

SEPTEMBER - 01 to 07, 2017

-Sunil Arora appointed as the Election Commissioner

The Union Government has appointed former Information and Broadcasting Secretary Sunil Arora (61) as Election Commissioner. He will have tenure of four years in the Election Commission. His appointment comes to fill the vacancy created by former CEC Nasim Zaidi's retirement.

-Rajiv Kumar takes charge as NITI Aayog Vice-Chairman.

Noted economist Rajiv Kumar took over as the Vice-Chairman of government National Institution for Transforming India (NITI) Aayog. He succeeds Indian-American economist Arvind Panagariya who had resigned to return to academia. As a Vice Chairman of NITI Aayog, he will hold Union Cabinet Minister rank. Prime Minister is ex-officio Chairperson of the Aayog.

-NITI(National Institution for Transforming India) Aayog

NITI Aayog is the premier policy 'Think Tank' of the Union Government, providing both directional and policy inputs.

-Rajiv Mehrishi appointed as Comptroller and Auditor General(CAG) of India.

Senior IAS officer Rajiv Mehrishi was appointed as the next Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) of India. He will succeed Shashi Kant Sharma who is going to demit office on September 25, 2017.

-The world's largest and powerful X-ray laser- European X-ray Free Electron Laser (XFEL) was unveiled in Hamburg, Germany. It will help scientists penetrate the inner workings of atoms, viruses and chemical reactions.

-India and Switzerland have signed two pacts for technical cooperation in the field of Railways after delegation level talks between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and visiting President of Swiss Confederation Doris Leuthard in New Delhi.

-India and Myanmar will sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for the conservation of earthquake-damaged pagodas at Bagan during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Myanmar on September 6-7, 2017

-New Delhi is hosting the annual conference Rajaswa Gyan Sangam (RGS – 2017)

- Rajiv Kumar has been appointed as the new Secretary in the Department of Financial Services (DFS)

-Anita Karwal has been appointed as the new Chairperson of Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE)

-The 3-day International Hindu Conference has started in Kathmandu, Nepal with the theme of 'Emerging spiritualism: Renaissance of Hinduism' on August 31, 2017.

-The state-owned NTPC has signed a term loan agreement for Rs. 3,000 crore with ICICI Bank for partially funding its capital expenditure. The loan which has a door-to-door tenure of 15 years will be utilised to part finance the capital expenditure of NTPC.

-Goa chief minister Manohar Parrikar has launched an online Public Grievance Redressal System at the state secretariat on September 1, 2017. It is a single window online portal for citizens to register grievances towards any state government department.

-Bondla Wildlife Sanctuary (BWS) is located in Goa

-The CSIR(Council of Scientific & Industrial Research) was ranked 9th in Public Research Institution of the World

-Samsung gains permit to test self-driving cars in California recently

-China and India submitted proposal to WHO for elimination of trade-distorting farm subsidies

-IGCAR(Indira Gandhi Centre for Atomic Research) nuclear scientist U Kamachi Mudali appointed as chief of heavy water board

-Konkani writer Mahabaleshwar Sail receives 2016 saraswati samman for his novel Hawthorn

-ISRO launch of IRNSS-1H satellite was unsuccessful

-Unicity International, headquartered in Orem, Utah, United States launched world's first ever Genomeceutical (gene controlling) range of products to India. DNA contains the biological code that defines every single protein in the body. It undergoes a process called transcription or gene expression that creates a "messenger" molecule, telling the body to make a specific protein.

-1st Week of September is considered as the National Nutrition Week. The theme of the National Nutrition Week for 2017 is "Optimal Infant & Young Child Feeding Practices: Better Child Health".

-India's leading Financial Exchange, Elix's ItzCash today announced that it has entered into a strategic agreement with the country's third largest non-life insurance provider in the private sector, HDFC ERGO to offer general insurance product on its 'PHYGITAL' platform. The partnership inked will offer a wide range of general insurance policies, providing protection for a range of insurance needs including health, motor, fire and auto.

-Rajasthan govt accords Jats of Dholpur and Bharatpur districts reservation under the Other Backward Class (OBC)

-Harshil Mehta was appointed as the MD and CEO of DHFL

-WikiLeaks website was hacked by a group called OurMine

-The Madhya Pradesh government launched a new scheme to hedge price risks in agriculture wherein farmers will be compensated for distress sales at prices below Union government-announced minimum support prices (MSP).

-India has offered to host a joint urban earthquake search and rescue exercise with the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) member nations, including China and Pakistan, in 2019 to better respond to emergencies in case of natural disasters.

-According to Central Statistics Office Jammu and Kashmir and Arunachal Pradesh are the fastest expanding State economies in 2015-16

-The Government of India has given scholarship for 20 Sri Lankan students to study Hindi at the Kendriya Hindi Sansthan (Central Institute of Hindi) in Agra.

-Amazon has announced a partnership with the Akshaya Patra Foundation to implement the Karnataka government's 'Ksheera Bhagya' Scheme in Bengaluru

-Friday declared 'Day of Helping Hand' in Andhra Pradesh by CM Naidu

Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu has declared Friday as the day of the week when he will meet with the poor and underprivileged sections of Andhra Pradesh society to hear their grievances and try to resolve them. The day has been declared as the "Day of Helping Hand". Recently, an amount of nearly Rs.9 lakhs was disbursed from the Chief Minister's Relief Fund to the poor.

-Lebanon gets first animal protection law

Lebanese President Michel Aoun has signed the country's first animal welfare bill into law, guaranteeing that domestic and wild animals will be legally protected from abuse. The bill is the culmination of years of lobbying for the protection of animals in the Mediterranean country. The law, passed by parliament on August 16, outlines requirements for keeping domestic pets, regulations for zoos and pet shops, and penalties for violations – including jail time and fines.

-SEBI bans Orion Capital, Orion Broking from Markets for 10 years

Markets regulator SEBI barred Orion Capital as well as Orion Broking and their partners from the securities markets for 10 years for failing to redress several investor grievances pertaining to non-settlement of funds due to the clients. The nature of investor complaints received against both the firms are predominantly on non-settlement of the funds and securities and balances due to their clients. The claim amount is more than Rs 6 crore against Orion Capital and over Rs 4 crore against Orion Broking.

-PM inaugurates annual conference 'Rajaswa Gyan Sangam' in Delhi

Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the annual conference, Rajaswa Gyan Sangam, 2017 at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi. The conference jointly organised by the Central Board of Direct Taxes and the Central Board of Excise and Customs. The Prime Minister addressed the tax administrators during the conference. The closing function would be conducted on 2 September 2017.

-Minister Shri Vijay Goel has announced that a new Youth Sports Centre to be built at Alipur, Delhi

-The Kerala Tourism department has launched a campaign called 'Yalla Kerala' (Yalla means lets go). It has been launched to target tourists from Saudi Arabia, Oman, the United Arab Emirates, Kuwait, Bahrain and Qatar.

-External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj travelled to Colombo to participate in the two-day Indian Ocean Conference in Colombo, Sri Lanka

-98.96% per cent of the Rs 1,000 and Rs 500 denomination banknotes that had been invalidated had been returned according to RBI report

As per the data released by the RBI, old notes worth Rs 15.44 lakh crore were there in the market out of which 15.28 lakh crore have been received by the bank. It means all but 1.4% of the old Rs 1,000 notes

have come back into the banking system. As per the RBI report about 89 million units of the demonetised Rs 1,000 notes, worth Rs 8,900 crore, had not come back into the system.

-Indian-origin veteran civil servant JY Pillay has appointed Singapore's acting President

-Samurai Tete was the first woman from Jharkhand who was awarded Dhyan Chand Award 2017

-Nirmala Sitharaman, former minister of state for commerce and industry ministry, has become the new Defence Minister of India. Nirmala Sitharaman is a representative of Karnataka in Rajya Sabha .

-Suresh Prabhu has become the new Union Minister of Commerce and Industry, he was the railway minister before the new appointment.

-The 9th edition of BRICS summit-2017 has started at Xiamen in the Fujian Province of east China with the theme "BRICS: Stronger Partnership for a Brighter Future"

-Divya Deshmukh (11) has won gold in the girls' Under-12 category at the World Cadets Chess Championship at Pocos de Caldas, Brazil.

-The Karnataka government has recently decided to provide free education for girls across the state from Class 1 up to graduation in all public and aided private schools and colleges, excluding professional institutions.

-The world's highest sandcastle 54.72 feet (16.68 metres) tall has recently been built in the German city of Duisburg.

-Shirish Pai (88), the renowned Marathi poet and activist, has passed away in Mumbai, Maharashtra on September 2, 2017.

-Ahmedabad, the commercial capital of Gujarat, has been formally accorded the status of India's first World Heritage City (WHC) by UNESCO.

-Piyush Goyal has been appointed as the new Union Minister of Railways

-The Pulie Badze Wildlife Sanctuary (PWS) is located at Kohima District of Nagaland and covers an area of 923 hectares.

-The Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports has approved constitution of 13-member Empowered Steering Committee (ESC). It will shape and influence India's preparation for multi-disciplinary events, including 2020 Tokyo Olympic Games.

-Swedish defence and security company SAAB and Adani Group have announced collaboration in defence manufacturing to Build Gripen E fighter jets in India. under the Defence Ministry's \$10 billion single-engine fighter jet procurement programme.

-The central government recently launched a scheme called Rashtriya Vayoshri for the Youth.

-The World's biggest and powerful X-ray laser gun was unveiled in Germany

-Gujarat recently launched Central scheme for senior citizens.

- Uber will give free insurance to its 450,000 driver partners in India that will cover death, disability or hospitalization due to accidents.
 - The Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) signed an agreement with the Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF) to set up 25,000 Wi-Fi hotspots in its rural exchanges by next six months.
 - China's first test-flight base for civilian drones was opened in Shanghai
 - Chipmaker AMD presented a new line of microprocessor chips called 'Ryzen Pro' for commercial desktop workstations to be available in India and other countries by end of 2017.
 - India most corrupt Asian country, Vietnam ranked second according to Forbes
 - Assam Government has extended term of Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act (AFSPA), 1958 and declared entire state a Disturbed Area for six more months under Section 3 of AFSPA Act.
 - Kenneth I. Juster named U.S Ambassador to India
 - Wildcard entrant Gaurav Bidhuri's won the bronze in World Boxing Championships.
 - Karnataka launches unified health scheme 'Arogya Bhagya' and the main theme of the scheme is Treatment First and Payment Next
 - India gets its first Indigenous sniper rifle from West Bengal
 - Australia and East Timor have agreed on key elements of a maritime boundary and revenue sharing from a natural gas field beneath the seabed between the two countries
 - The Reliance Foundation was awarded with the prestigious Rashtriya Khel Protsahan Award at Rashtrapati Bhawan. Chairperson of the foundation, Nita Ambani collected the award from President Ram Nath Kovind in New Delhi.
 - Hyderabad International Airport Ltd has bagged the National Award for 'Excellence' in Energy Management at a conference hosted by the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII).
 - Tamil Nadu Police has launched a new online services. Under the online services petitioners seeking documents to file accident claims can now download all necessary documents via the Internet on payment for a minimum charge.
 - World Coconut Day has been observed on 2nd September 2017.
 - FDA(Food and Drug Administration) approves first gene altering leukemia treatment called kymriah.
- Novartis drug Kymriah works by genetically modifying pediatric and young adult patients' blood cells to attack cancer cells in blood and bone marrow. It will be used in patients under the age of 25 with acute lymphoblastic leukemia who were unresponsive to initial treatment. Kymriah is a cell-based gene therapy. The therapy is a genetically-modified autologous T-cell immunotherapy.
- Archaeologists in Andhra Pradesh have discovered an ancient Buddhist site that dates back to 1st century AD, in Guntur district.

-The Tajikistan government has banned its women from wearing veils and Tajikistan government has introduced a legislation, wherein it has asked the women to "stick to traditional national clothes and culture". Under existing laws, women wearing hijabs are already banned from entering the country's government offices.

-Environment Ministry will launch an environment awareness initiative. Under which an online environmental quiz competition named "Prakriti Khoj" an Environment Quiz to be conducted at the national level.

-Five banks of the BRICS Bank Cooperation Mechanism have agreed to establish credit lines in the national currencies and cooperate on credit ratings. "Brazilian Development Bank (BNDES), Vnesheconombank, Export-Import Bank of India(EXIM), China Development Bank and Development Bank of South Africa (DBSA) have signed an agreement to establish credit lines in the national currencies, as well as a memorandum of cooperation on credit ratings,

-Intel has introduced a new vision processing unit (VPU) called Movidius Myriad X.

The new Intel VPU is aimed at providing end-to-end artificial intelligence (AI) solutions to a wide range of product categories such as smart cameras, virtual reality (VR) devices, robotics and even drones. Myriad X is the world's first system-on-chip (SOC) shipping with a dedicated neural compute engine for accelerating deep learning inferences at the edge.

-Nine new Ministers of state were inducted into the Union Council of Ministers.

-Four Ministers of state were elevated to the cabinet rank. The ministers promoted were Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi, Dharmendra Pradhan, Piyush Goyal and Nirmala Sitharaman.

-North Korea's 6th nuke test 9.8 times powerful than 5th: S Korea

The "artificial quake" in North Korea thought to be its sixth nuclear test was five to six times more powerful than the fifth nuclear test. As per the South's Yonhap news agency reported it was 9.8 times more powerful than the tremor from Pyongyang's fifth test.

-NASA Astronaut Peggy Whitson to return home after 288 days in space

According to the US space agency NASA astronaut Peggy Whitson is set to depart the International Space Station (ISS) and return to Earth after completing a 288-day long mission. Whitson is completing a 288-day mission that began in November 2016, spanning 122.2 million miles and 4,623 orbits of Earth – her third long-duration stay on the outpost.

-India and the European Free Trade Association (EFTA) will meet this month in order to conclude their long pending negotiations on FTA (Free Trade Agreement). European Free Trade Association (EFTA)'s Headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland.

-Rajyavardhan Singh Rathore has appointed as the country's Youth Affairs and Sports Minister. He has succeeded Vijay Goyal as the Sports Minister and is the first sportsperson to become the head of the Sports Ministry. Rathore is the first Indian shooter to win an Olympic medal after his silver at the 2004 Athens Games.

-Hockey India fired national coach Roelant Oltmans after a string of unimpressive outings at the international level.

-The government has issued an alert on spread of new malware 'Locky Ransomware' that can lock computers and demand ransom for unlocking them.

