

APPLO



STUDY CENTRE

CURRENT AFFAIRS – AUGUST 2017

PRELIMINARY / MAIN

IMPORTANT DAYS

DATE	DAY	THEME - 2017
01 August	World Breast Feeding Day	Sustaining breast feeding together
06 August	Hiroshima Day, Anti-Nuclear Day	
07 August	National Handloom Day	
08 August	World Senior Citizen's Day	
09 August	Quit India Day	
09 August	International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples	

10 August	World Bio Fuel Day	
12 August	International Youth Day	Youth Building peace
12 August	World Elephant Day	
15 August	India's Independence Day	
19 August	World Photography Day	
19 August	Humanitarian Day	#NotATarget.
19 August	World Honey Bee Day	
20 August	Harmony Day (Sadbhavana Diwas)	
20 August	World Mosquito Day	
23 August	International Day for the Remembrance of the Slave Trade and its Abolition	
29 August	National Sports Day	
29 August	International Day Against Nuclear Tests	
30 August	Small Industry Day	

July 26: Kargil Victory Day

July 28: World Hepatitis Day

July 29: Global Tiger Day

'International Tiger Day' is celebrated every year on 29th July. This year's International Tiger Day was celebrated with the slogan 'Fresh Ecology For Tigers' Protection'.

- The conference of the heads of 13 countries - where tigers are available - held at Saint Petersburg of Russia in 2010 took the decision to mark the world tiger day on July 29 every year.
- The goal of the day is to promote a global system for protecting the natural habitats of tigers and to raise public awareness and support for tiger conservation issues.

July 30 - World Day against Trafficking in Persons. 2017 theme - Act to protect and assist trafficked persons.

7 August: National Handloom Day.

- To honour the handloom weavers in the country and also carter an impetus to India's handloom industry.
- The date August 7 was chosen to commemorate the Swadeshi Movement which was launched on this date in 1905.
- The first National Handloom Day was inaugurated on 7 August 2015 by Prime Minister Narendra Modi at Chennai.

15th August 2017: 71st Independence Day

India celebrates its 70th anniversary of Independence and Prime Minister Narendra Modi addressed the nation from the Red Fort.

Some Important points of PM's Independence Day speech:

- This is a special year- 75th anniversary of Quit India, 100th anniversary of Champaran Satyagraha, 125th anniversary of Ganesh Utsav.
- We have to take the country ahead with the determination of creating a 'New India'.
- In 1942, the nation's call was 'Bharat Chhoro' (Quit India). In 2017, the nation's call is 'Bharat Jodo' (A United India) that is our true strength.
- Irrespective of caste, community and religion we are one India.

NATION

NITI Aayog clears six proposals for high-tech public transport

- It includes high-tech mass rapid transportation technologies such as metrinio, hyperloop, pod taxis, stadler buses, hybrid buses and freight rail road.
- **Metrinio:** Fully automatic, driverless small pods travel independently suspended over an overhead network.
- **Pod taxis:** Small automated vehicles - cable cars or pod cars - equipped to carry a small group of passengers.
- **Hyperloop:** A pod-like vehicle is propelled through a near-vacuum tube connecting cities at speeds matching that of an aircraft.
- **Freight rail road:** Under it elevated corridors will be built with rail lines where freight trucks can be placed and then they would move on rails at high speed, increasing freight quantity and reducing freight time.

Constitution 123rd Amendment Bill 2017 - for setting up of a National Commission for Backward Classes was passed by Rajya Sabha after dropping an important clause.

Swachh Survekshan-2018 launched in the country

To rank all the 4,041 cities and towns of the country based on infrastructure development for improved sanitation services and their sustainability, outcomes, citizen connect and visible impact on ground.

Government proposes to set up 14 new AIIMS hospitals under PMSSY.

- Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojana (PMSSY)
- Launched - 2003
- Objective - correcting regional imbalances in the availability of affordable /reliable tertiary healthcare services and augment facilities for quality medical education in the country.
- Establishes AIIMS in various regions of India apart from different government colleges.

Ministry of Health releases Guidelines for FPC

- Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has released Operational Guidelines for Planning and Implementation of Family Participatory Care (FPC).
- The guidelines will serve as a guiding document for those intending to introduce FPC in their facility as an integral part of facility based newborn care.
- The document also provides details of infrastructure, training, role of health care providers and steps in the operationalization of FPC in the newborn care unit.

