

SEPTEMBER 14, 2017

-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.