

## SEPTEMBER 13, 2017

-Halimah binti Yacob, the former Speaker of Parliament, has been declared the President-elect of Singapore, after her nomination papers were found to be in order. She will be Singapore's first female President and the first Malay head of state in 47 years. On September 13, Yacob was certified by the Presidential Elections Commission as the only eligible candidate, and since she has no opponent, there will be no election. Halimah will be sworn in as country's 8th President at the Istana on September 14, 2017. The 2017 Presidential Election was reserved for candidates from the Malay community. Under amendments to the Constitution that came into effect in June 2017, applicants had to show that they helmed a company with at least 500 million Singapore dollar in shareholders' equity. Halimah meets the criteria set out for those in the public sector, having held office for at least three years as Speaker.

-The 4-day annual Border Security Force (BSF) sports meet has started in Jammu on September 12, 2017 in which about 1,200 personnel would participate in sports such as wrestling, boxing, weight-lifting and Kabbadi. The Inter-Frontier Sports Competition of the BSF is aimed at preparing the jawans for national and international-level championships. The 11 teams participating in the competition are from Gujarat, Guwahati, Jammu and Kashmir, Meghalaya, Manipal and Cachar, North Bengal, Punjab, Rajasthan, South Bengal and Tripura.

-Sumit Nagal of India has won the 8th MCC – S R Subramaniam Memorial ITF Futures Men's tennis championship on September 10, 2017. Nagal defeated Colin van Beem of Netherlands in the singles final by 6-3, 6-0 in Chennai, Tamil Nadu. Nagal received \$2,160 and 18 ITF points for the victory while van Beem received \$1272 AND 12 ITF points.

-Airtel has recently launched 'Office-In-a-Box' for start-ups registered under the Karnataka government's Start-Up Cell initiative. The Office-in-a-Box suite will be available to the over 100 start-ups registered with the Start-Up Cell and will add to their business efficiency. It will offer a range of services to support the business requirements of start-ups and is available on a scale-as-you-grow model with easy payment options. The services include voice and data solutions; audio and web collaboration; cloud services; payments bank services; go-to-market support across SMS, MMS, e-mail, voice, IVR and USSD; GPS and RFID-based tracking of assets.

-Kiren Rijju, the Union Minister of State for Home Affairs, will inaugurate the 2-day National Conference on "Uniformed Women in Prison Administration" in New Delhi on September 14. The Conference is being organised for women officers of the rank of Jailors to Dy. Superintendents of Prisons. This Conference will have Panel Discussions, Deliberations and Syndicate Discussions on 4 themes: a) Are Woman Prison Officers getting mainstream duties?, b) Difficulties in balancing family and work environment of Women Prison Officers, c) Training needs of Woman Prison Officers and Correctional Staff and d) Is there need for change of uniform for Woman Prison Officers? The Conference is expected to benefit the participants being in their impressionable stage of service, by implementation of the knowledge gained through the Conference.

-The Jawaharlal Nehru Port Container Terminal (JNPCT) has won the 2017 Container Terminal of the Year Award at The Gateway Awards 2017 at Mumbai for its proactive strategies to ease congestion, smooth delivery of containers and revamping of infrastructure to support trade amidst adverse conditions. The 10th edition of the Gateway Awards showcased the outstanding achievements and exceptional accomplishments of individuals and organisations in the Indian Maritime industry. The Gateway Award was instituted to recognise and promote best practices, innovation and motivation in the Indian Maritime industry.

-Peter Thomson, the outgoing president of the General Assembly, has been appointed as the first special envoy for the oceans by the UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres. Thomson played a leading role at the first-ever UN conference on oceans in June 2017. The 193 UN member states issued an urgent call for action to reverse the decline in the health and productivity of the world's oceans.

-India's first state of art virology laboratory was inaugurated at Dr. Anjali Chatterjee Regional Research Institute for Homoeopathy in Kolkata, West Bengal. The lab will play important in developing new drugs and technologies in Homoeopathy to combat emerging challenges of viral diseases

-Union Finance Ministry has constituted Group of Ministers (GoM) to monitor and resolve IT challenges faced in implementation of Goods and Services Tax (GST). It also Committee on Exports to look into issues of exports. Both committees were constituted following the decision taken in 21st GST Council meeting in Hyderabad, Telangana.

-Zoological Survey of India (ZSI) has published first of its kind compendium titled Fauna of Sundarban Biosphere Reserve in Indian Sundarbans. It has consolidated and updated information of faunal diversity of Sundarbans. Indian segment of Sundarbans is part of UNESCO World Heritage site. It forms part of Ganga-Brahmaputra delta across 9,630 sq. km, distributed among 104 islands. It has largest tidal halophytic mangrove forest in the world

-Telangana Forest Department for first time has re-introduced 'mouse deer' in the forests of Nallamalla in Amrabad Tiger Reserve (ATR) bred at Nehru Zoological Park, Hyderabad

-The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) approved Dairy Processing & Infrastructure Development Fund (DIDF) Scheme with an outlay of Rs 10,881 crore to boost dairy sector. It will be managed by National Dairy Development Board (NDDB) and shall be implemented from 2017-18 to 2028-29. Initially, Rs.8,004 crore loan will be provided by NABARD to National Dairy Development Board (NDDB) and National Dairy Development Cooperation (NDDC).