India can construct Kishanganga, Ratle Hydro Power Plants: World Bank

World Bank has allowed India to construct Kishanganga, Ratle hydroelectric power facilities on tributaries of the Jhelum and Chenab

rivers with certain restrictions under the 1960 Indus Waters Treaty (IWT).

Indus Waters Treaty (IWT)

- IWT is a water-distribution treaty between India and Pakistan which was brokered by the World Bank (then the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development).
- It deals with sharing of water of Indus water system having six rivers – Beas, Ravi, Sutlej, Indus, Chenab and Jhelum between the two countries.
- It was signed by then Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru and President of Pakistan Ayub Khan in Karachi on September 19, 1960. It is most successful water treaty in world. Even, it has survived India-Pakistan wars of 1965, 1971 and the 1999 Kargil standoff besides Kashmir insurgency since 1990.
- As per treaty, control over three eastern rivers Ravi, Beas and Sutlej was given to India.
- While control over three western rivers Indus, Jhelum and Chenab was given to Pakistan.
- It allows India to use only 20% of the water of Indus river, which flows through it first, for irrigation, power generation and transport.

NPCI (National Payments corporation of India) gets RBI nod to operate Bharat Bill Payment System.

About Bharat Bill Payment System (BBPS)

- BBPS is an integrated bill payment system

- Offering interoperable and accessible bill payment service to customers through a network of agents, enabling multiple payment modes and providing instant confirmation of payment.
- The BBPS initiative aims to provide a major push to digital payments as it is a big step forward in formalizing the bill payment system in the country.
- Under the BBPS framework, a customer will be able to pay several bills such as electricity, telephone, water, gas, and DTH television at a single location—physical or electronic—and receive instant confirmation once the payment is made. Nearly 45 crore bills are permitted under BBPS.
- Payments through BBPS can be made using cash, transfer cheques and electronic modes.

India ratifies 2nd commitment period of Kyoto Protocol. India has ratified the second commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol (or Doha Amendment) that commits countries to contain the emission of greenhouse gases (GHGs)

Swachh Survekshan Gramin 2017 - to assess the progress Swachh Bharat Mission in rural India.

NSDC (National Skill Development Corporation) and Google India launch mobile app development programme (Android Skill Development programme) - to improve mobile developer ecosystem in the country.

NITI Aayog partners with 6 states to transform Health & Education sectors.

- To radically transform their Health and Education sectors under its Sustainable Action for Transforming Human Capital (SATH) initiative.
- The shortlisted states for transforming their health sector are Uttar Pradesh, Assam and Karnataka.
- Madhya Pradesh, Jharkhand and Odisha were selected for transforming their education sector.

75th anniversary of Quit India Movement

- This year's theme - "Sankalp se Siddhi- the attainment through resolve".
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi in his recent Mann Ki Baat programme had called for launching the mega campaign Sankalp Se Siddhi.
- The campaign pledges to build new India by 2022.
- It calls on everyone to pledge together towards **Clean India, Poverty-free India, Corruption-free India, Terrorism-free India, Communalism-free India, Casteism-free India.**
- Prime Minister Modi also had termed the **month of August as a month of revolution** as the non-cooperation movement was launched on August 1, 1920, Quit--India movement on August 9, 1942 and on August 15, 1947 India became independent.

Government merges NCRB with BPRD.

- The Union Home Ministry has merged three-decade old National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) with Bureau of Police Research and Development (BPRD).
- The merger aims at improving administrative efficiency and optimal utilisation of resources for development works related to policing.

Centre completes first phase of measles-rubella vaccination campaign, launches second phase of Measles-rubella vaccination campaign.

The second phase of campaign will cover 8 states and union territories namely Andhra Pradesh, Chandigarh, Dadra and Nagar Haveli, Daman and Diu, Himachal Pradesh, Kerala, Telangana and Uttarakhand.

Government to launch AGRI UDAAN-Food and Agribusiness Accelerator 2.0 programme. To promote innovation and entrepreneurship in agriculture. It will mentor startups and help them connect with potential investors.