Key Points:Ransomware is a malicious software and the Locky Ransomware is learnt to be demanding ransom of half bitcoin, which at present rate is equivalent to over Rs 1.5 lakh.

-MS Dhoni has become the first wicketkeeper to effect 100 stumpings in ODI cricket.

MS Dhoni reached a record of 100 stumping in One-Day Internationals during his 301st match, as India played Sri Lanka in the fifth ODI of the five-match series at Colombo. Dhoni surpassed former Sri Lankan wicket-keeper Kumar Sangakkara, who had 99 stumpings in 404 matches.Dhoni, recently, became the sixth Indian player to play 300 matches in the 50-over format.

-Dharmendra Pradhan, the Union Minister for Petroleum and Natural Gas, has been promoted as Cabinet Minister and got additional charge of Union Ministry of Skill Development

-Satish Kumar, the decorated West Bengal wrestler, has been awarded Rs 25 lakh as compensation by the Delhi court for being wrongly restrained from taking part in the 14th Asian Games-2002 at Busan in South Korea under the mistaken impression that he had taken performance-enhancing drugs.

-Nepal has recently signed a \$635 million United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) for 2018-2022 to lay out the country's development strategy.

-The Indian pair of Rohan Kapoor and Kuhoo Garg bagged the mixed doubles title at the Hellas Open International badminton series after registering a straight-game victory in Livadia.

-Lewis Hamilton, British racing driver who races in Formula One for the Mercedes AMG Petronas team, has won the 2017 Italian Formula One Grand Prix at the Autodromo Nazionale Monza in Monza, Italy.

-Hardeep Singh Puri: Minister of State (Independent Charge) Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs.

-Satya Pal Singh: MoS Human Resource Development and MoS Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation.

-Shiv Pratap Shukla: MoS Finance Ministry.

-Alphons Kannanthanam: MoS (Independent Charge) of the Ministry of Tourism; and MoS in Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology.

-Raj Kumar Singh: MoS (Independent Charge) of Ministry of Power; and MoS (Independent Charge) of Ministry of New and Renewable Energy

-Virendra Kumar: MoS in Ministry of Women and Child Development; and MoS in Ministry of Minority Affairs

-Anantkumar Hegde: MoS in Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship

-Piyush Goyal: Railway Ministry.

Nirmala Sitharaman: Defence Ministry.

Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi: Minority Affairs Ministry.

Dharmendra Pradhan: Skill Development and Entrepreneurship Ministry.

-Breakthrough Listen project has detected 15 fast radio bursts (FRBs) coming from a dwarf galaxy about 3 million light years away from earth. The new detection was made with help of Green Bank Telescope (GBT) in West Virginia.

-President Ramnath Kovind laid foundation stone for link-4 of Saurashtra Narmada Avataram Irrigation Scheme (SAUNI) Yojana in Rajkot district, Gujarat.

-The Cell for IPR Promotions & Management (CIPAM) under Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion (DIPP) has launched social media campaign “#LetsTalkIP” to promote Indian Geographical Indications (GIs).

CIPAM-DIPP launches social media campaign to promote Geographical Indications. CIPAM, which works under the Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion (DIPP) in the ministry, has started an “#LetsTalkIP” initiative. Cell for IPR Promotions and Management (CIPAM) has launched a social media campaign to promote Indian Geographical Indications. It has been launched to make more people aware about the importance of intellectual property rights (IPRs).

-The Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) has entered into four more Advance Pricing Agreements (APAs), pertaining to sectors like telecom, banking, manufacturing and education .

Out of these four agreements, three were unilateral and one was bilateral. The bilateral APA was for international transactions between an Indian company and UK-based company. With this, total number of APAs entered into by CBDT has reached 175. This includes 162 unilateral APAs and 13 bilateral APAs

-Gurugram Metro Station to get 1,000 new e-rickshaws

-North Korea's missile program led to urgent United Nations Security council (UNSC) Meeting

-Karnataka Bank has bagged the 'best bank' award among small banks for the use of technology for financial inclusion

-RBI has included HDFC in the list of 'too big to fail' lenders, referred to as D-SIB or domestic systemically important bank.

India's largest lender SBI and private sector major ICICI Bank were classified as D-SIBs in 2015. With the inclusion of HDFC Bank in the list, there will now be three 'too big to fail' financial entities in the country. SIBs are subjected to higher levels of supervision so as to prevent disruption in financial services in the event of any failure

-The Jammu and Kashmir Government introduces the electric buses for two cities of Srinagar and Jammu under the Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT) scheme.

It is done with an aim to curb pollution in these two cities which were recently declared 'smart cities'.

-Pulitzer-prize winning poet John Ashbery, a post-modern American trailblazer, has passed away at age of 90 in Hudson, New York.

His 1975 collection “Self-Portrait in a Convex Mirror” made history when he became the lone writer to earn three major accolades the same year for the same work: the Pulitzer in addition to a National Book Award and a National Book Critics Circle Award.

UNESCO Confucius Prize 2017

-Confucius Prize recognises the projects that benefit rural populations and out-of-school youth, particularly girls and women. This year, the UNESCO Confucius Prize will be given to:

AdulTICoProgram: This program was the initiative of the Secretariat of Information and Communications Technologies of Armenia (Colombia) for teaching digital competencies to seniors.

The Citizens Foundation (Pakistan): The foundation was chosen for its Aagahi Literacy Programme for Women and Out-of-School Girls that includes digital educational needs assessments and provides teaching services to support the education of younger girls and older women.

FunDza (South Africa): The organisation launched readers and writers project to develop a culture of reading and writing for pleasure through an online platform that provides reading courses and writing competitions.

-King Sejong Literacy Prize 2017: The King Sejong Literacy Prize is dedicated to mother-tongue literacy education. The winners of King Sejong Literacy Prize 2017 are:

Centre for the Study of Learning & Performance (CSLP): The Centre at Concordia University (Canada) was chosen for its ‘Using Educational Technology to Develop Essential Educational Competencies in Sub-Saharan Africa project’.

We Love Reading (Jordan): This program offers online read-aloud trainings for parents, mobilizes volunteers to read aloud in community spaces to children.

All these five winners will each receive a medal, a certificate and USD 20000. The awards will be handed over to them on the occasion of International Literacy Day on 8 September 2017.

-‘Ye India ka time hai’ event was organized at National Institute of Technology, Raipur Chhattisgar

-Joint India-Nepal army exercise begins in Saljhandi, Nepal.Nepal India Joint Military Exercise Surya Kiran has launched and it is to be held from September 3 to 16. This is the 12th edition of the exercise. Joint military exercise, Surya Kiran Nepal Army Battle School at Saljhandi.It will have around 350 troops from each side, focusing on counterinsurgency and counter-terror operations.

-Seychelles ratifies the ISA Framework Agreement and became the ninth member of ISA Framework agreement.The ISA will need the ratification of just six more countries to become a recognized inter-governmental body.

-Global brokerage firm UBS has lowered India’s GDP growth forecast to 6.6 per cent from 7.2 per cent. The brokerage said that the growth is expected to rise in coming quarters as the economy is getting normalised post implementation of the GST.

-Singapore based bank DBS has got final approval to operate as a wholly-owned subsidiary (WOS) in India. Diesel DBS was the first foreign lender to apply for the new operating WOS model two years ago

and its approval was delayed due to lack of precedent. The application has been pending with the finance ministry. Now as the problems got sorted out DBS is the second bank after State Bank of Mauritius to receive the nod for its operation in India

-The first consignment of 30 MT of High Speed Diesel was sent on 4th of Sept from India to Myanmar by land route. Numaligarh Refinery Ltd. (NRL), which has been supplying HSD to Bangladesh, despatched the first diesel consignment through NH 37 across the Moreh Custom Check Point on the Indian side and Tamu Custom Check Point on the Myanmar side.

-Astronomers had discovered seven Earth-sized planets orbiting a relatively nearby dwarf star. The system is called TRAPPIST-1. It is especially appealing because it has three planets in the habitable zone it means that these worlds could potentially support liquid water and perhaps even life. TRAPPIST-1 has become one of the most studied exo-systems in the relatively short history of exoplanets.

-Arunachal Pradesh Health and Family Welfare Minister Jomde Kena (52) has passed away in Guwahati, Assam on September 4, 2017. Since 2014, Kena, who represented Likabali seat from Lower Siang district in Arunachal Pradesh Legislative Assembly, was first elected to the Legislative Assembly in 2004. He was re-elected to the House from the same constituency in 2009 and 2014.

-Star India acquired digital as well as media rights for Indian Premier League for a term of five years 2018-2023 with a whopping bid of Rs. 16,347.50 crore on September 4, 2017. The staggering deal has turned out to be a financial windfall for the BCCI despite the administrative crisis it is facing at the moment. The testimony to IPL's growth as the premier sporting property of the country is reflected by the fact that the previous 10-year bid for TV rights only was bought by Sony at Rs. 8200 crore in 2008. Now, the BCCI stands to earn nearly double that amount in half the duration of five years, with earnings of Rs 3270 crore from IPL media rights per year. The BCCI will now earn Rs 55 crore approximately from an IPL match compared to Rs 43 crore, ironically, for each international match that India play. The media rights include broadcast (TV) and digital (mobile and internet) for various segments namely India, Middle East, Africa, Europe and America.

-Konsam Ormila Devi from India bagged a gold medal in 44kg weight category at the Commonwealth Youth (boys & girls) weightlifting championships at Gold Coast, Australia on September 4, 2017. Ormila lifted 57kg in snatch and 76kg in clean and jerk for an overall effort of 133kg, to finish on the top of the podium. With this effort, Ormila has registered her best lift so far.

-The biennial Joint Indo-Lanka Maritime Fleet Exercise – SLINEX 2017 is scheduled to be conducted from September 7-to-14. The focus of SLINEX 2017 will be on fleet work, seamanship, communication, replenishment at sea as well as helicopter operations. Approx, a complement of 368 Sri Lanka Navy personnel comprising 43 naval officers and 60 mid-shipmen are taking part in the exercise. Sri Lanka Navy's offshore patrol vessels, SLNS Sayura and Sagara will arrive at Port of Visakhapatnam soon to participate in the joint maritime naval exercise with the Indian Navy. The joint naval operations enable both Navies to rehearse and improve own capabilities and enhance operational effectiveness required to maintain maritime security in the region.

-Gujarat Chief Minister Vijay Rupani has launched Gyankunj e-class project on the occasion of Teachers day on September 5, 2017. The project has been launched at Shahpur primary school in Gandhinagar in presence of state Chief Secretary. The entire project will work on pilot basis with Interactive e-class room and smart boards have been provided under this initiative. According to official sources, 1609 government primary schools have been provided laptop, projector, infrared camera, smart board, speaker and wifi router facilities for 3,173 class rooms of standard 7 and 8. About 10,000 tablets are to

be given to standard 7 and 8 students across 100 more schools on free of cost. Education for all courses in standard 5 to 8 will be given through e-content and internet.

-Infosys co-founder N R Narayana Murthy and Mumbai-born scientist Veena Sahajwalla have been conferred the PLS Alliance Prize – a prestigious honour that recognises Research Innovation, Education Innovation, Global Leadership and Global Innovation. The Prize of \$ 50,000 was awarded in two categories; Education Innovation and Research Innovation. Both winners were recognised for the development and implementation of innovative solutions to significant global issues. Murthy was presented the PLS Alliance Prize for Global Leadership while Professor Sahajwalla was awarded the PLS Alliance Prize for Research Innovation for her project 'The new science of green manufacturing'. The awards were presented to Murthy, Sahajwalla and the other winners by Professor Sir Malcolm Grant, Chairman of NHS England and Chair of the PLS Alliance Advisory Board, at a ceremony at the T-H-E World Academic Summit in London on September 3, 2017. The PLS Alliance is an international collaboration between Arizona State University, King's College London, and UNSW Sydney.

-The Union Government has accepted recommendations of National Anomaly Committee (NAC) to maintain disability pension for defence forces in parity with civilians under 6th Central Pay Commission (CPC). With acceptance of recommendations of NAC, Government will not go ahead with new disability pension parity regime recommended by 7th CPC and continue earlier system of disbursing disability pension.

-The Union Ministry of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation has constituted task force for speedy implementation of various ongoing Namami Gange programme

- KV Rama Moorthy took charge as Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of Tamilnadu Mercantile Bank. He succeeds HS Upendra Kamath. His appointment is for a period of three years. Prior to joining TMB, he was Executive Director of United Bank of India.

-Shri Narendra Modi to hold bilateral meet with Chinese Prez Xi to participate in Dialogue of Emerging Market and developing countries

-September 5th is observed as National Teachers Day

-Former Indian basketball team captain Amritpal Singh will be seen shooting and guarding the Sydney King's rim in Australia's National Basketball League. He is the first Indian-born player to take to the court in Australia's National League. Amrit, has been signed by the Australian club as a back-up centre, and Sydney Kings managing director.

-Odisha got a state run medical college after a gap of 54 years with Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik inaugurating Saheed Laxman Nayak Medical College and Hospital (SLNMCH).

-China gave 500 million yuan (\$76.4 million) for a BRICS economic and technology cooperation plan, and another \$4 million for projects at the BRICS countries' New Development Bank stated Chinese President Xi Jinping. The announcement came amid questions over the relevance of BRICS and China's commitment to its New Development Bank (NDB) in light of the Belt and Road initiative and the China-led Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank.

-P R Seshadri has assumed charge as the Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of Karur Vysya Bank. Seshadri succeeds K Venkataraman who has been leading the bank for more than six years.

Seshadri, a senior banker with over 25 years of experience, started his banking career with Citibank in early 1992. He worked as a Chief Executive Officer of BFC Bank Limited, London.

-The Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare launched two new contraceptives- an injectable contraceptive MPA under the 'Antara' program and a contraceptive pill 'Chhaya' in the public health system to expand the basket of contraceptive choices for couples. It have been launched in 10 states including Delhi, Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Karnataka, Haryana, West Bengal, Odisha, and Goa.

-The Delhi govt made it mandatory for all the cabs to have at least 4 stickers informing passengers to disable the Child Lock System before the journey starts. The Delhi Commission for Women observed that the possibility of crime against women increases as they cannot open the doors once the lock is activated.

-The official song for the FIFA Under-17 World Cup football tournament was formally launched by the Local Organising Committee and Sony Pictures Networks India in Mumbai, Maharashtra. The song, "Kar Ke Dikhla De Goal", is written by lyricist Amitabh Bhattacharya and is composed by Pritam.