-The University Grants Commission (UGC) rolled out an application process for universities and higher education institutes (public or private) seeking "institutions of eminence" status. The aim of scheme is to help higher education institutions from country break into top 500 global rankings in 10 years, and then eventually break into top 100 over time.

-Kerala opens India's first transgender-exclusive clinics at government medical colleges across the state. They are planning to open Transgender Clinics in all government medical colleges in the state.

-Sachin Tendulkar launched Mission-24 a programme aimed at improving the quality of life in one of Mumbai's poorest wards through collaborative efforts in the next 24 months. The main aim of the program to provide basic amenities to residents of M-East ward that includes slums of Shivaji Nagar, Deonar and Mankhurd. Through this project, the organisations aim to provide amenities like secondary schools and colleges, Anganwadi's, maternity homes, health posts and dispensaries in the ward. It also aims to improve sanitation, create more open spaces and look at computer safety.

-The US Supreme Court allowed President Donald Trump to implement broadly a ban on refugees entering the country from around the world. All nine SC justices agreed with the Trump administration to block a federal appeals court ruling that exempted refugees with contractual relationships with resettlement organisations from the ban.

-The government will issue Rs 100 and Rs 5 coins to commemorate the birth centenary of Bharat Ratna awardee and former Tamil Nadu Chief Minister late M G Ramachandran. The coins will bear his portrait in the centre along with the inscription 'DR M G Ramachandran Birth Centenary' on the lower periphery. The same will also be in Devnagari script on the upper periphery.

-Paytm Payments Bank (PPB) partnered with the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) to launch a RuPay-powered digital debit card. The customers will now be able to transact at all merchants who accept credit and debit cards.

-Turkey has signed a deal with Russia to buy S-400 missile defence systems in its first major weapons purchase from Moscow, quoted President Recep Tayyip Erdogan. The purchase of the surface-to-air missile defence batteries, Ankara's most significant deal with a non-NATO supplier, comes with Turkey in the throes of a crisis in relations with several Western states.

-Payment gateway provider PayU announced its collaborations to provide users a safe and secure option to pay for rail tickets booked via the IRCTC website and Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC). It will now be available as a payment option under the Multiple Payment Services (MPS) option on the IRCTC website at the payment stage of booking an e- ticket. This will enable users to make a safe and secure transaction and also various payment options like internet banking, debit/credit card, and e-wallet.

-US President Donald Trump has appointed Indian-American Raj Shah to a key position in his Communications team. Shah will serve as Deputy Assistant to the President and Principal Deputy Press Secretary. Formerly, Shah was served as Deputy Assistant to the President and Deputy Communications Director. Trump also appointed Hope Hicks as his Communications Director. Earlier, Hicks was served as Assistant to the President and Interim Communications Director.

-Gay rights activist Edith Windsor, whose same-gender marriage fight led to a landmark US ruling, passed away. She was 88. It was Windsor's efforts that Supreme Court struck down the Defense of Marriage Act in 2013, granting same-sex married couples federal recognition for the first time.

-United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres has appointed Peter Thomson, the outgoing president of the UN General Assembly as the first Special Envoy for the oceans. Peter Thomson had played a leading role in the first-ever UN conference on oceans, which was held in June 2016. The conference saw 193 UN member states issue an urgent call for action to reverse the decline in the health and productivity of the world's oceans.

-India has started producing 'Civet Coffee' the most expensive coffee in the world, in Karnataka. Civet Coffee is made from the feces of a species of cat called 'Civet Cat'. Coffee plantation is done close to the forest. Civet cats eat the flesh of the coffee cherries and digest the coffee beans as whole. This induces a flavour into the coffee beans. The coffee beans are then collected from the feces of the Civet Cat. They are cleaned, processed and Civet Coffee is produced from that.

-The Supreme Court declared that the 6-month 'cooling off' period for granting divorce can be waived, in New Delhi. The Supreme Court declared that the 6 month cooling off period under the Hindu Marriage Act for getting divorce is not mandatory. The local judges can decide about waiving off that period. Currently, if a Hindu couple applies for divorce, the couple has to wait for 18 months to get the

divorce. Where they have to spend 12 months in separation and the next 6 months is considered as cooling off period.

-Telecom operator Bharti Airtel has announced a partnership with South Korean telecom operator SK Telecom to build the most advanced telecom network in India .The companies will work towards building an enabling ecosystem for the introduction of these technologies.Under the partnership, both the companies will work across several areas including developing bespoke software to improve network experience, leveraging advanced digital tools and building customized tools to improve network planning based on every customer's device experience.

-HDFC Bank became the second most valuable company in BSE (Bombay Stock Exchange), in India, in terms of market capitalisation.

-Asian Games gold medalist Priyanka Panwar was suspended for eight years after she tested positive for a banned performance enhancing drug, in New Delhi.

-Raghunandan Industries Private Limited was awarded Krishi Pragati Award 2017, by National Commodity & Derivatives Exchange Limited (NCDEX), in New Delhi.The Krishi Pragati Award 2017 has been awarded to appreciate the outstanding contribution made by Raghunandan Industries in the area of Agricultural Commodities.Mr.Ram Vilas Paswan, Minister of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution and Mr.Arjun Ram Meghwal, Union Minister of State for Finance & Corporate Affairs gave away the award to Mr.Saurabh Mittal, Founder & MD of Raghunandan Money.