Union Cabinet clears proxy voting for NRIs and overseas Indians. Currently, only service personnel are permitted to vote through proxy.

e-RaKAM portal

- e-Rashtriya Kisan Agri Mandi(e-RaKAM)
- To provide a platform to sell agricultural produce.
- E-RaKAM is a first-of-its-kind initiative that leverages technology to connect farmers of the smallest villages to the

biggest markets of the world through internet and e-RaKAM centres.

- Under this initiative, e-RaKAM centres are being developed in a phased manner throughout the country to facilitate farmers for online sale of their produce.
- Farmers would be paid through e-Payment directly into their bank accounts.

Indra: India, Russia For First Time Conduct Tri-Services Exercise

- India and Russia for first time are going to conduct Indra tri-services exercise, involving their armies, navies and the air forces in October 2017 to further ramp up military ties. Named INDRA
- It will be for the first time India will participate in a tri-services exercise with a foreign country with such large scale participation by Army, Navy and Air force.

Gaj Yatra

- A nationwide campaign to protect elephants.
- By the Union Ministry of Environment and Forest.
- Launched on the occasion of World Elephant Day (August 12).

MAHSR

- Mumbai-Ahmedabad High-Speed Rail.
- India's first bullet train project. Project cost – Rs. 1 lakh crore.
- Covers distance of 505 km.
- Makes use of Japanese technology known as “Shinkansen” Technology.

India Quake

- An App for Earthquake Parameter Dissemination.
- Launched National Centre for Seismology.
- By Ministry of Earth Science.

- The App will make information dissemination faster with no restrictions on the number of recipients.
- Any citizen can download this App and get the real time earthquake location information on his/her mobile.

Sagar Vani

- Mobile App.
- By Ministry of Earth Science.
- An Integrated Information Dissemination System.
- Will serve the coastal community, especially the fishermen community with the advisories and alerts towards their livelihood as well as their safety at Sea.

National Cyber Coordination Centre (NCCC) to become operational:

- Set up to scan the country's web traffic to detect cyber security threats.
- It scans the cyberspace in the country for cyber security threats at metadata level to generate situational awareness.
- Implemented by Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-In)

Jiyo Parsi scheme

- "Jiyo Parsi Publicity Phase-1" - Initiated in 2013.
- Main objective of the "Jiyo Parsi" scheme - to reverse the declining trend of Parsi population by adopting a scientific protocol and structured interventions, stabilize their population and increase the population of Parsis in India.
- Ministry of Minority Affairs' scheme has two components: Medical Assistance and Advocacy/Counselling.

Aajeevika Grameen Express Yojana (AGEY)

The Government of India has decided to launch a new sub-scheme named “Aajeevika Grameen Express Yojana (AGEY)” as part of the Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana - National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM).

- The Self Help Groups under DAY-NRLM will operate road transport service in backward areas. This will help to provide safe, affordable and community monitored rural transport services to connect remote villages with key services and amenities (such as access to markets, education and health) for the overall economic development of backward rural areas.
- The beneficiary SHG member will be provided an interest free loan by the CBO from its Community Investment Fund upto Rs.6.50 lakh for purchase of the vehicle.

About DAY-NRLM:-

- National Rural Livelihoods Mission (NRLM) was launched by the Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD), Government of India in June 2011.
- In November 2015, the program was renamed Deendayal Antayodaya Yojana (DAY-NRLM).
- Objective of scheme is enabling poors to increase household income through sustainable livelihood enhancements and improved access to financial services.

E-Shakti initiative of NABARD (National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development) - The objective of this project is digitisation of Self Help Groups (SHGs). NABARD was established in 1982 on the recommendations of B.Sivaraman Committee.

Bharat QR (Quick Response) - It is for payment settlement at merchant locations.

Bharat Bill Payment System (BBPS) - It is an integrated bill payment system for net banking customers,”.