-R A Sankara Narayanan has taken charge as Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of Vijaya Bank. He has taken over the reigns of the bank from Kishore Sansi, who reached superannuation on August 31. He joined Bank of India as a direct recruit officer in 1983 and has headed various branches.

-Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath and Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh flagged off the first run of the Lucknow Metro from the Transport Nagar Metro Station in Lucknow. Uttar Pradesh Governor Ram Naik was the chief guest of the ceremony.

-Nepal's government has enacted a new law which aimed at stopping the practice of forcing a woman who is menstruating, or has just given birth, to sleep outside their home, in a hut or shed. According to the law, any family member who forces a woman to practice "chaupadi" — the Nepali term used for menstrual isolation can be punished with a jail sentence of 3 months or a fine of 3,000 rupees (about \$30).

-Nepal's Parliament has endorsed an electoral law for upcoming elections to the federal and provincial council which bars people involved in corruption and criminal offences to stand as candidates. The bill was endorsed by holding three rounds of meetings.

-Cuba began a five-month political transition expected to end with Raul Castro's departure from the Presidency, due to his family's dominance in the country's political system for nearly sixty years. Over the rest of this month, Cubans will meet in small groups to nominate municipal representatives. Cuban officials say that 12,515 block-level districts will nominate candidates for city council elections on 22nd October, 2017.

-China has banned individuals and organisations from raising funds through initial coin offerings (ICO), or launches of digital currencies announced on 4th of Sept 2017. It allows raising large sums quickly by creating and selling digital "tokens" with little or no regulatory oversight. As per the People's Bank of China Individuals and organisations that have completed ICO fund-raising should make arrangements to return funds.

-Vasant Narasimhan will be named as chief executive of Novartis announced on 4th of Sept. 2017. Current chief executive Joseph Jimenez will retire next year so Vasant Narasimhan will serve from 1st Feb 2018. .Narasimhan is currently the global head of drug development and chief medical officer with the Swiss drug company. He joined Novartis in 2005 and has held numerous leadership positions in development and commercial functions.

-The Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) was honoured by Minister of State for Personnel, Mr. Jitendra Singh for successfully resolving public grievances. The CBDT is the apex policy making body for the Income Tax department.

-The United Nations (UN) observes September 5 every year as International Charity Day.

On 5th September every year International Day of Charity is observed world-wide. It was declared in the United Nations General Assembly in 2012. The International Day of Charity was conceived as a Hungarian civil society initiative supported by the Hungarian Parliament and Government in 2011. September 5 was chosen in order to commemorate the death anniversary of Mother Teresa who received the Nobel Peace Prize in 1979 for work undertaken in the struggle to overcome poverty and distress, which also constitutes a threat to peace.

-NITI Aayog has recently launched the National Nutrition Strategy in New Delhi with an aimed at Kuposhan Mukht Bharat. It was launched by Leader of the Green Revolution, Dr M S Swaminathan and Vice Chairman of NITI Aayog Dr Rajiv Kumar on September 5, 2017. The Nutrition Strategy intends to bring nutrition to the centre-stage of the National Development Agenda. It lays the roadmap for targeted action to address India's nutritional needs. The Nutrition Strategy framework envisages a Kuposhan Mukht Bharat – linked to Swachh Bharat and Swasth Bharat. It enables states to make strategic choices, through decentralized planning and local innovation, with accountability for nutrition outcomes.

-The Assam government has recently set up a Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) Cell for implementation of DBT across schemes in the Country and to coordinate efforts at the State Level in taking the DBT initiative forward with immediate effect. The Chief Secretary will be the chairman of the cell and the Additional Chief Secretary/Principal Secretary, Finance Department will be the convenor. The Cell will Coordinate with Central Ministries & disseminate the directives to the respective Departments in States. It will closely monitor & evaluate the progress of various Departments on DBT related indicators and in addition, the Cell will also function as the research unit to explore possibility of using information technology for better service delivery across range of Govt. Services in the State.

- India has bagged a Gold and two Silver medals in the Men's Double trap event at the 2017 ISSF World Shotgun Championship in Moscow. India won the Gold in the Junior team section of the event with a combined score of 401. Ankur Mittal won the Silver in the senior event, while 17-year-old Ahvar Rizvi finished second in the junior section. India is now fourth in the medals table with one Gold and two Silver medals. Italy is at the top with 11 medals, including 6 Gold. Australia is second, while Russia is third.

-Bollywood actress Parineeti Chopra has become the first Indian woman ambassador for Tourism Australia to encourage Indians to visit the country. She was presented the Friend of Australia (FOA) recognition by Australian Consul General Tony Huber for her contribution to promote Australia recently. Prior to Chopra, famous chef Sanjeev Kapoor and cricket commentator Harsha Bhogle have been great advocates for Australia, encouraging Indians to visit Australia.

-India will host the 2019 edition of the Commonwealth (Youth, Junior and Senior) Weightlifting Championships. It was decided by the Executive Board of Commonwealth Weightlifting Federation to allot the 2019 edition of the competitions to India at Gold Coast, Australia. The 2018 edition of the tournament is being held at the Gold Coast.

-Gauri Lankesh, the noted journalist and activists, was shot dead at her Rajarajeshwari Nagar's residence in Bengaluru, Karnataka on September 5, 2017. She was the editor of popular Kannada tabloid Lankesh Patrike founded by her father and well-known writer P Lankesh. Lankesh was also part of a panel formed by State government to help surrender Naxals to reform. She was known to be a notable social and political commentator and acclaimed for her lifelong support for free speech and strong journalistic ethics, her works were popular in all quarters, her critics alike. The state government has formed a three team comprising of senior police officer to investigate the crime. AIR correspondent reports that killing of senior journalist known for her out spoken views, is being compared with the murder of rationalist, liberal thinkers, M M Kulburgi, Pansare and Dabholkar in recent years. Several associations of writers and journalists are holding protest in the state demanding immediate arrest of the perpetrators of crime.

-Saikhom Mirabai Chanu and K Sanjita Chanu has recently qualified for 2018 Commonwealth Games after winning a gold each in their respective weight categories (48kg & 53kg) at the Commonwealth Senior (men & women) weightlifting championships at Gold Coast in Australia. Mirabai lifted 85kg in snatch and 104kg in clean & jerk for an overall total of 189kg to finish on top of the podium in women's 48kg weight division. She broke Commonwealth record in snatch event with a lift of 85kg, bettering her own record by one kilogram. Meanwhile, Sanjita also bagged the yellow metal in women's 53kg with a total effort of 195kg and qualified for the Commonwealth Games which would be held at the same venue next year.

-The 2-day event 'North East Calling' will be organized by the Union government under its Destination North East series at India Gate lawns in New Delhi on September 9, 2017. The purpose of the event is to promote the art, culture, handicrafts, business and tourism of North East India. The event will showcase all activities and products of North-East and the entry for the general public is free. The event will include music festival for bands of North-East, Cultural night for dances of North-East and Handloom Demo Show presenting the clothes of North-East.

-The researchers at the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR)-National Chemical Laboratory in Pune have developed an artificial leaf that absorbs sunlight to generate hydrogen fuel from water, an advance that may provide clean energy for powering eco-friendly cars in the future. The device consists of semiconductors stacked in a manner to simulate the natural leaf system. When visible light strikes the semiconductors, electrons move in one direction, producing electric current. The current almost instantaneously splits water into hydrogen – which researchers believe is one of the cleanest forms of fuel as its main byproduct is water.

-The Phawngpui Blue Mountain National Park (PBMNP) is located in the state of Mizoram and covers an area of 50 square kilometers. It is the natural home of a wonderful range of birdlife including the rare Blyth's tragopan, falcon, sunbirds, dark-rumped swift, and Mrs. Hume's pheasant, which is the Mizoram state bird, and also rare animals like the mountain goat, slow loris, tiger, leopard, leopard cat, serow, goral, Asiatic black bear, stump-tailed macaque and capped langur.

-Jharkhand Governor Draupadi Murmu gave her assent to the Jharkhand Religious Freedom Bill, 2017. The state government will now issue notification on the Religious Freedom Bill, after which it will become an Act.

With this Jharkhand, become seventh state in the country to have anti-conversion law. Other six states with similar law are Maharashtra, Chhattisgarh, Odisha, Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat and Himachal Pradesh.

-India and Myanmar have signed 11 Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) in range of sectors, including one on maritime security cooperation.

Signed Agreements are

MoU on Maritime Security Cooperation

Cultural Exchange Programme for year 2017-2020

MoU on Cooperation in Medical Products Regulation

MoU on cooperation in the field of Health and medicine

Technical Agreement for providing Coastal Surveillance System

Exchange of Letter for Extension of MoU on the establishment of MIIT

MoU for Upgradation of Women's Police Training Centre at Yamethin, Myanmar

MoU for Sharing White Shipping Information between Indian Navy and Myanmar Navy

MoU in the field of elections between Election Commission of India and Election Commission of Myanmar

Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation between Press Council of India and Myanmar Press Council

Exchange of Letter for Extension of MoU on establishment of India-Myanmar Centre for Enhancement of IT-Skill.

-The Union Ministry of Human Resource and Development (HRD) has launched Diksha Portal (diksha.gov.in) for providing digital platform to teacher to make their lifestyle more digital.

It will serve as National Digital Infrastructure for Teachers. Through this portal, all teachers across nation will be equipped with advanced digital technology.

-National Highway Authority of India was awarded its First International Project in Myanmar to Punj Lloyd-Varaha

-219 teachers were honoured with the national awards on the occasion of Teachers Day

-N Bajindra Kumar took charge as National Mineral Development Corporation CMD

-Solar storms may have caused beaching of whales-scientists

-US President Donald Trump has scrapped an amnesty programme introduced during Obama's term that granted work permits to immigrants who arrived in the country illegally as Children. The move is likely to impact over 800,000 undocumented workers including more than 7000 Indian-Americans. The announcement was made by US Attorney General Jeff Sessions, who said that the programme known as DACA (Deferred Action for Children Arrival) that was effectuated under the Obama Administration is being withdrawn.

-The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural organization (UNESCO) in September 2017 announced the winners of 2017 edition of the UNESCO Prize for Girl's and Women's Education. UNESCO Director-General Irina Bokova announced the names of the two laureates from Peru and Thailand recommended by an International Jury. Each of the two organisations was honoured with the prize money of USD 50000 at an official ceremony held in Xiamen, People's Republic of China.

-Fincare Small Finance Bank (previously known as Disha Microfin Limited) this started its banking operations with about 25 operational branches across Gujarat, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh. The bank was given final small finance bank (SFB) licence from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) in May this year. On the day of its launch, the bank raised over Rs. 225 crore of deposits from its about 1000-odd depositors. The bank aims to be digitally driven, rural and semi-urban bank, focusing on the priority sectors and retail segments of micro and small enterprises.

-ICICI Lombard General Insurance Company has got SEBI's go-ahead for its estimated Rs. 6,000 crore IPO, which could be the first by a general insurer in the country. Two State-run general insurers -General Insurance Corp of India and New India Assurance Company - as also two life insurance firms (SBI Life and HDFC Standard Life) have also lined up IPO plans and are awaiting SEBI's go-ahead for their respective draft papers.

-Larsen & Toubro, the country's largest engineering firm, has received green nod for expansion of its Powai residential and IT tower projects in Mumbai that will entail an investment of Rs 1,102 crore. The company had received environment clearance (EC) for construction of three wings of IT towers in a total area of 1,49,618.70 sq m.

-External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj arrived in Russian port city of Vladivostok on a three-day visit to attend the third Eastern Economic Forum which will deliberate on pressing issues relating to global trade. She holds bilateral talks with her Russian counterpart Sergei Lavrov during which various issues relating to trade, investment, and defense cooperation. The Eastern Economic Forum is considered as the biggest international communication platform for cooperation between businesses leaders and senior government representatives from Russia, the Pacific Region and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN).

-India handed over an off-shore patrol vessel, Varuna, to Sri Lanka as a part of stepping up co-operation between the two coast guards. The ship (Varuna) was decommissioned with traditional honours on August 23 to facilitate the handing over at Kochi.

-Energy Efficiency Services Limited (EESL), under Ministry of Power, Government of India has launched UJALA (Unnat Jyoti by Affordable Lighting for All) Scheme in the State of Melaka, Malaysia on 6th of Sept. 2017. The Scheme was launched by Chief Minister of Melaka Idris Haron. UJALA's impact in Malaysia will bring about clean energy, contribute to climate change targets and save the already dwindling energy resources.

-State Bank of India (SBI) is the latest to get smitten by the Artificial Intelligence and Automation. They have launched their first ever chatbot called SBI Intelligent Assistant or SIA, which would be powered by AI, and designed to assist customers. This special chatbot has been created & developed by Allincall, which is a startup from Mumbai, and backed by startup cell of IIT Bombay.

-Banks without Aadhaar enrolment centres face Rs.20,000 fine from October On 5th September 2017, Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) CEO Mr.Ajay Bhushan Pandey said that the UIDAI has given banks one more month to open Aadhaar enrolment centres in a stipulated 10 per cent of branches and will impose Rs.20,000 as fine per uncovered branch after 30th September 2017.

-HCL acquires UK-based data management platform Datawave

On 5th September 2017, HCL Technologies announced the acquisition of automation-driven data management platform Datawave to accelerate data integration and migration for their clients.HCL has announced that it has agreed to buy Datawave a business unit of ETL Factory Limited, a UK-based company.

-The Ministry of Coal has appointed Gopal Singh as CMD, Central Coalfields Ltd (CCL), additional charge as CMD of Coal India Ltd.Singh has taken charge effective from 1st September 2017.He has replaced Sutirtha Bhattacharya on attaining superannuation effective August 31, 2017.

-WhatsApp is launching a new app to help businesses communicate with their customers announced on 6th sept 2017.WhatsApp Business gives users a verified green checkmark badge next to their names.Secondly, businesses will be able to create a company profile with information such as address, business hours, description of product or service offered.

-According to the Commerce Ministry, Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority(APEEDA) has developed a mobile app "Hortinet" for farmers to facilitate registration, testing and certification of certain fruits and vegetables.The app "Hortinet" is an integrated traceability system developed by APEEDA for providing internet-based services to the stakeholders.

-As part of labour law reforms, the Government has undertaken the exercise of rationalisation of the 38 Labour Acts by framing 4 labour codes viz Code on Wages, Code on Industrial Relations, Code on Social Security and Code on occupational safety, health and working conditions.On 10th August 2017, The Code on Wages Bill 2017 was introduced in Lok Sabha by Mr. Bandaru Dattatreya, Minister of State for Labour and Employment.

