passes Away

i. Senior Congress leader and former Union minister **Santosh Mohan Dev** has passed away in Silchar, Assam. He was the son of freedom fighter **Satindra**

Mohan Dev

ii. Santosh served as the **Minister of Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises** under the UPA-1

government led by Manmohan Singh. He was the **Minister of State for Communications from 1986-1988 and Minister of State for Home** from 1988 to 1989.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- Present minister of Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises is Anant Geete.



Peepili Live Actor Sitaram Panchal Passes Away
i. Bollywood actor Sitaram Panchal passed away after almost a year-long battle with kidney and lung cancer. He was 54.

ii. Sitaram Panchal, who made his Bollywood debut in 1994 with Bandit Queen, was best known for his work in films like Peepili Live, Pan Singh Tomar, The Legend of Bhagat Singh and Slumdog Millionaire.

**BJP MP from Ajmer and Former Union Minister Sanwar Lal Jat passed away**

i. Former Union minister and BJP MP from Ajmer Sanwar Lal Jat passed away. He was 62. Jat had served as Minister of State for Water Resources in the Narendra Modi government.

ii. The leader was appointed as the Chairman of the state Farmers' Commission in October 2016.

Pakistan's 'Mother Teresa' Passes Away

i. Ruth Pfau, a German nun who devoted her life to **combatting leprosy in Pakistan**, has died at the age of 87. Pfau, who was known locally as Pakistan's Mother Teresa, came to the southern port city of Karachi in 1960.

ii. She was the founder of Marie Adelaide Leprosy Centre in Karachi. She was honored by the state with the country's two highest civilian awards, **the Hilal-e-Imtiaz and the Hilal-e-Pakistan.**

Veteran Photographer S Paul Dies

i. Veteran photographer S Paul died at a hospital in New Delhi. He was 88. He was a self-taught photographer. He was the first Indian to win the Nikon International Photo Contest in 1971.

ii. Apart from other recognitions, Paul was the first Indian to be profiled by The British Journal of Photography in

Former Manipur CM Rishang Keishing Passes Away

i. Former Manipur Chief Minister and a member of the first Lok Sabha Rishang Keishing passed away following a brief illness. The veteran Congress leader was 96. He served as the Chief Minister of Manipur from 1980 to 1988 and from 1994 to 1997.

ii. Keishing passed away due to multiple organ failures. Keishing, who hailed from Bungpa village in Ukhrul district, was elected to the Lok Sabha in the first parliamentary elections held in 1952.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- Shri Nongthombam Biren Singh is the present Chief Minister of Manipur.

New Zealand's Oldest Cricketer Tom Pritchard Passes Away

i. New Zealand's oldest cricketer Tom Pritchard has passed away. He was 100. Pritchard claimed 818 wickets across 200 first-class games, including 695 during a decade of service at Edgbaston.

ii. He, however, never played Test cricket. In March 2017, Pritchard became only the third New Zealand first-class cricketer, after John Wheatley and Syd Ward, to reach 100 years of age.

Brian Aldiss, British Science Fiction Writer Passes Away

i. Brian Aldiss, one of the most **prolific and influential science fiction writers** of the 20th century, has died aged 92.

ii. Born in 1925, Aldiss served in India and Burma with the British Army during World War II and later became a bookseller, publishing his first stories in a trade magazine.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- Aldiss was awarded the title of Grand Master by the Science Fiction and Fantasy Writers of America and was named an Officer of the Order of the British Empire by Queen Elizabeth II.

Tony de Brum Passes Away

i. Tony de Brum, the former **Marshall Islands foreign minister** who became a leading advocate for the landmark **Paris Climate Agreement** and an internationally recognised voice in the fight against climate change, has died aged 72.

ii. De Brum was also the Pacific nation's climate ambassador.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- Majuro is the capital of Marshall Islands.

India's Oldest Cinematographer Ramananda Sengupta Passes Away

i. Country's oldest cinematographer Ramanda Sengupta, who worked with legends like Jean Renoir, Ritwik Ghatak, and Mrinal Sen, died in Kolkata, West Bengal.

ii. Sengupta was 101 years old. He got his first break in 1938 when he joined Film Corporation of India in Kolkata (then Calcutta) as an assistant cameraman. His first film as a full-time cinematographer was in Purbaraag directed by Ardhendu Mukherjee in 1946.

Important Days with theme**World breastfeeding week – August 1-7, 2017**

i. World breastfeeding week 2017 is being celebrated from **1st to 7th August 2017** with the theme **“Sustaining Breastfeeding Together”**.

7th August: National Handloom Day being celebrated

i. National Handloom Day is being celebrated today to give an impetus to the sector and encourage the use of handmade loom. **7th of August** was chosen to celebrate the day due to its special significance in India's history. It was on this day that the Swadeshi Movement was launched in 1905. The movement involved the revival of domestic products and production processes.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** had launched the first **National Handloom Day in 2015** at a national level function in **Chennai**.

Nagasaki Day: 9th August

i. The atomic age began with the US dropping the first atomic bomb dubbed **“Little Boy”** on August 6, 1945, on the Japanese city of **Hiroshima**, after its July 16 pre-dawn birth in successful testing at Alamogordo, New Mexico.

ii. Three days later, on August 9, 1945, **the second bomb—“Fat Man”**—was dropped on Nagasaki, incinerating the city and its unexpected inhabitants. Their combined devastation was unimaginable.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- Sparked by Adolf Hitler in 1939, the world war II started in 1939 and ended in 1945.

Nation celebrates 75th anniversary of Quit India Movement

i. India has celebrated the **75th anniversary of the Quit India Movement**. This year's theme is **“SANKALP SE SIDDHI”- the Attainment through Resolve**

ii. The exhibition has been organized titled **“Quit India-75-Chalo Dilli”** and it will be thrown open to public after inauguration till 1st of September.

The International Youth Day: 12 August

i. The International Youth Day was observed across the world on 12 August with the theme **'Youth Building Peace'**.

World Humanitarian Day: 19 August

i. World Humanitarian Day (WHD) is held every year on **19 August** to pay tribute to aid workers who risk their lives in humanitarian service, and to rally support for people affected by crises around the world.

ii. The campaign was launched on WHD with the theme- **#NotATarget**. The Day is organized by the United Nations.

Sadbhavana Diwas: 20 August

i. The Sadbhavana Diwas or Harmony Day is celebrated to commemorate the birth anniversary (August 20) of Rajiv Gandhi.

ii. On this day national integration, peace, love, affection and communal harmony among all Indians is encouraged.

National Sports Day: 29 August

i. The National Sports day is celebrated on **29th August** every year to mark the birthday of legendary hockey player **Major Dhyhan Chand**.