SBI merger bill passed by Lok Sabha

- **Five associates and the Bharatiya Mahila Bank** became part of State Bank of India (SBI) beginning April 1, catapulting the country’s largest lender to among the top 50 banks in the world.
- The five associates that were merged are State Bank of Bikaner and Jaipur (SBBJ), State Bank of Hyderabad (SBH), State Bank of Mysore (SBM), State Bank of Patiala (SBP) and State Bank of Travancore (SBT).
- **About SBI:-** Founded in 1955. Nationalised in 1956. Headquarters - Mumbai. Chairman:-Arundhati Bhattacharya

BitBay to launch trading platform for digital currency in India

Poland based bitcoin exchange platform Bitbay, one of the top ten cryptocurrency trading platforms in the world, has launched a dedicated platform for trade and exchange of digital currencies such as bitcoin, litecoin, ether, Lisk, monero, dash and game credits.

ICICI Bank launches instant credit cards - to enable its savings account customers to get a credit card instantly, in a completely digital and paperless manner.

Kotak Bank’s New Forex Service - Kotak Remit - an Aadhaar-based integrated outward forex remittance solution for both customers and non-customers.

Canara Bank has launched its first digital banking branch of Canara Bank - CANDI.

Government revises the base year of Wholesale Price Index (WPI) from 2004-05 to 2011-12.

Third Bi-Monthly Monetary Policy of RBI

- Repo Rate - 6.00% (Earlier it was 6.25%)
- Reverse Repo Rate - 5.75% (Earlier it was 6.00%)
- Marginal Standing Facility Rate - 6.25% (Earlier it was 6.50%)
- Bank Rate - 6.25% (Earlier it was 6.50%)
- Cash Reserve Ratio (CRR) - 4.00% (Unchanged)
- Statutory Liquidity Ratio (SLR) - 20.00% (Unchanged)

PR's Quote on Energy Future

“My vision for India’s energy future has 4 pillars – energy access, energy efficiency, energy sustainability and energy security”

National Sports Talent Search Portal

- Launched by Union Government .
- To unearth sporting talent from every nook and corner of the country.
- The portal will be also available as smartphone application.

Government imposes anti-dumping duty on sodium nitrate imports from China.

Anti-dumping Duty: Countries impose anti-dumping duties to safeguard domestic industry from surge in below-cost imports. It is not a measure to restrict import or cause an unjustified increase in cost of products. Anti-dumping duty is imposed in order to ensure fair trade and provide a level-playing field to the domestic industry.

CCEA (Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs) approves renaming SAMPADA Scheme as PM Kisan Sampada Yojana.

SAMPADA - Scheme for Agro-Marine Processing and Development of Agro-Processing Clusters. Pradhan Mantri Kisan Sampada Yojana (PMKSY)

- PMKSY is an umbrella scheme which incorporates all ongoing schemes of the Union Ministry of Food Processing Industries (MoFPI).
- It includes MoFPI's schemes such as Mega Food Parks, Food Safety and Quality Assurance Infrastructure, Integrated Cold Chain and Value Addition Infrastructure, etc.
- It also includes new schemes like Creation of Backward and Forward Linkages, Infrastructure for Agro-processing Clusters, Creation/Expansion of Food Processing & Preservation Capacities.

Mentor India Campaign.

- Launched by Niti Aayog.
- A strategic nation building initiative to engage leaders for guiding and mentoring students at Atal Tinkering Labs.
- Aims at maximising the impact of Atal Tinkering Labs by engaging leaders who will nurture and guide students in the Atal Tinkering Labs.
- **Atal Tinkering Labs:** Established across the country as a part of the Atal Innovation Mission. These labs are meant to be non-prescriptive by nature, and mentors are expected to be enablers rather than instructors. They are dedicated works spaces where

students from Class 6th to Class 12th learn innovation skills and develop ideas that will go on to transform India.

Swasth Bachche, Swasth Bharat Programme

- The programme is an initiative of Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan (KVS) to prepare a physical Health and Fitness Profile Card for more than 12 lakhs of Kendriya Vidyalaya students.
- The programme aims to provide a comprehensive and inclusive report card for children covering all age groups and children of different abilities.
- Its main objective is to make students, teachers and parents aware about the importance of good health and fitness and encouraging 60 minutes of play each day.
- The programme also intends to imbibe values of Olympics and Paralympics amongst students. The objectives are bringing back the childhood amongst child.

Government to establish first National Sports Museum.

- At Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium, New Delhi.
- It will be first of its kind sports museum in India.
- The aim of the sports museum is to popularise the sports as a way of life within the country.
- It will showcase the India's achievements in sports and also focus on the traditional sports within the country.