-On 7th September 2017, the seventh edition of India-Sri Lanka joint maritime naval exercise SLINEX 2017 started near Vishakhapatnam district of Andhra Pradesh in India on the Bay of Bengal. It will last till 14th September 2017.

SLINEX – Sri Lanka India Naval Exercise are a series of naval exercises between the Indian Navy and the Sri Lankan Navy

-Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu has announced a new programme named 'Jala Siriki Haarati'. It is a programme offering prayers to water bodies and to create awareness among the public regarding water preservation announced on 6th sept. 2017

-The Gujarat government has signed a MoU with Google India for 'Digital Gujarat' movement under 'Digital India'.Under the MoU Google will train small and medium scale entrepreneurs the use of digital platform for business development under the 'Digital Unlocked' programme.

-Home Ministry announced that Chiefs of central armed police forces like Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) and Border Security Force (BSF) and other central agencies have been empowered to spend up to Rs.15 crore for executing major projects and Rs.1 crore for minor works, including repairing of residential buildings.

-Hyperloop Transportation Technologies (HTT) has signed a memorandum of understanding with the Andhra Pradesh Economic Development Board (APEDB) on 6th of Sept. 2017. The pact has been signed to connect Vijayawada and Amaravati, the new capital of Andhra Pradesh in Guntur district.

-Online travel firm MakeMyTrip has announced the resignation of Co-Founder and President Ashish Kashyap. His resignation will come into effect from September 30. As per the settlement agreement, Kashyap will be under non-solicitation and non-competition obligation for the next two years.

-Viveck Goenka, Chairman and Managing Director of the Express Group elected as a Chairman of Press Trust of India and N. Ravi, a former Editor-in-Chief of The Hindu daily is elected as a Vice-Chairman. Goenka succeeds Riyad Mathew, who is Senior Assistant Editor and a member of the Manorama management and Ravi succeeds Goenka as Vice Chairman.

-To mark the first anniversary of Mother Teresa's canonization, the Archdiocese of Kolkata will declare the saint a co-patroness of the local Church announced on 6th of Sept. Sister Prema inaugurated a two-day exhibition of paintings and sculptures on Mother Teresa organised by the Indian National Forum of Art and Culture in association with the Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR).

-India's first operational Smart City, Gujarat International Finance-Tec City (GIFT City), has won the prestigious Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India (ASSOCHAM) Services Excellence Award in New Delhi.

-Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) partnered with Coriant, a US-based packet optical and mobile routing solutions company to study and deploy 5G-based industrial internet applications for enterprise customers in New Delhi.

-Tejasvi Duduka from Hyderabad won the women's singles of U.S. Open Grand Slam Carrom tournament. Earlier, she had won the Telangana State Women's singles title in Nizamabad.

-Indian Institute of Management Lucknow (IIM-L) and Yes Bank has tied up with the purpose of spreading climatic awareness

-A member of the World Bank Group, International Finance Corporation (IFC) has invested \$10 million as equity in e-commerce firm Power2SME

-Astronomers have discovered a pulsar spinning at more than 42,000 revolutions per minute. It is the second-fastest Spinning Pulsar identified so far.

-The book of Former Foreign Secretary Shyam Saran named "How India Sees the World: Kautilya to the 21st Century" launched by former Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh .

-Dr. Inderjit Singh has been given the additional charge of the post of Chairperson, National Authority Chemical Weapons Convention (NACWC). Dr. Inderjit Singh is a 1985-batch IAS officer of Kerala Cadre and at present he is serving as the Additional Secretary in the Cabinet Secretariat.

-Parali I island, one of biodiversity-rich uninhabited islands part of Lakshadweep has disappeared due to

coastal erosion and another four such islands in Lakshadweep sea are shrinking fast. The researcher had conducted studies on assessment of biodiversity confining to five uninhabited islands– Parali I, II and III, Bangaram, Thinnakara in Lakshadweep, an archipelago of 36 islands in Lakshadweep sea.

-The Union government has set up an online service facility that can be used by importers and exporters to resolve all foreign trade-related issues. The Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT), which comes under Ministry of Commerce, has asked all exporters and importers to use the system - Contact@DGFT - for resolution of their matters. Traders can raise all matters related to the directorate or other agencies of the Centre and States through this facility activated at the DGFT website. Contact@DGFT system has been activated as a single point contact for resolving all foreign trade-related issues.

-The 13th edition of the joint military training exercise "Yudh Abhyas - 2017" will be conducted at Joint Base Lewis McChord, Washington, USA from September 14 to 27. The exercise is one of the largest joint running military training and defence corporation endeavors between India and USA. The exercise Yudh Abhyas will provide an opportunity to the armed forces of both countries to train in an integrated manner at Battalion level with joint planning at Brigade level.

-The Across Barriers-International Business Women's Summit (ABIBWS) will be organized by the South Asian Women Development Forum (SAWDF) at Kathmandu in Nepal from September 11. The basic objective of 2-day summit is to bring together women entrepreneurs from the SAARC, ASEAN, China and some other countries. The summit will be a regional hub for connecting women SMEs (small and medium enterprises) with public and private sector for exploring opportunities to identify joint business ventures. The summit will also offer a unique opportunity for business meetings with the members of the visiting international business delegates and Nepalese women entrepreneurs.

-The Eastern Economic Forum (EEF) has started at Russky Island, which is part of Russia's city of Vladivostok, on September 6-7, 2017. The delegates from at least 24 countries including the US, Japan, China, Australia, Canada, Britain and Germany are attending the gathering. From India, External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj is attending the forum. The EEF is considered as the biggest international communication platform for cooperation between businesses leaders and senior government representatives from Russia, the Pacific Region and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN).

-SBI Life Insurance Company gets SEBI approval for Rs 8,400 crore IPO

-Punjab & Maharashtra Co-operative Bank (PMC Bank) to tie up with the Exide Life for savings products

-Ashok Leyland signed an agreement with Rosoboronexport, ELCOM

-Reliance Insurance gets IRDA Nod for IPO

-The Union Government has recently told Supreme Court that an expert committee has been constituted under the Chairmanship of former apex court judge Justice BN Srikrishna to identify key data protection issues in India and recommend methods to address them. The government told the apex court that after the committee's report is submitted, there is a possibility that the law shall be passed regulating data protection. Additional Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, appearing for the Centre, state that the committee will study various issues and make specific suggestions for consideration of the government on the principles to be considered for data protection. The apex court has fixed the matter for further hearing on November 20, 2017.

-The Gujarat Government and Gujarat Milk Marketing Federation-Amul have recently signed the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to save the children of anganwadi from malnutrition. According to the MOU, under the 'Take Home Ration', district dairies in cooperation with the Gujarat milk marketing federation will provide nutritive foods to more than 42-lakh children of more than 53 thousand ananganwadis, pregnant-mothers, lactating mothers and young girls. Apart from this, Gujarat Chief Minister Vijay Rupani has flagged off statewide 'Narmada Mahotsav Yatra' from Surendranagar district to create awareness about the importance of increased water supply from Narmada canal-based projects in different parts of the state. The 10 days long Narmada Mahotsav Yatra will end at Dabhoi- in Narmada district in the presence of Prime Minister Narendra Modi on his birthday on 17th September.

-India and Japan have agreed to collaborate closely in defence production, including on dual-use technologies. Decision in this regard was taken at the India-Japan annual defence ministerial dialogue held in Tokyo.

-The Indian Institute of Science (IISc) retained top position among Indian Universities in the Times World University Rankings 2018, but its position fell in global rankings compared to its last year position.

Top 10 in Universities in World are Oxford University (1st, UK), Cambridge University (2nd, UK), California institute of Technology (3rd, US), Stanford University (4th, US), Massachusetts Institute of Technology (5th, US), Harvard University (6th, US), Princeton University (7th, US), Imperial College London (8th, UK), University of Chicago (9th, US), ETH-Zurich (10th, Switzerland)

-Kiren Rijiju, the Union Minister of State for Home, has launched BSF Half Marathon online registration portal "www.marathon.bsf.gov.in" at a function in New Delhi on September 7, 2017. The marathon will be held at Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium in Delhi on October 22 and will be dedicated to martyrs and BSF will facilitate their family members on the occasion.

-The Indian Council for Agricultural Research (ICAR) will undertake major research works on agriculture this year (in 2017) with the World Bank (WB) fund of Rs 1100 crore. It is announced by the Deputy Director General of the national apex agricultural research body Narendra Singh Rathore in the convocation function at the Tamil Nadu Veterinary and Animal Sciences University in Chennai yesterday. The funds will be allocated to ten each of the premier agricultural and veterinary universities in the country. It must be noted that though India ranks first in milk production in the world, the milk yield per animal is very low as compared to international standards. The headquarters of ICAR is located in New Delhi.

-The International Literacy Day (ILD) is observed every year on September 8 to emphasize the importance of literacy to individuals, society and communities. The 2017 theme is 'Literacy in a Digital World'. The special 2-day event will be organized at UNESCO's Headquarters in Paris today, with an overall aim to look at what kind of literacy skills people need to navigate increasingly in the digitally-mediated societies. The 2017 UNESCO International Literacy Prizes awards ceremony will also take place to recognize and reward excellent literacy practices from around the world in connection with 2017 theme.

-Harendra Singh, the hockey coach and Dronacharya Awardee, has been appointed as High Performance Specialist Coach for Indian Senior Women Hockey Team (ISWHT). The decision was recently taken jointly by SAI and Hockey India on the basis of his recent and past performance. Under his coaching, the junior men team won the Junior Men World Cup in 2016 at Lucknow. He was also the Chief Coach of the Senior Men Hockey team from 2008 to 2009 and National coach from 2009 to 2010.

He is a Level III certified Coach. Harendra Singh will take over the new responsibility shortly. It has also been decided that the present Chief Coach of India senior women Hockey Team, Mr. Waltherus Norbertus Maria Marijne will take over as Chief Coach of Indian Senior Men Hockey Team on his return from the on-going Europe tour. Marijne has accepted the offer of Chief Coach of the senior Indian Men Hockey Team.

-India has refused to be a part of Bali Declaration adopted at conclusion of World Parliamentary Forum on Sustainable Development held in Bali, Indonesia to show of solidarity with Myanmar.

It was not adopted because it carried "inappropriate" reference to violence in Rakhine State from where 1,25,000 Rohingya have fled to Bangladesh and was not in line with agreed global principles of Sustainable Development Goals

-The Indian Army has finalised plan to induct women in military police. The plan is seen as major step towards breaking gender barriers in force.

Under this plan 800 women will be inducted initially with yearly intake of 52. The decision to induct women in Corps of Military Police will help in investigating allegations of gender specific crimes. Currently, women are allowed in select areas such as medical, educational, legal, signals and engineering wings of Indian Army

-The Ministry of Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises has extended the Faster Adoption and Manufacturing of Hybrid and Electric Vehicles ((FAME)-India scheme by six months to promote electric and hybrid vehicles.

The Phase 1 of the scheme was effective from April 2015, to March 2017, had received six-month extension till end-September 2017. Now it has been extended by another six months up to March 31, 2018.

-Bharati Airtel Launches 'GST Advantage' for SMEs

-The Union Government plans to provide Wi-Fi to gram panchayats at the cost of 3700 crores

-Nagaland implemented Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) under Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) beginning from the current financial year

-Under Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Yojna (PMGKY) scheme Four Thousand crores were disclosed by 21 thousand people

-American e-commerce company Amazon opened its largest fulfillment center (FC) in the country at the GMR-led Rajiv Gandhi International Airport in Hyderabad.

-DIGISOL Systems Ltd a leading provider of Active and Passive Networking products, announced that it has been awarded "Best Make In India Wi-Fi Company" at "My India Wi-Fi India Summit & Awards 2017". It was organised by leading digital media organisation DigiAnalysys in New Delhi with the active support and cooperation from leading players in the telecom industry. DIGISOL is the only vendor who manufactures IT networking products in India and is very proud of it. When local manufacturing was a difficult option, its Chairman, Mr. K.R. Naik started manufacturing in India.

-Assam government will upgrade employment exchanges to Modern Career Centres. A pilot project of two district employment exchanges in Guwahati and Jorhat will be upgraded as modern career centres. All modern facilities including counselling will be provided at the proposed career centres.

-India's Sonam, 43 kilogram weight category wins Gold in Cadet World Wrestling Championship. Wrestler Neelam also bagged Bronze Medal in the 43-kilogram weight category. Meanwhile, Four other wrestlers Simran, Manisha, Minakshi, Karuna will also fight for Bronze Medal in different weight categories.

-The New York Department of Financial Services (DFS) announced a fine of USD 225 million on Pakistan's Habib Bank Limited (HBL) and its New York branch for failure to comply with New York laws and regulations designed to prevent illicit financial transactions. Earlier, the bank was facing a possible \$630 million fine over compliance failures by its New York branch. The bank also announced that it would close its branch in New York after the United States financial regulator imposed a penalty of nearly USD 630 million.

-Johnson & Johnson India has announced that new and adoptive fathers would be entitled to eight weeks of paid leave during the first year of birth or adoption. For new mothers, the company has been offering up to 26 weeks of maternity leave for the past six years.

-First water ATM has been inaugurated by Telangana State Home Minister N Narasimha Reddy at Nalgonda X Roads on 7th of Sept. 2017. A total of 200 ATMs will be set up to reach a targeted 150,000 people. In the first phase 50 water ATMs will be operationalised by 2018. These water ATMs use a seven step treatment process to purify water that adheres to national norms. They are connected via cloud-based technology for real-time monitoring and analyses operational parameters, thereby minimising downtime.

-Assam government has signed a MoU with Google India Pvt. Ltd. to increase digital literacy and take Internet connectivity to the remotest part of the north-eastern state. Under this MoU the government would work to provide Internet connections to 26,000 villages and 1,500 tea garden areas in Assam. The MoU will be used as a launch pad to achieve the state government's vision of women empowerment, skill development, and universal education.

-India's Ankur Mittal has won the silver medal in the men's double trap event at the ISSF Shotgun World Championships held in Moscow. Russia's Vitaly Fokeev has won the gold medal at ISSF Shotgun World Championships. In the junior category, Ahvar Rizvi also won a silver medal in the same event.

-Central Ground Water Board (CGWB), Ministry of Water Resources entered into a Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) with Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bangalore for development of ground water flow models and preparation of aquifer management plans for Karnataka, in New Delhi. The MoA was signed by Dr. Dipankar Saha, Member, CGWB and Professor V. Rajarajan, Registrar, IISc, Bangalore. The model being developed is a part of the aquifer mapping and management programme.