Navika Sagar Parikrama

- A project wherein a team of women officers (six-member all-woman team) of the Indian Navy would circumnavigate the globe on an Indian-built sail boat INSV Tarini.
- This is the first ever Indian circumnavigation of the globe by an all-women crew.
- The project is scheduled to commence in early Sep 17.
- INSV Tarini is the sister vessel of INSV Mhadei.
- The project is considered essential towards promoting Ocean Sailing activities in the Navy while depicting Government of India's thrust for 'Nari Shakti'.
- The expedition has been apply titled 'Navika Sagar Parikrama', aimed at promoting women empowerment in the country and ocean sailing by the Indian Navy.
- The expedition would inspire the youth of our nation to develop an understanding of the sea and instill a spirit of adventure and camaraderie.

Harit Diwali, Swasth Diwali Campaign.

- Launched by The Union Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC)
- Aim - To reduce adverse environmental conditions especially pollution in the country after post Diwali celebrations due to excessive bursting of crackers which contributes significantly to air and noise pollution.

- Also aims at enlightening the children about harmful fire crackers. It will motivate children to not to buy fire crackers, instead buy a gift, t, food items, or sweets for poor and underprivileged children living in their locality.
- Under this campaign, the MoEFCC will undertake various activities for creating awareness among various stakeholders and encourage people to participate in combating air pollution.
- Some of the activities will include promoting Green Diwali among school children include stickers/logo distribution, advertisement on public transport systems, poster competition, public appeal using Radio. Social media campaign will be also undertaken under it. Moreover an online video competition will be conducted, where any individual or organization can make a video on the theme 'Pollution Free Diwali'.

Madhyamik and Uchchar Shiksha Kosh (MUSK).

1. The funds arising from MUSK will be utilized for schemes in education sector, which will be available for benefit of students of secondary and higher education all over the country.
2. It will be administered and maintained by the Union Ministry of Human Resource Development.
3. The MUSK will be maintained as a Reserve Fund in the non-interest bearing section of the Public Accounts of India. It will be operationalized as per the present arrangements under Prarambhik Shiksha Kosh (PSK) wherein the proceeds of cess are

used for Sarv Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) and Mid-Day Meal (MDM) Schemes.

NPPA caps prices of orthopedic knee implants

The drug price regulator National Pharmaceuticals Pricing Authority (NPPA) has capped the prices of orthopedic knee implants upto 70% lower than current market rates.

India to host steering committee meeting of TAPI gas pipeline.

About Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan-India (TAPI) gas pipeline.

- TAPI gas pipeline project or Trans-Afghanistan Pipeline is a proposed trans-country natural gas pipeline developed by the Asian Development Bank (ADB).
- The pipeline first proposed in 1995 will transport natural gas from energy rich Caspian Sea (Galkynysh gasfields: fourth largest in the world) in Turkmenistan to India through Afghanistan into Pakistan.
- Construction of the project started in Turkmenistan on December 2015. It is expected to be operational by 2019.
- The project will supply both India and Pakistan about 38 mmscmd of natural gas whereas Afghanistan will get 14 mmscmd supply.

- The life of supply is expected to last for period of 30 years and shall be operational from 2019. Member countries of the project have recommended establishing an inter-government joint security task force (JSTF) to serve as the nucleus of the safety of the pipeline.

Government eMarketplace (GeM)

1. GeM is an online market platform to facilitate procurement of goods and services by various Ministries and agencies of the Government.
2. It was established by Directorate General of Supplies and Disposal (DGS&D), Ministry of Commerce and Industries.

IMMSAREX

1. Indian Ocean Naval Symposium's (IONS) maiden International Maritime Search and Rescue Exercise (IMMSAREX) will be held in November 2017 in the Bay of Bengal under the chairmanship of Bangladesh.
2. The ships and aircraft of the members and observers of the IONS including China, India and Pakistan will participate in the exercise. In addition, Bangladesh is also scheduling to host "extraordinary conclave of Chiefs," a meeting of chiefs of Navy of IONS members before it hands over the Chair to Iran.

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

The Union Home Minister Shri Rajnath Singh launched the live twitter wall for promoting Bharat Ke Veer portal here on the eve of Independence Day 2017.

Bharat Ke Veer portal

- Launched by the Union Home Minister and actor Shri Akshay Kumar on April 9, 2017.
- This portal facilitates online donation directly to the families of CAPF Martyrs who have sacrificed their lives for the country in line of duty from January 1, 2016.
- This social media awareness campaign will display all tweets with hashtag Bharat Ke Veer (#BharatKeVeer), at Connaught Place, CGO complex and Khan Market in New Delhi where huge LED display screens have been installed.

PM launches website to honour gallantry award winners since independence

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched a website to honour all the gallantry award winners since Independence.
- Website - <http://gallantryawards.gov.in>
- Mr. Modi said “the portal will preserve and tell the stories of our bravest men and women, civilians as well as armed forces personnel.”
- PM Said “If you have any information/photo that is missing and can be added to the portal, please share it through the feedback link on the site”.

India's first online course on Infusion Therapy launched

- The Infusion Nurses Society (INS)-India in its 6th National conference launched country's first online course on Infusion Therapy for nurses. INS is global authority in infusion therapy.
- Under which it aims to train over 3,000 nurses in the vital medical procedure.

- Will boost nurses even in rural parts of India, INS said that utilising the reach and ease of the digital platform,
- The course will enable members to access the various infusion therapy modules and presentations through its website.

Indian Government asks Internet majors to remove Blue Whale links

1. Government has directed internet majors - Google, Facebook, Whatsapp, Instagram, Microsoft and Yahoo - to immediately remove the links of dangerous online game Blue Whale Challenge, which has led to suicide of children in India and other countries.
2. The Blue Whale challenge is reportedly a suicide game in which the player is given certain tasks to complete for a period of 50 days and the final task leads to suicide. The player is also asked to share photos after finishing the challenge.

Seven Indian companies among 200 in green energy revenues

The seven Indian companies are Suzlon Energy Ltd, Bharat Heavy Electricals, Tata Chemicals Ltd, Exide Industries Ltd, IDFC Ltd, Thermax Ltd and Havells India Ltd.

New Metro Rail Policy approved

The Union Cabinet has approved a new Metro Rail Policy that seeks **to enable realization of growing metro rail aspirations** of a large number of cities in a responsible manner.

- It focuses on compact urban development, cost reduction and multi-modal integration.

- PPP component mandatory for availing central assistance for new metro projects which is a big move for private investments across a range of metro operations.
- Seeking to ensure financial viability of metro projects, the new Metro Rail Policy requires the States to clearly indicate in the project report the measures to be taken for commercial / property development at stations and on other urban land and for other means of maximum non-fare revenue generation through advertisements, lease of space etc., backed by statutory support.
- At present, metro projects with a total length of **370 kms** are **operational in 8 cities** viz., Delhi, Bengaluru, Kolkata, Chennai, Kochi, Mumbai, Jaipur-9.00 kms and Gurugram.
- Metro Projects with a total length of 537 kms are in **progress in 13 cities** including the eight mentioned above. New cities acquiring metro services are; Hyderabad, Nagpur, Ahmedabad, Pune and Lucknow.

Department of Investment and public Asset Management, DIPAM

- Nodal agency of Union Finance Ministry
- Mandated to advise the Union Government in the matters of financial restructuring of PSUs and also for attracting investment through capital markets.
- It will also deal with all matters relating to sale of Union Government's equity in PSUs.

NHAI Launches Mobile App MyFASTag and FASTag Partner in New Delhi, to facilitate the availability of FASTags for Electronic Toll Collection

MyFASTag:

- A consumer App that can be downloaded from the App Store for both Android and iOS systems.
- A consumer can purchase or recharge FASTags on this App.
- The App also helps to keep track of transactions and provides for online grievance redressal.

FASTag Partner:

- It is a merchant App.
- Agencies like Common Services Centre, banking partners and vehicle dealers can sell and enroll FASTag through this App.
- In addition to this, the App can also be used to activate the RFID tags.
- These RFID tags are already fixed on the cars but are dormant.
- This App will convert these RFID tags into ETC Tag (FASTag).
- Radio frequency identification device (RFID)

Swachh Sankalp se Swachh Siddhi Competition

- In pursuit of achieve a New India by 2022 under Sankalp se Siddhi vision, the Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation is organising countrywide Film, Essay and Painting Competition only for Primary School students between 17th August and 8th September, 2017 as another major step towards making Swachhta, a people's movement.