-A Joint Parliamentary Committee has been formed to examine and present a report on the Financial Resolution and Deposit Insurance Bill, 2017, in New Delhi. It consists of 20 members of Lok Sabha and 10 members of Rajya Sabha. The Committee will gather views and suggestions from stakeholders and public on the provisions of the Financial Resolution and Deposit Insurance Bill, 2017. Persons interested can submit their views or suggestions as a written Memoranda to the Committee. The Memoranda will be maintained 'confidential' by the Committee.

-The government has allowed import of 3 lakh tonnes of raw sugar at a concessional duty of 25% import duty under Open General License (Tariff Rate Quota) has been allowed through millers/refiners on 7th of Sept. 2017. The import shall be open to millers/refiners who have their own capacity to convert raw sugar into refined /white.

The imports will be allowed through the ports namely Tuticorin, Karaikal, Chennai, Mangalore, Kakinada, Gangavaram and Vishakapatnam in the South. The scheme shall be operated by the Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) as per their rules and regulations.

-The Food Safety Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) has inaugurated India's first ever food safety institute set up by Nestle India in Manesar. It is inaugurated by the CEO of Food Safety Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) Pawan Kumar Agarwal. The institute aims to train and guide its students in food safety including nutrition check and keeping the ingredients in the food items within the limit among others.

-Maharashtra is on the top position among other states in the country when it comes to migration of existing traders and fresh registrations under the Goods and Service Tax (GST) network. Uttar Pradesh (5.93 lakh) has secured second position whereas Tamil Nadu (5.23 lakh) is on the third position in terms of migration of traders through GST network.

-Prime Minister Narendra Modi has announced that India will grant gratis visa to Myanmar citizens wanting to visit the country. Modi made the announcement during his joint press statement with State Counsellor Aung San Suu Kyi after the two leaders held wide-ranging talks. He also announced that India has decided to release 40 Myanmar citizens, currently lodged in various jails in India

-The Ministry of Civil Aviation introduced new rules for the formation of a national No – Fly list that bans unruly passengers from travelling in airplanes.

-Ujjivan Bank to replace loans with certificate deposits

-The traditional Bonderam festival has started in Divar Island of Goa on September 9, 2017 .

The word "Bonderam" originated from the involvement of flags. It is stated that during the Portuguese rule in Goa there were frequent disputes between two sections of the Divar village over property issues. These often led to violence and fights in the village. To find a solution to this problem, the Portuguese introduced a system of demarcation of boundaries with flags. The festival is a memoir to the protest by the local villagers against the Portuguese while trying to resolve the property ownership disputes. This festival starts with a flag which is accompanied by the brass band. Bonderam is a very popular monsoon festival in Goa and it draws huge crowds from all parts of Goa and world over.

-The Punjab National Bank (PNB) and BSNL has signed an agreement to roll out open mobile wallet Speedpay across 10 states in the country.

Under the agreement, BSNL will expand Speedpay services in Punjab, Chandigarh(UT), Haryana, Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, West Bengal, Jharkhand and Uttarakhand. PNB's Speedway wallet will operate like any other mobile wallet for paying bills, recharging phone besides its users will be able to deposit and withdraw money from authorised retail outlets. Also, Speedway users will be able to operate Internet banking services from the application.

-Konjum Taba has clinched gold in the junior men's 94 kg category by lifting 317 kg at the 2017 Commonwealth Weightlifting Championships in Gold Coast, Australia. In the senior men's 94 kg, Vikas Thakur won the bronze medal by lifting 340 kg, while Punam Yadav won silver in the 69 kilogram senior category by lifting 217 kg. In the youth girl 75 kg event, A Anju Devi won the silver medal by lifting 167 kg overall. On day 5 of the championship, India bagged six medals, including two Gold.

-Ajay Bhushan Pandey, the CEO of Unique Identification Authority of India's (UIDAI) has been appointed as interim chairman of the Goods and Services Tax Network (GSTN). He succeeded Navin Kumar, who completed his term on August 29. GSTN is a not-for-profit entity owned by the Centre, states and non-government financial institutions, and is responsible for building and running the Information Technology (IT) backbone for new GST tax regime. Pandey has been given additional charge of the post of Chairman of GSTN with immediate effect and until further orders.

-India will host the 2018 Junior Asian Wrestling Championship (JAWC), which is scheduled to be held from July 19 to 22 in New Delhi. Recently, the United World Wrestling (UWW) has announced the hosting rights to Indian city for the tournament. The UWW is the international governing body for the sport of amateur wrestling and is headquartered in Corsier-sur-Vevey, Switzerland.

-Rattihalli Nagendra Sudarshan (78), the veteran Kannada actor, producer and singer, has passed away in Bengaluru, Karnataka on September 8, 2017. In his five decade film career, Sudarshan acted in Kannada, Tamil, Hindi, Telugu and Malayalam films. He was one of the villains in Nayagan directed by Manirathnam. His last film was Super (2010) by Upendra in Kannada. Music lovers still remember him for songs such as Hoovandu Balibandu and Irabeku, Irabeku, Ariyada, which he sung in Shubhamangala (1975) directed by Puttanna and songs from his own film Naguva Hoovu (1971).

-The Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) has inked Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) with Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bengaluru for Development of ground water flow models and preparation of aquifer management plans for parts of Karnataka

-Scientists from Cardiff University, UK have discovered a new way to produce methanol from methane using oxygen from the air. Methanol is an important chemical often used as fuel in vehicles The discovery has major implications for cleaner, greener industrial processes worldwide. The new technique uses freely available air, inexpensive chemicals and an energy efficient methanol production process

-The Union Finance Ministry has imposed 18.95% countervailing duty (CVD) on certain Chinese flat steel products for period of five years to protect domestic players from cheap subsidised imports. The decision to impose CVD was taken by finance ministry based on the recommendation of Directorate General of Anti-Dumping and Allied Duties (DGAD). This is first case of imposition of CVD on any steel product in India

-State-run oil marketing company Bharat Petroleum Corporation (BPCL) is all set to become a Maharatna company. Presently it is having Navratna status. BPCL will be eight Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSE) to get coveted Maharatna status

-Jordan, a water-poor country that is 90% desert, has launched Sahara Forest Project near the southern port city of Aqaba to turn desert land into farming land to produce food using sun and sea water

-The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has successfully twice flight tested indigenously developed 3rd generation Anti-Tank Guided Missile (ATGM) Nag in Rajasthan

-James Anderson (35-year-old) became the third pacer, sixth bowler overall and first Englishman to take 500 Test wickets when he clean bowled West Indies' Kraigg Brathwaite for four on Day 2 of the third Test at Lord's.

-Government will undertake a programme known as 'school chalo abhiyan' from 2018 to enrol "70-80 lakh" students in India who are out of schools.

Union Human Resource Development Minister Prakash Javadekar announced it at the celebration of 51st International Literacy Day-2017.

-Tottenham's new stadium will include the world's first retractable pitch, which is due to open in 2018, allowing the venue to hold both football and NFL matches.

Sheffield engineering company SCX have been recruited to build the retractable pitch.

-Pakistani Prime Minister Shahid Khaqan Abbasi inaugurated the country's fifth nuclear power plant (C-4 plant) located at Chashma in Mianwali district of the Punjab province.

-Magnitude 8 powerful earthquake hit offshore 120 kilometres southwest of the town of Tres Picos in the state of Chiapas, southern Mexico.

-Nobel Peace Prize awarded to Aung San Suu Kyi in 1991 cannot be revoked

Myanmar's Suu Kyi received the Nobel Peace Prize in 1991 for "her non-violent struggle for democracy and human rights" while standing up against military rulers. An online petition signed by more than 386,000 people on Change.org is calling for her prize's removal over the persecution of Myanmar's Rohingya Muslims. The Norwegian Nobel Institute announced that prize awarded to Myanmar's Aung Sang Suu Kyi cannot be revoked.

-A group of researchers discovered a new species of edible freshwater fish *Labeo Filiferus* while exploring the waters of the Pampa river in Pathanamthitta in Kerala. As per the researchers, the newly found fish could possibly be farmed on a commercial scale. The two researchers, Mathews Plamoottil, Assistant Professor, government college, Chavara, Kollam, and Primoz Zupancic from the Dinaric Research Institute, Solvenia, Europe, have reported the discovery in the latest issue of an open access research journal Bioscience Discovery.

-India's fiscal deficit at July-end touched 92.4 % of the budget mainly because of front loading of expenditure by various government departments. In absolute terms, the fiscal deficit- difference between expenditure and revenue – was Rs 5.04 lakh crore during April- July 2017-18, according to the data of Controller General of Accounts (CGA). During the same period of last financial year, 2016-17, it was 73.7 % of the target. For 2017-18, the government aims to bring down the fiscal deficit to 3.2 % of the GDP. Last fiscal, it had met the deficit target of 3.5 % of the GDP.

-The 21st meeting of the Goods and Services Tax (GST) Council was held at Hyderabad International Convention Centre, in Hyderabad. This is the first time the GST Council met after filing of GST returns. The meet was headed by Finance Minister Mr. Arun Jaitley. Finance Ministers of all states attended the meet. The issues discussed in the GST Council meet were – increasing tax for luxury products, lowering

tax for commonly used products like idli& dosa batter, dried tamarind, custard powder and kitchen gas lighter, operation of GSTN (GST Network), tax on khadi and handicraft items etc.

-INS Satpura and INS Kadmat departed from Visakhapatnam on 8th of Sept. 2017 to visit 12 ports. The deployment aims to strengthen existing bonds between India and the regional countries. The ships will visit Singapore, Vietnam, Philippines, Cambodia and Brunei to celebrate the 25th anniversary of India-ASEAN dialogue. The ships will be participated in the International Fleet Review hosted by the Association of South East Asian Countries (ASEAN) at Thailand. The ships will also participate in the Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) exercise at Malaysia. At Russia, the ships will participate in the annual India-Russia bilateral exercise INDRA.

-The Union Home Minister Shri Rajnath Singh has inaugurated the new HQs building of Bureau of Police Research and Development (BPR&D), Ministry of Home Affairs on 8th of Sept. 2017 in New Delhi. The new headquarters building has been constructed at the cost of Rs. 100 crore approx. This building has modern facilities, such as, state of the art auditorium with seating capacity for 250, 9 big and small conference/syndicate halls, modern library to house 3.5 lakh books, hostel facilities equipped with industrial kitchen having, 52 twin seater rooms. BPR&D including the NCRB block has a total strength of more than 500 employees, for whom modular workstations have been provided

-The first National Canine Seminar organized by National Security Guard (NSG) in NSG Campus, Manesar (Gurugram), Haryana. The NSG, popularly known as "The Black Cats" of the country is organizing this two-day seminar. The theme of the two days National Canine Seminar is "Canine as Tactical Weapon in Fight against Terrorism". Its main objective is to discuss and deliberate on the techniques of dog training and strategies of deploying the dogs in Counter Terrorism and Counter Insurgency scenario.

-Tierra Agrotech Private Limited, a Hyderabad based company acquired Monsanto Holdings, a US based cotton seed company, in New Delhi. Monsanto Holdings is a US Biotechnology giant. It had been selling the Bollgard technology in cotton, in India. Monsanto has sold its cotton business in India to Tierra Agrotech Private Limited after license issue and price control issues with the Indian Government.

-Force Motors Chairman Abhay Firodia has been elected as the new president of the automobile industry body Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers (SIAM). Mahindra & Mahindra's President-Automotive Sector Rajan Wadhera has been elected as the new vice-president of the organization

-United Bank of India announced that it has removed processing fee for retail home loans, car loans and two-wheeler loans, in Kolkata. The processing fee waiver will be available till December, 2017.

-The Airbus Perlan 2 aircraft has set a new altitude world record for a glider, climbing to 52,172 feet on 3rd Sept. in El Calafate, Argentina. The Perlan 2 is a composite-intensive, engineless glider designed to fly at the edge of space using stratospheric mountain waves. The aircraft soared to an incredible 52,000 feet over the Patagonia region of Argentina, without the support of an engine. The previous altitude record was 50,727 feet set by Perlan 1 in 2006. According to Airbus, Argentina is one of the few places on Earth where the rising air currents can reach the stratosphere at a few times of the year.

-The Government announced that it has approved cadre review policy for Junior Commissioned Officers & other rank-holders in the Army

-A New Study from the University of California, Berkeley Has identify 27 distinct types of human emotions

-China and Pakistan have agreed to strengthen anti-terrorism and security cooperation along a USD 50 billion economic corridor that links the restive regions of the two countries through a network of rail and road projects. The China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) connects Xinjiang province in northwest China with the deep-water Gwadar port on the Arabian Sea in south western Pakistan.

-Cricketer Harmanpreet Kaur, who hit a stunning 171 not out in the recent women's cricket World Cup propelling India into the finals, has been promoted as Officer on Special Duty (OSD) in the Western Railway. She was serving as the chief office superintendent of the Western Railway (WR) in Mumbai since May 2014 and has now been promoted as OSD-Sports. In recognition of her outstanding performance in the recently concluded ICC Women's World Cup, the railway ministry has granted Kaur an out-of-turn promotion in gazetted rank group-B as Officer on Special Duty (OSD)-Sports in the Western Railway.

-The Hyderabad-based transwoman activist, who holds two post-graduate degrees, did not despair. Instead, she decided to launch the first YouTube channel Transvision in India conceptualised and actualised by transgender individuals. Trans-vision will produce its web series in three languages - Telugu, Kannada and Dakhni, an Urdu dialect spoken in certain parts of the Deccan Plateau, including Hyderabad.

-Uruguay's Vice President Raul Sendic resigned amid allegations of corruptions stemming from his tenure as head of state oil company ANCAP. He has been accused of engaging in unacceptable use of public funds. As per allegations, he used corporate credit cards to make purchases at jewellery, electronics, furniture and other stores apparently unrelated to his official business between 2010 and 2013. It is the first time a vice president has stepped down in the South American nation.

-Unseeded American Sloane Stephens lifted the US Open women's singles title. Sloane ranked 83rd completed a spectacular return from injury to beat 15th seed Keys 6-3, 6-0 in the finals. The 24-year-old was ranked as low as 957th six weeks ago went on to become only the fifth unseeded woman to win a major title in the Open era. Sloane stunned Venus Williams in the semifinal.