- The core objective is to generate mass involvement in Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM) and related issues. Based on the aforesaid competitions, the National Swachh Bharat Awards shall be presented on 2nd October, 2017.

RBI Introduces New Rs. 50 and Rs. 200 Notes

1. **Rs. 50 Note:** The base colour of the new note is fluorescent blue. It has a motif of Hampi with Chariot on the reverse, depicting the country's cultural heritage.
2. **Rs. 200 Note:** The base colour of the new note is bright yellow. It has a motif of Sanchi Stupa on the reverse, depicting the country's cultural heritage.

'Champions of Change' Initiative Organised by NITI Aayog

- The Prime Minister interacted with Young Entrepreneurs at the “Champions of Change” initiative organized by NITI Aayog at Pravasi Bharatiya Kendra.
- Six groups of Young Entrepreneurs made presentations before the PM on themes such as - Soft Power: Incredible India 2.0; Education and Skill Development; Health and Nutrition; Energizing a sustainable tomorrow; and Digital India; New India by 2022.
- The Prime Minister described the “Champions of Change” initiative as one effort to bring together diverse strengths for the benefit of the nation and society.

“Sankalp Se Sidhi” program being organized across the country to commemorate the 75th Anniversary of Quit India Movement.

1. On this occasion, the Agriculture & Farmers Welfare Ministry has planned to organize the Sankalp Se Sidhi program at 578 Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs), 29 ICAR institutes/SAUs and 53 ATMAs during 19-30 August 2017.
2. The programs comprise of Kisan (farmer) Film having message of Hon’ble PM to double farmers’ income by year 2022, followed by pledge for Sankalp Se Sidhi, lecture by agriculture experts and address of the chief guest.

‘Swasth Bachche, Swasth Bharat’

- Launched by HRD Minister Shri Prakash Javadekar at Kochi.
- An initiative of Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan to prepare a physical Health and Fitness Profile Card for more than 12 lakhs of Kendriya Vidyalaya students.
- Swasth Bachche, Swasth Bharat programme will provide a comprehensive and inclusive report card for children covering all age groups and children of different abilities.
- Making students, teachers and parents aware about the importance of good health and fitness and encouraging 60 minutes of play each day is an objective of the programme.
- Swasth Bachche, Swasth Bharat programme also intends to imbibe values of Olympics and Paralympics amongst students.

ICMR Inks Deal to Promote Vaccine Development

The Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) has signed an MoU with the International Vaccine Institute (IVI) for collaborating on vaccine research and development.

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

The Information and Broadcasting Ministry constituted a 40-member 'preview committee' with filmmaker Vivek Agnihotri as its convenor to select movies for the international film festival at Goa.

Home Minister Rajnath Singh Attends SCO Meet

A two-day Meeting of Heads of Governments of Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) Member States began at Choplon Ata in Kyrgyz Republic.

- India had joined the SCO in June in Kazakhstan capital Astana. Prime Minister Narendra Modi had attended the summit.
- The participation of India as SCO Member will open additional opportunities for giving new impetus to the development of international cooperation in the field of protecting the population and territories from emergency situations within the framework of the Organisation.

Government Finalizes New Cadre Policy of IAS, IPS, IFOS

Government has finalized new cadre policy of IAS, IPS and Indian Forest Service officers aimed at ensuring national integration in the country's top bureaucracy. Officers of all-India services will have to choose cadres from a set of zones instead of states. (Tamil Nadu falls under zone 5).

Two RRBs Record Over Rs 150-cr Profit in FY17: RBI

Out of the 56 regional rural banks (RRBs) in the country, two notched up net profit of over ₹150 crore each during 2016-17. They are Karnataka Vikas Grameena Bank and Andhra Pragathi Grameena Bank

UIDAI Launches Door Step Aadhar Enrolment in the national capital for the elderly, patients and others who cannot travel the Aadhar centres.

- CSC India is in charge of many operations of Aadhaar centres across India. They provide many services, especially in rural areas with about 2.5 lakh operational CSCs across the country.
- The doorstep enrollment will be done via a mobile van.