-India won 37 medals, including 23 Gold, in the just-concluded Commonwealth Weightlifting Championships in Gold coast Australia. India on the penultimate day of 2017 Commonwealth Weightlifting Championships bagged two gold medals, one silver and two bronze to wrap up their successful campaign in style. In the last five days of the Championships, 34 new records were created by the Indians.

-India has won 2nd South Asian Basketball, SABA, Under – 16 Championship. India defeated Bhutan by 131-50 in its last league match at Kathmandu in Nepal. India remained unbeaten in its all four matches and accumulated 8 points. Bangladesh finished second and host Nepal third. The championship was played in a round robin league format. India has now qualified for 2017 International Basketball Federation, FIBA, Under-16 Asian Championship to be played in Malaysia later this year.

-Saudi Arabia says it has suspended dialogue with Qatar, shortly after a phone call between the Qatari leader and the Saudi crown prince. The two sides had discussed holding talks to resolve the Qatar crisis, which has seen Doha cut off from Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Egypt and the UAE. The development came after US President Trump spoke separately with the leaders of Saudi Arabia, Qatar & UAE.

-Assam passed the Industrial Disputes (Assam Amendment) Bill, 2017, regarding lay off of employees, in

Guwahati. Industrial Disputes Assam Amendment Bill, 2017: The law enables employers to lay off up to 300 employees without prior permission from the government. The employee count has been increased from 100 to 300. The law is said to increase the ease of doing business. As, employers are hesitant to recruit more number of employees because when the employee count increases more than 100, there would be problems during lay off. The Government has decided to increase the compensation of a labourer from the current 15 days salary to up to 60 days salary.

-Union Water Resources Minister Mr. Nitin Gadkari and Chief Minister of Maharashtra Mr. Devendra Fadnis announced a project to link rivers in Maharashtra, in Mumbai. Two major river linking projects in Maharashtra – Par-Tapi-Narmada and Damanganga-Pinjal worth Rs. 20,000 crore are about to start. Central Government is to allocate funds of Rs. 60,000 crore altogether for all the river linking projects in Maharashtra for the next two years under the Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY).

-The Indian Navy's woman team has embarked on a circumnavigation of the globe, with Defence Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on 10th of Sept. 2017. The Indian Navy calls it a "historic" day for the country. Goa Chief Minister Manohar Parrikar and Navy chief Admiral Sunil Lanba were also present on the occasion. The minister flagged off the first such expedition by the Indian Navy, 'Navika Sagar Parikrama', at a ceremony at the INS Mandovi naval training base, Panaji Goa. The six-member women crew will circumnavigate the globe on an India-built sail boat, INSV Tarini, which is being captained by Lt Commander Vartika Joshi.

-Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) had imposed Rs 2,423 crore fine on PACL Ltd (Pearls Agrotech Corporation Limited) and its four directors for illegal fund mobilisation through various schemes. PACL group, which had collected money in the name of real estate projects among other schemes, was asked by SEBI nearly three years ago to refund Rs. 49,100 crore to the investors. According to the SEBI Rs 49,100 crore was mobilised by PACL over 15 years through unregistered collective investment schemes in violation of the Securities and Exchange Board of India Act, 1992, and SEBI (Collective Investment Schemes) Regulations, 1992.

-Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority (IRDAI) announced usage of OTP (One Time Password) for opening e-Insurance Account (eIA) as an alternative to electronic signature, in New Delhi. IRDAI said that in order to facilitate the opening of e-Insurance Account (eIA) through online or electronic means, the authority has permitted validation by One Time Password (OTP). Now, e-signature of the e- insurance account (eIA) holder on the application form for opening the account is considered as a valid authentication. Also IRDAI has permitted the e-KYC (Know Your Customer) facility offered by UIDAI (Unique Identification Authority of India) which provides unique Aadhaar numbers.

-Tahir Mahmood has received the prestigious Prof N R Madhava Menon Best Law Teacher Award as part of the Law Teachers' Day celebrations. The function was organised by the Society of Indian Law Firms (SILF) and Menon Institute of Legal Advocacy Training (MILAT). Prof N R Madhava Menon and SILF President Lalit Bhasin has given the awards to the recipients.

-SpaceX has launched the US Air Force's super-secret space shuttle announced on 7th Sept. 2017 & a technology tester capable of spending years in orbit. According to a SpaceX launch controller The Falcon has safely landed. An unmanned Falcon rocket blasted off from Florida's Kennedy Space Center. It's the fifth flight for one of these crewless mini shuttles, known as the X-37B Orbital Test Vehicle. This is the first time SpaceX has provided a lift for the experimental mini-shuttle.

-Microsoft CEO Satya Nadella has launched his first book named Hit Refresh. The book includes the inside story of the company's continuing transformation, Nadella's own personal journey, Vision for the coming wave of intelligent technologies. The book goes on sale globally on 26th September and is available for pre-order. Satya Nadella will donate all proceeds from Hit Refresh to Microsoft Philanthropies.

-Harinder Pal Sandhu has won the Malaysian Squash Tour. This is his 21st consecutive international match to win in a row. He beat Malaysia's Mohammed Syafiq Kamal to win the final match. The tournament was held in Kuala Lumpur.

-Himalayan Day was observed across the country on 9th September and the main programme was held in Dehradun. Himalayan Day would be observed at 400 venues across the country to highlight its importance. The theme for this year is 'Contribution of Himalayas and Our Responsibility'.

-This year's theme is 'Take a minute, change a life.' This is the 15th World Suicide Prevention Day. The day was first observed in 2003, as an initiative of the International Association for Suicide Prevention and the World Health Organization. Every year, more than 8,00,000 people die by suicide and 65,000 people make a suicide attempt. International Association for Suicide Prevention (IASP) and World Health Organization (WHO) play an important role in promoting this day.

-On 8th September 2017, CEO of SpaceX Billionaire Elon Musk shared a picture of his space exploration startup SpaceX's first full-body spacesuit on Instagram.

-SIM cards not linked to Aadhaar to be deactivated after Feb 2018
The Centre has issued a notice, stating that all the SIM cards have to be linked to Aadhaar before February 2018 to avoid deactivation of the phone numbers.

-BCCI (Board of Control for Cricket in India) releases players handbook of '100 things every professional cricketer must know'

-World number one Rafael Nadal (Spain) won the 2017 US Open title in men's single category. It was his overall 16th Grand Slam title and third US Open title (2010 and 2013). In the final match played at USTA Billie Jean King National Tennis Center in New York City, Nadal defeated world number 32, Kevin Anderson from South Africa's by 6-3, 6-3, 6-4 score

-The International Astronomical Union (IAU) has named two mountain ranges on icy dwarf planet Pluto as Tenzing Montes and Hillary Montes after Tenzing Norgay and Edmund Hillary. Indian/Nepali Sherpa Tenzing Norgay (1914-1986) and New Zealand Edmund Hillary (1919-2008) were the first mountaineer to reach the summit of Mount Everest and return safely in 1953

-The Union Finance Ministry is planning to launch 'Project Insight' from October 2017 to monitor high value transactions and detect tax evaders using technology with a view to curbing circulation of black money

-India's first all-women crew circumnavigation expedition named as Navika Sagar Parikrama was flagged off by Defence Minister Nirmala Sitharaman in Goa. The crew belongs to Indian Navy and is sailing Indian Naval Sailing Vessel Tarini (INSV Tarini). It will circumnavigate globe in approximately 165 days and is expected to return to Goa in April 2018

-Bugworks Research, a Bengaluru-based biotech startup, became India's and Asia's first to receive the international CARB-X (Combating Antibiotic Resistant Bacteria Biopharmaceutical Accelerator) grant for its antibiotic research and development

-The researchers at IIT-Roorkee have developed a low-cost method for treating Osteoarthritis (OA), a disease that causes pain and stiffness in the joints leading to degeneration of the bone cartilage. Under the new method, a nano-material and a polymer are injected around the knee joint followed by a regular heat therapy, which is believed to be far superior to the conventional treatment administered in the form of multiple injections and anti-inflammatory drugs like steroids, which have critical side effects.

-All India Muslim Personal Law Board (AIMPLB) will constitute a committee to advise the method and process for undertaking large scale community reform program within the Islamic Shariah. A resolution was passed in this connection in the one-day meeting of the Board's executive body held in Bhopal on September 11, 2017. The committee will also look into the Supreme Court's verdict on the triple Talaq. The Board reiterated that Talaq-e-biddat or triple Talaq in one-sitting, is sinful but valid. It claimed that it has taken steps to discourage this practice through community reform programmes for a long time. The AIMPLB is a non-government organisation that focuses primarily to defend the Sharia laws from any law or legislation that they consider infringes on it. Syed Mohammad Rabe Hasani is the president of the AIMPLB.

-Sushmita Dev has been appointed as the new President of All India Mahila Congress. She succeeded Shobha Oza. According to a release issued by All India Congress Committee (AICC), Congress President Sonia has approved the name of Sushmita Dev who is member of Lok Sabha from Silchar in Assam.

-External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj and Foreign Minister of Afghanistan Salahuddin Rabbani in New Delhi signed four agreements recently.

The four agreements were exchanged in areas like health and transport.

India's commitment to support Afghanistan as a secure, stable, united and prosperous nation.

Both the nations remain united in overcoming challenges posed by cross border terrorism and safe havens and sanctuaries of terrorism.

-Housing and Urban Affairs Ministry announced a Smart Cities Awards Contest with a total prize money of 50 lakhs to recognise and reward cities and innovative ideas that promote mission's goals. Under the Project Awards category, excellence will be awarded in various categories such as Improving Governance, Social Aspects, Culture and Economy, Environment impact, Transportation and Mobility and Water and Sanitation. Best performers in each of the categories will be awarded Rs 5 lakh each. All projects that will be completed by April 1, 2018, will be eligible for participating in the contest.

-An eight feet bronze statue of Indian freedom struggle leader Subhas Chandra Bose at the naval base INS Netaji Subhas named after the iconic leader. Netaji's niece in law Krishna Bose cut the ribbon together with Eastern Naval Command chief, Vice Admiral H.C.S. Bisht to unveil the statue.

-Indian Ambassador in UAE Navdeep Singh Suri inaugurated the second Indian Workers' Resource Centre (IWRC) in UAE to provide support and counseling to Indians in distress. It provides counseling and support to the overseas Indian Community on legal, personal and financial matters, free of cost. The first IWRC opened in Dubai in 2010. Khalifa bin Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan is the President of the United Arab Emirates (UAE).

-India finished fifth in the medals tally with one gold and two silver medals at the Moscow Shotgun World Championships.

Only 16 of the 76 participating nations got amongst the medals.

Olympic skeet champions Gabrielle Rossetti and Diana Bacosi crowned as world champions in the process.

Italy topped the tally with nine gold medals for a total of 17 medals in all.

USA topped second with five gold medals for a total of 12.

-Prime Minister Narendra Modi will address Students' Convention in New Delhi on the theme of 'Young India, New India' to mark the 125th anniversary of Swami Vivekananda's Chicago address and BJP ideologue Deendayal Upadhyaya's centenary celebrations. Swami Vivekananda strongly believed in the power of 'Yuva Shakti' (youth power) and saw a vital place for youngsters in the realm of nation-building.

-Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his Japanese counterpart Shinzo Abe will lay the foundation stone for the India's first bullet train project connecting Ahmedabad to Mumbai. Around Rs 1.10 lakh crore will be spent on the project of which Rs 88,000 crore will be funded by a soft loan from Japan. The Mumbai-Ahmedabad bullet train, running at an operating speed of 320 kmph and maximum speed of 350 kmph, will pass through 12 stations - Bandra Kurla Complex, Thane, Virar, Boisar, Vapi, Bilimora, Surat, Bharuch, Vadodara, Anand, Ahmedabad and Sabarmati.

-Germany's Bibiana Steinhaus made history by becoming the first female referee to officiate a match in a top European league. The 38-year-old police officer became the first woman to ref a top-tier match in the German, English, French, Italian or Spanish leagues when she took charge of Hertha Berlin's home Bundesliga match against Werder Bremen.

-Kishore Kharat, MD and CEO, Indian Bank and Kalavathi S M, CGM, Bharat Sanchar Nigam signed an MoU to Upgrade the bandwidth of Indian Bank's branches to 2mbps. The upgradation would be in line with the bank's policy of promoting digital channels.

-LIC has formally launched a new single premium plan, Jeevan Utkarsh, which offers a combination of protection and savings wherein the risk cover is ten times of tabular single premium from date of commencement of risk.

-Prince Charles has become the longest-serving Prince of Wales in history. The 68-year-old broke the record of Queen's Victoria's son Albert, who went on to become King Edward VII after holding the title of Prince of Wales for more than 59 years before becoming monarch. The milestone came a day after his wife, Camilla – Duchess of Cornwall, named a Royal Navy aircraft carrier after her husband.

-The Assam government would be providing skill development training to around 30,000 surrendered militants. The training will also be extended to jail inmates. Along with providing training to the surrendered militants, the Assam government would be training over 24000 Assamese youth under the Prime Minister Kaushal Vikas Yojna. The Assam Skill Development Mission would be providing skill training in 40 sectors. The training sessions would be starting by the end of September 2017.

-The air forces of China and Pakistan began a joint training exercise named "Shaheen VI" and deployed their latest fighter jets and AWACS aircraft. China has dispatched J-11 fighters, JH-7 fighter-bombers, KJ-200 AWACS aircraft and ground forces including surface-to-air missile and radar troops. The exercise will run in China. AWACS is Airborne Warning And Control System, a mobile, long-range radar

surveillance and control centre for air defence.

-Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu laid the foundation stone for Ranchi Smart City coming up on the Heavy Engineering Corporation (HEC) land. According to the Urban Development Minister CP Singh, this would be the country's first 'green-field' smart city. The smart city is coming up on 656 acres of HEC land which would be fully wi-fi, carbon free, garbage free locality with modernized housing, traffic management system, education hub and equipped with facilities like round the clock power and water supplies.

-Defeating the Czech partnership of Lucie Hradecka and Katerina Siniakova, Martina Hingis of Switzerland and Taiwan's Chan Yung-Jan won the US Open Women's Doubles title. The win was Hingis 13th Grand Slam women's doubles title and overall 25th Grand Slam title. On the other hand, the win gave Chan her first Grand Slam.

-The West Bengal government cleared a proposal to rename the state as 'Bangla' and sent a proposal to the Centre for approval. The Mamata Banerjee government had earlier too sent a proposal for the change of name, but it was rejected by the central government. The earlier proposal had three different names for the state – Bangla in Bengali, Bangal in Hindi and Bengal in English. In order to avoid the confusion the government decided to send another proposal to change it to only 'Bangla' in all three languages including Hindi, English and Bengali.

-Kochi will host the 5th edition of the 'Coastal Shipping and Inland Water Transportation Business Summit 2017' on 22nd of September at Hotel Crowne Plaza announced on 10th of Sept. 2017. Kerala Governor P Sathasivam will present the India Seatrade Award for Excellence in Coastal Shipping & Inland Water Transportation.

-Asian Development Bank announced that it would provide \$152 million loan to Nepal, to enhance power transmission, in Kathmandu. The loan agreement was signed between Nepal's Finance Secretary Mr. Shanta Raj Subedi and Officer-in-charge of the ADB's Nepal Resident Mission Mr. Sharad Bhandari, in Kathmandu. The loan amount would be utilized to implement the Power Transmission and Distribution Efficiency Enhancement Project (PTDEEP).

-Joyciline Jepkosgei is a 23 year old Kenyan runner. She has become the first woman to run 10 km distance under 30 minutes on road. She ran at the Birell Prague Grand Prix and broke her previous record of 30 minutes 4 seconds. Track and road racing records are maintained separately by the IAAF (International Association of Athletics Federations). Jepkosgei has broken a total of five records this year. She has set new marks for the 10km, 15km, 20km and half-marathon.

-Egypt announced the discovery of a tomb belonging to a royal goldsmith who lived more than 3,500 years ago, in Luxor, Egypt. The tomb was discovered by Egyptian archaeologists. The tomb is located on the west bank of the river Nile in Draa Abul-Naga, a cemetery where noblemen and top government officials were buried. The tomb belongs to a royal goldsmith named Amenemhat. He lived during the 18th dynasty (about 1567 B.C. to 1320 B.C.). He had dedicated his work to Amon-Re, an Egyptian God.

-Reliance Energy has launched a digital assistance robot named ELEKTRA. This system provides automated responses to customers for their queries and requests. It is powered by Artificial Intelligence. This robot comes into action whenever a customer logs in to Reliance Energy's Facebook page or website. This digital assistance robot takes help of SCADA and GIS systems to provide real-time

responses to the customers. During peak hours, consumers will get an immediate response to their queries from ELEKTRA without any waiting time.

-During a ceremony at Germany's Lagau on the occasion of the One World Festival Sikkim Chief Minister Pawan Chamling was honoured for his pioneering work in the field of organic farming. Chamling was conferred the Grand Prix Award during the One World Award ceremony on 8th September. The award was given by Gerd Muller, the Federal Minister of Bavaria, and Joseph Wilhelm, German Organic Pioneer and Managing Director of Rupenzel.

-Mr. Pat Hickey has resigned from his member position in the International Olympic Committee Executive Board after he was accused in a ticket selling scandal in Rio Olympics 2016, held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. He was arrested by Brazilian police during the Rio Olympics 2016 and was held in jail. He was later released on bail. He has claimed innocent of his charges till date. Mr. Hickey has stated in the letter that once he proves his innocence against all charges he wishes to rejoin the committee as a member.

-Hurricane Irma has become the first storm in the world to sustain winds of 185 miles per hour for more than 24 hours. It's the longest storm to sustain this speed since the 1970s. The hurricane, which has already devastated several islands in the Caribbean, is headed toward south Florida, where the National Hurricane Center has issued evacuation orders.

-The World Health Organisation (WHO) has given the message to the South East Asian countries to assimilate their national plans and mobilise and utilise resources efficiently to reach the Tuberculosis elimination target of 2030.

-London has topped in the 2017 Global Financial Centres Index (GFCI) among 92 financial centres released by the Z/Yen and China Development Institute. India's financial capital Mumbai was ranked at 60th position, up by three positions compared to previous edition.

-Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) has launched 'FoSCoRIS', a nationwide online platform to bring in transparency in food safety inspection and sampling. The food regulator has asked all states to adopt this system as it would help eliminate discrepancy and make food safety officers accountable.

-The Union Government has reconstituted six Committees of the Cabinet after recent ministry reshuffle. Defence Minister Nirmala Sitharaman who was elevated in recent Cabinet restructuring process was inducted as full time member of Cabinet Committee on Security, Cabinet Committees on Economic and Political Affairs. Railway Minister Piyush Goyal and Dharmendra Pradhan were also included as permanent members of the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA)

-The Union Cabinet has approved Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between India and Japan for collaborative research in the field of silkworm and silk industries. The MoU was signed between Central Silk Board (CSB), India and National Institute of Agrobiological Sciences (NIAS), Japan in November 2016.

-The United Nations Security Council (UNSC) has unanimously passed new set of tougher sanctions against North Korea over its sixth and most powerful nuclear test (claimed to be Hydrogen bomb). It was overall the ninth sanctions resolution unanimously adopted by UNSC since 2006 over North Korea's ballistic missile and nuclear programs. The new sanctions imposes ban on North Korea's textile exports and capping imports of crude oil

-The Union Cabinet has given approved introduction of the Payment of Gratuity (Amendment) Bill, 2017 in the Parliament. The Bill seeks to amend Payment of Gratuity Act, 1972. The Amendment will increase maximum limit of gratuity of employees, in Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs)/Autonomous Organizations under Government and in private sector who are not covered under Central Civil Services (Pension) Rules, 1972, at par with Central Government employees

-The Union Cabinet has approved proposal for hiving off mobile tower assets of Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) into a separate tower Infrastructure company, fully owned by BSNL. Decision in this regard was taken in the Union Cabinet Meeting chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in New Delhi

-The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) has approved survey project to acquire 48,243 Line Kilometer (LKM) 2D seismic data for appraisal of Indian sedimentary basins where limited data is available

-Prakash Padukone, the renowned Indian Badminton legend, will be conferred with the first Lifetime Achievement Award instituted by the Badminton Association of India (BAI) for his rich contribution to the sport. The award carries cash prize of Rs 10 lakh with a citation, which will be presented to Padukone at New Delhi very soon. Padukone had won the 1980 All England, besides bagging a bronze at the 1983 World Championship in Copenhagen. He also won a gold medal at the 1978 Commonwealth Games. He was bestowed with the Arjuna award in 1972 and the Padma Shri in 1982.

-The second State Start Up Conference has been organized by the Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion (DIPP) in New Delhi on September 12, 2017 to deliberate on issues including incubation facilities and making regulations easier for budding entrepreneurs. The conference was inaugurated by the Minister of State for Commerce and Industry, C.R. Choudhary and was attended by senior functionaries from states, Union Territories, incubators, accelerators, funding agencies, VCs, angel investors and startups. The move is expected to provide momentum towards building a positive startup ecosystem in states.

-The BWF World Senior Badminton Championship has started at Rajiv Gandhi Indoor Stadium in Kochi, Kerala on September 11 and will continue till September 17. It is for the first time that India is hosting the Championship. The President of Badminton Association of India (BAI) Himanta Biswa Sarma has formally inaugurated the week long Championship. The tournament will see a total of 665 players from 40 countries battle it out in eight different age groups and will be played in all the five categories. About 175 players are representing India including Olympians in the Championship.

-Ravi Shankar Prasad, the Union Minister for Electronics & Information Technology, has launched a nation-wide hackathon #OpenGovDataHack on September 12, 2017. As part of the Startup Eco-system Development program, NIC and IAMAI have collaborated to conduct Nation Wide Hackathon #OpenGovDataHack across seven states of India. The purpose of the hackathon is to support & showcase potentially great Ideas/Talent from Inner India by reaching out in their own State/City (7 Cities). It is to enable them making their ideas developed into Apps/Infographics primarily by use of Open Government Data around the themes of Drinking Water & Sanitation, Transport, Education, Crime and Health to a stage, after which it can be evaluated by jury and be selected for Prizes and future support/funding.

-Dr Harsh Vardhan, the Union Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, has launched the "Wood is Good" campaign at conference on "Sustainable Landscapes & Forest Ecosystems: Theory to Practice" in New Delhi on September 12, 2017. Wood is a climate-friendly material, as it is a renewable

resource, having zero carbon footprints. The conference has organized to deliberate and come out with out-of-the-box ideas and solutions on increasing the forest cover much beyond the stipulated 33 per cent. The union ministry advocated the balancing of environmental and developmental concerns and also urged the gathering of scientists and foresters to devise a solution to the problem of weeds.

-P.S. Kayal (8) of Lawspet in Puducherry has won a gold medal in the 8th Modern Pentathlon National Championship – 2017 in Pune, Maharashtra. She beat 30 other participants to claim the title. In the competition, the participants had to run 200 metres and swim 50 metres. Kayal is a Class IV student of a private school in The Study school at Kalapet and started to learn swimming from the age of six at the swimming pool on the school campus.

-India and Belarus inked 10 agreements to expand cooperation in a range of areas and decided to explore joint development and manufacture of military platforms, giving a fresh momentum in bilateral ties.

-The Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA) announced that the upper age limit for joining the National Pension Scheme (NPS) had been raised to 65 years, from the current 60. It is currently open for people between 18 and 60, and the Board has approved raising the age limit for joining to 65. This aims to open up pensions to sectors without pensions. Currently, only 15-16% of employees in India are covered by pensions because around 85% of the workforce is in the unorganized sector.

-Private sector lender IndusInd Bank and India's second largest Microfinance company Bharat Financial Inclusion signed a confidentiality agreement for the proposed merger between them. The merger would result in lower cost of funds and would help the company offer its customers savings products.

-The International Day for South-South Cooperation was observed on 12 September 2017 by United Nations (UN). The day celebrates the economic, social and political developments made in recent years by regions and countries in the south. It also highlights UN's efforts to work on technical cooperation among developing countries. South-South cooperation is a broad framework of collaboration among countries of the South in the political, economic, social, cultural, environmental and technical domains.

-The International Balzan Foundation has announced the winners of the 2017 Balzan Prize. This year, Indian Economist Bina Agarwal was recognised among other awardees for her work on women's contributions to agriculture in India.

List of 2017 Balzan Prize awardees:

- James P Allison of the University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center and Robert D Schreiber of the Washington University School of Medicine were awarded for Immunological Approaches in Cancer Therapy that enhanced the survival of patients with metastatic melanoma.
- Indian Economist Bina Agarwal of University of Manchester (UK) was recognised in the Gender Studies category for her heroic work studying women's contributions to agriculture in India.
- Belgian astrophysicist Michael Gillon was awarded for his work that has helped in finding new solar systems of planet Earth using robotic telescopes, instead of much more costly satellites.
- German couple Germans Aleida and Jan Assmann were recognised for presenting collective memory as a requirement for the formation of the identity of religious and political communities.

-India's second largest software services firm Infosys has completed the acquisition of London-based Brilliant Basics. Through this acquisition, Infosys further expands its worldwide connected network of Digital Studios that are focused on fulfilling the needs of global clients for end-to-end digital

transformation solutions. Infosys had acquired the company in a cash deal worth GBP 7.5 million, including earn-out and employee retention amounts.

-The second World Congress of Optometry began in Hyderabad. It was inaugurated by State Health Minister C. Laxma Reddy. It was organised in partnership with the Asia Pacific Council of Optometry (APCO) and the India Vision Institute (IVI). The theme of the conference is "Accessible, quality vision and eye health". The aim of the congress is to give unique opportunity for anyone in the eye health sector including community and hospital practitioners, researchers, academics and students.

-Himachal Chief Minister Virbhadr Singh inaugurated first phase of 65 MW Kashang Hydel Project in the tribal Kinnaur district. Kashang Project is being executed by Himachal Pradesh Power Corporation Limited (HPPCL). It is a 195 MW project (three units of 65 MW each). The project commenced in 2009. Due to some rehabilitation disputes pending in the National Green Tribunal, only 65 MW power was being produced presently. The project affected areas would be provided 100 units free electricity per month once the project was commissioned completely and self-employment opportunities have been provided for them by taking funds from Local Area Development Fund (LADF).

-Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for AYUSH Shripad Naik has inaugurated the Regional Research Institute of Homoeopathy (RRI) in Agartala, Tripura, as part of the government's plan to strengthen health services and propagate traditional systems of medicine in North-Eastern states. This is the 3rd homoeopathic regional research institute in the North Eastern region and the first with own land and building. RRI is among the nine institutes functioning under the Central Council for Research in Homoeopathy (CCRH).

-5th East Asia Summit Economic Ministers Meeting was held in Pasay City, Philippines.

-Fitch Ratings declared that Indian banks will need an additional capital of \$65 billion in order to satisfy all the banking rules of global Basel III norms, by March 2019. Indian banks will need an additional capital of \$65 billion by March 2019. State-run banks account for 95% of the capital. Fitch warns that Indian lenders have limited options to raise the capital. Stressed loans in Indian banks make a record \$150 billion, with most of them in the state-run banks. Unless NPL (non-performing loan) are resolved it is not possible for the state-run banks to recover the capital. The reasons for this are low common equity ratios and provisioning requirements for new loans.

-Mother Dairy ties up with Maharashtra Government for processing plant

On 11th September 2017, The Maharashtra government and Mother Dairy Fruit and Vegetable Private Limited, a subsidiary of National Dairy Development Board (NDDB), announced the signing of a MoU, in Mumbai. The MoU is about a lease agreement to set up plant for the processing of milk and milk products. The MoU states that a dairy development initiative would begin in Vidarbha and Marathwada to provide access to milk producers to markets in Nagpur and Mumbai. Nagpur dairy which is on lease would be transferred elsewhere

-Karnataka & Finland in innovation tie up for start-up incubation

On 11th September 2017, Karnataka Department of Information Technology (IT) and Biotechnology (BT) signed a MoU with the Embassy of Finland, in Bengaluru. The innovation co-operation between Karnataka and Finland is called Karnataka-Finland Innovation Corridor. It offers a virtual platform that enables the exchange of information and expertise in the fields of science, research, innovation and skill development.

-TCS makes it to Fortune 50 List of Companies That Changed the World

On 11th September 2017, TCS (Tata Consultancy Services) appeared in Fortune's annual list of the Top 50 companies that are changing the world.

-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.

-India has started 'Operation Insaniyat' to provide assistance to Bangladesh in response to the humanitarian crisis being faced on account of the large influx of Rohingya refugees into that country from Myanmar. Under it, relief material consisting of items including rice, pulses, sugar, salt, cooking oil, biscuits and mosquito nets will be provided to the affected people. The relief material will be delivered in multiple consignments, and the first tranche will be brought to Chittagong by an Indian Air Force plane on September 14, 2017. The Union External Affairs Ministry has stated that India has always responded readily and swiftly to any crisis in Bangladesh, in view of close ties of friendship between the people of India and Bangladesh. In this hour of need, India stands ready to provide any assistance required by Government of Bangladesh.

-The Indo-Sri Lanka Hindi conference was organized at Kelaniya University near Colombo with theme 'Hindi E-learning : Identity and possibilities' on eve of Hindi Divas celebrations on September 13, 2017. High Commissioner of India to Sri Lanka Taranjit Singh Sandhu was the chief guest on the occasion. The Kelaniya University is distinct as it has a full-fledged Hindi department which offers courses ranging from degree to doctorate and research. Hindi is quite popular among Sri Lankan youths and many of them are enrolled for special Hindi classes offered by Indian Cultural centre in Colombo.

-The Union Finance Ministry has constituted a Group of Ministers (GoM) headed by Bihar Deputy Chief Minister Sushil Kumar Modi to monitor and resolve the IT challenges faced in the implementation of GST. The GoM will be assisted by the Chairman and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Goods and Services Tax Network (GSTN). Apart from this, the government has also constituted a committee on exports convened by revenue secretary Dr Hasmukh Adhia to look into issues of export sector and to recommend suitable strategy for helping the export sector in the post-GST scenario to the GST Council.

-Thomas Bach, the President of International Olympic Committee (IOC), has officially announced that Paris will host 2024 and Los Angeles will host 2028 Summer Olympics. Both cities wanted to host the 2024 event, before Los Angeles agreed to wait an extra four years after the IOC made guarantees on funding. Los Angeles will also receive up to \$2 billion from the IOC, which is up to \$300 million more than it would have gotten for 2024.

-Professor Sadanand Gupta, the former head of the Hindi department in the Gorakhpur University and renowned Hindi litterateur, has been appointed as the working president of the Uttar Pradesh Hindi Sansthan. The post was vacant since the Yogi Adityanath government came to power in March 2017. The working president of the Sansthan Uday Pratap Singh had resigned after change of guard in the State. Prof Gupta has been honoured with Birla, Vyas, and Saraswati awards for his literary contributions. He is also associated with several RSS magazines. A native of state of Jharkhand, Prof Gupta has been residing in Gorakhpur since his retirement from Gorakhpur University in 2013.

-The National Hindi Day (NHD) is celebrated every year on September 14 across India to mark the language that roots back to Ancient India, in which the scriptures of the Land of Saints and Yogis, Mythological Epics and Glory of various Kingdoms and Dynasties were written. On this day, in 1949, the Constituent Assembly of India had adopted Hindi written in Devanagari script as the official language of the Republic of India. On 2017 NHD, the President of India Ram Nath Kovind presented Rajbhasha awards for the Year 2016-17 at a function in Rashtrapati Bhawan, New Delhi. The Rajbhasha awards were instituted by the Department of Official Language to recognize the excellent contribution of Ministries, Departments and Nationalized Banks in the field of Hindi.

-The Union Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA) and Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) have signed a MoU for automatic and regular exchange of information to curb the menace of shell companies, money laundering and black money in the country. This will also prevent misuse of corporate structure by shell companies for various illegal purposes. The MoU will enable sharing of specific information such as PAN number data in respect of corporates, Income Tax returns of corporates, financial statements filed with the Registrar by corporates, audit reports and statements of financial transactions received from banks relating to corporates. The information shared will pertain to both Indian corporates as well as foreign corporates operating in India. In addition to regular exchange of data, CBDT and MCA will also exchange with each other any information available in their respective databases, for the purpose of carrying out scrutiny, inspection, investigation and prosecution.

-India and Russia have begun discussions to work out modalities for conducting their first tri-service military exercise INDRA 2017 in October 2017 in Russia. It will be India's first bilateral military exercise with any country involving all three services. The Final Planning Conference (FPC) of exercise will be held from September 2017 in Russia to finalise all logistical issues and modalities

-India is planning to launch major connectivity initiative, connecting Chennai with key Russian port Vladivostok via sea route with an aim to harness natural resources from Northeast Asia and Western Pacific region. The Chennai-Vladivostok sea route will enable to transfer cargo between Chennai and Vladivostok in 24 days in comparison to over 40 days currently taken to transport goods from India to Far East Russia via Europe

-India ranked low 103rd out of 130 countries surveyed on World Economic Forum's (WEF) Global Human Capital Index (GHCI) 2017. In the previous edition, India ranked 105th. The GHCI measures countries' ability to nurture, develop and deploy talent for economic growth against four key areas of human capital development; Capacity (determined by past investment in formal education), Deployment

(accumulation of skills through work), Development (reskilling and continued upskilling of existing workers) and know-how (specialised skills-use at work).

-The ASEAN Computer Emergency Response Team Incident Drill (ACID) was recently held in Hanoi, Danang, and Ho Chi Minh City in Vietnam. This year it was 12th year of drills as part of subregion's response to growing cyber challenges witnessed in recent years. ACID's objective is to test and enhance incident response as well as broader cooperation and coordination among ASEAN CERTS as well as some of their key dialogue partners. It involves ten members of ASEAN as well as five dialogue partners – Australia, China, India, Japan, and South Korea

-The Haryana council of ministers on Wednesday decided to create one Wi-Fi zone in all 6,078-gram panchayats within two years and provide 4G services in every village in the next three years. Under the Haryana Information Technology (IT) and Electronic System Design and Manufacturing (ESDM) Policy-2017 approved by the cabinet, the state government has promised broadband connectivity to every household and Wi-Fi zone at important public places in all towns and cities.

-India and Japan signed 15 agreements for enhancing bilateral cooperation in several key areas including investment promotion, civil aviation, and science and technology. The agreements were signed in the presence of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his Japanese counterpart Shinzo Abe after 12th annual summit talks in Gandhinagar.

MoU on International Academic and Sports Exchange

MoC in the field of Japanese Language Education in India Exchange of RoD on Civil Aviation Cooperation.

MOC between Ministry of Home Affairs and Cabinet Office of Japan

India-Japan Investment Promotion Road map between DIPP and METI.

The arrangement between India Post and Japan Post for the Implementation of Cool EMS service.

MoU between RIS and IDE-JETRO for the promotion of Cooperation in Research Related Activities.

MOC between METI and Gujarat on 'Japan-India special programme for Make In India' in Mandal Bechraj-Khoraj in Gujarat.

India-Japan Act East Forum: To enhance connectivity and promote developmental projects in North East India in efficient and effective manner.

Joint Research Contract India's Department of Biotechnology (DBT) and between National Institute of Advanced Industrial Science & Technology (AIST), Japan.

Agreement for an International joint exchange programme between interdisciplinary theoretical and mathematical sciences programme, RIKEN and National Centres for Biological Sciences.

Japan has invested 4.7 billion US dollars in India during 2016-17, 80 percent higher than last year.

-M. Nagaraja Sarma appointed the chairman-cum-managing director (CMD) of the United India Insurance Co. Ltd.

-Bengaluru-born 28-year-old Google research scientist Ananda Theertha Suresh in New York has won the Paul Baran Young Scholar award for 2017. Kailath, 82, from Pune and a former professor at Stanford, is the Hitachi American Professor in Engineering Emeritus at the reputed university. He was also conferred with the Padma Bhushan, India's third highest civilian award, in 2009. Netravalli, 71, a native of Ankola on Karnataka's west coast, studied at Mumbai's Elphinstone College and graduated in electrical engineering from IIT-Bombay before migrating to the US in 1967 for his post-graduation and doctorate from Houston's Rice University.

-NITI Aayog Vice Chairman Rajiv Kumar has resigned from his post of independent director in the board of Dewan Housing Finance Corporation (DHFL), the third largest home loan & housing finance company in India. The move came after Kumar got the top post at NITI Aayog, the government think tank.

-The Indian Olympic Association (IOA) formally awarded the rights to host the 36th National Games to Goa in November 2017. The announcement was made by the state sports minister Manohar Ajaonkar. The National Games of India comprises various disciplines in which sportsmen from the different states of India participate against each other. The National Games were formally known as the Indian Olympic Games.

-Mahendra Pratap Mall was appointed as Chairman and Managing Director of Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) Ltd. He is at present director (finance) in the same organisation. The appointments committee of the Union cabinet has approved his appointment to the post for a period of five years, as per the order issued by the Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT).

-The 74th annual Venice International Film Festival was held from 30 August to 9 September 2017. The most important award is the Golden Lion at the Venice Biennale and considered one of the most prestigious film awards, like the Golden Palm in Cannes and the Golden Bear of Berlin. The awards are listed below:

- Best Film – Nico, 1988, directed by Susanna Nicchiarelli
- Best Director – Vahid Jalilvand, No Date, No Signature
- Special Jury Prize – Caniba, directed by Lucien Castaing-Taylor and Véréna Paravel
- Best Actress – Lyna Khoudri, Les Bienheureux
- Best Actor – Navid Mohammadzadeh, No Date, No Signature
- Best Screenplay – Los Versos Del Olvido, directed by Alireza Khatami
- Best Short Film – Gros Chagrin, directed by Céline Devaux
- Lion of the Future – “Luigi De Laurentiis” Venice Award for a Debut Film Jusqu’à la Garde, directed by Xavier Legrand.

-Pune-based auto firm Force Motors Ltd has entered into a non-binding joint venture agreement with Rolls-Royce Power Systems AG to produce engines for power generation and rail application and complete power generation systems, including spare parts, for Indian and global markets. The joint venture with Rolls-Royce will be the company’s first step towards diversifying into the non-auto segment. In the joint venture, Force Motors will hold a 51% stake and Rolls-Royce the rest.

-Karnataka is the first state to roll out an Electric Vehicle and Energy Storage Policy that looks not only at boosting sales of Electrical Vehicles, but also setting up charging infrastructure and special manufacturing zones. Karnataka is looking to attract investments to the tune of Rs 31,000 crore from companies looking at R&D and manufacturing of electric vehicles in the state.

-Foundation stone of India’s first high-speed rail project (bullet train) project was jointly laid by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his Japanese counterpart Shinzo Abe at Sabarmati Station ground in Ahmedabad. The 508km-long Mumbai to Ahmedabad High Speed Rail (MAHSR) Project will be built at cost of Rs 1.10 lakh crore. It is expected to be completed by 2022. (It was recently advanced by year from earlier deadline of 2023).

-Railway Ministry has decided to permit m-Aadhar as one of the prescribed proofs of Identity for Rail Travel purpose in any reserved class. Its a mobile application launched by UIDAI in which a person can

download his/her Aadhar Card. It can be done only on the mobile number to which Aadhar has been linked. For showing Aadhar, the person has to open the app and enter his/ her password to show the Aadhar Card. This should be accepted as proof of identity in any reserved class over Indian Railways.

-U.S. Trade and Development Agency (USTDA) signs MoU with Airports Authority of India (AAI) to develop Kolkata, Lucknow airports. The US Trade and Development Agency has signed a memorandum of understanding with the Airports Authority of India announced on 13th of Sept. 2017. The MoU has been signed to support a 20-year master plan aimed at expansion of operational capacities of the Kolkata and Lucknow international airports. Airports Authority of India (AAI) has selected Cincinnati-based Landrum & Brown (L&B) company to conduct the master planning.

-World Bank President Mr. Jim Yong Kim announced that World Bank has allocated \$8 billion for infrastructure projects under China's Silk Road initiative, Beijing. Mr. Jim Yong Kim announced this fund allotment in a round table conference in Beijing. In 2013, Chinese President Mr. Xi Jinping formulated this Silk Road initiative. The Silk Road Economic Belt consists of 6 corridors which connect to five central Asian countries, Iran, Persian Gulf, Transcaucasia, Turkey and Saudi Arabia.

-A report by Japanese financial services company Nomura said that India's GDP growth is expected to be around 7.1 % this fiscal year (2017 – 2018). India is predicted to have a 7.1 % GDP growth this fiscal year (2017 – 2018) and that would be followed by a pickup in industrial production. This has been predicted since firms would start restocking after GST (Goods & Services Tax) and festive season is also ahead. Before GST the demand for consumer products reduced heavily since people postponed purchases. Now, the situation has turned normal and people would go for bulk purchases as the festive season is arriving. Merchants would start restocking now.

-Mindtree opens first global Digital Pumpkin innovation hub in U.S. On 12th September 2017, Mindtree, a Bengaluru based multinational company inaugurated its first international Digital Pumpkin innovation hub at Warren, New Jersey, in US. After the success of Digital Pumpkin in Bengaluru Mindtree has set up its first global Digital Pumpkin in US. The Digital Pumpkin provides solutions for Internet of Things, artificial Intelligence, cognitive solutions, virtual and augmented reality, machine learning, conversational cloud and big data.

-Hindustan Shipyard Ltd will ink a partnership with Hyundai Heavy Industries Co Ltd of South Korea for construction of fleet support ships (FSS) for the Navy in both the countries. An MoU is likely to be signed next year on this. At present, talks are in progress between the Ministry of Defence and South Korea. The first ship was expected to roll out in October, 2022, from the Hyundai facility in South Korea. The construction of another FSS would start at HSL with the guidance of Hyundai. The cost of five FSS would be around Rs.9,500 crore. The HSL was planning to roll out one FSS every 10 months after the delivery of the first vessel from Hyundai.

-Brian Acton, the co-founder of WhatsApp has announced to resign from the company to start a non-profit venture of his own. Acton spent eight years with WhatsApp, which Facebook bought in 2014 for \$19 billion in cash and stock. A Stanford alumnus, Acton co-founded WhatsApp with Ukrainian immigrant Jan Koum in 2009. They both worked at Yahoo before starting WhatsApp. He has decided to start a non-profit venture and focused at the intersection of nonprofit, technology and communications.

-Restaurant discovery and food delivery firm Zomato acquired logistics startup Runnr. The deal for acquisition was signed between Zomato CEO, Mr. Deepinder Goyal and Runnr. The amount for which Runnr was acquired has not been disclosed. Zomato currently delivers 30 lakh orders per month. Out of which only 10 % (3 lakh) is fulfilled by Runnr. This acquisition would enable Zomato fulfill around 50 % of the orders through its own logistics. Apart from this Zomato would continue to utilise the restaurant's own logistics.

-Maharashtra has won the Chief Minister's cup at National kickboxing championship. It has 45 gold medals. The National kickboxing championship is being held in Raipur. Chhattisgarh secured second position with 27 gold and Haryana secured third position with 15 gold medals. About two thousand players from 27 states participated in the four-day event.