About Aadhaar card:-

- Aadhaar is a 12-digit unique identity number issued by the Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) on behalf of the Government of India to individuals for the purpose of establishing the unique identity of every single person
- It is a digital identity that can be verified using simple methods.
- It also enables secure delivery of payments and access to government services.
- Aadhaar card is required for issuing a death certificate too.

Arun Jaitley: Jan Dhan Yojana and the 1 Billion-1 Billion-1 Billion "JAM" Revolution it is Unleashing

“Three years ago today, Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced a flagship program: Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY) aimed at providing financial services to the poor. These included opening bank accounts for the poor, giving them electronic means of payment (via RUPAY cards), and placing them in a position to avail themselves of credit and insurance.

- JAM, a term coined, and a vision conceptualized, by our Chief Economic Adviser, is nothing short of a social revolution because it has brought together financial inclusion (PMJDY), biometric identification (Aadhaar) and mobile telecommunications.
- Just as GST created one tax, one market, one India, the PMJDY and the JAM revolution can link all Indians into one common financial, economic, and digital space. No Indian will be outside the mainstream.

NPCI Approves Spice Digital's Operation Under Bharat Bill Payment System

1. The National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) has given a nod to Spice Digital Ltd. for processing bill payments under the Bharat Bill Payment System (BBPS) as a Bharat Bill Payment Operating Unit (BBPOU).
2. The BBPS through its centralised bill payment system will allow the users to use a single website or outlet to pay all their monthly or repetitive bills such as mobile phone and electricity.

Two-Day Indian Ocean Conference in Colombo

Minister of External Affairs (MEA) Sushma Swaraj will participate in the two-day Indian Ocean Conference (IOC) scheduled to be held at Colombo. Theme - "Peace, Progress and Prosperity".

Ministry of Textiles to Organize Pan India Camps in handlooms and handicrafts clusters, under the initiative -Hastkala Sahyog Shivir. The camps will be organized during 7th to 17th of October.

Government Sets up Task Force on Artificial Intelligence for the country's Economic Transformation - headed by Dr. V. Kamakoti of IIT Madras.

Ujjivan SFB Receives Scheduled Bank Status From RBI

Ujjivan Small Finance Bank Ltd, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Ujjivan Financial Services Ltd, has been given scheduled bank status by RBI.

Unicity (US Firm) Launches World's First Ever Genomeceuticals (gene controlling) Range of Products in India

Product 'Genomeceutical' is a ground-breaking, patent-pending, technology whereby certain secondary metabolites found in nature can help maintain the gene response whenever needed by the body and help maintain overall metabolic health.

"Pharma Jan Samadhan" App to Help Athletes Identify Prohibited Medicines

Drug pricing regulator National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) joined hands with National Anti-Doping Agency (NADA) to help athletes understand medicines that could contain prohibited substances in sports through its app 'Pharma Jan Samadhan'.

Kirti Chakra Award Recipients: (second highest gallantry award given to armed forces officials in peace time)

1. Major Preetam Singh Kunwar of the Garhwal Rifles
2. Havildar Giris Gurung (Posthumous) from the First Gorkha Rifles
3. Major David Manlun (Posthumous), of the Naga Regiment
4. Pramod Kumar (Posthumous), Commandant, 49 Battalion, Central Reserve Police Force.
5. Chetan Kumar Cheeta, Commandant, CRPF.

NITI Aayog Announces Women Transforming India Awards 2017

- Recognizes the exceptional work of 12 women in critical areas such as preventing violence against women; bridging the gender gap in education; providing healthcare; building livelihoods and enterprises for women; and promoting inclusion for persons with disabilities.
- **Recipients:**
 1. **Lakshmi Agrawal**: A champion of violence against women.
 2. Goat veterinarian **Sunita Kamble** for creating alternative livelihood opportunities for women.
 3. **Raji Borthakur**: For creating a smart glove which can predict epileptic seizures before they occur
 4. **Safeena Husain**: For her work to transform girls' education in rural areas
 5. **Arunima Sinha** for being India's first amputee to climb Mount Everest
 6. **Jamuna Tudu** who conserved 50 hectares of forest land around her village in Jharkhand.
 7. **Harshini Kanhekar** - India's first woman firefighter.
 8. **Kiran Kanojia**: Survivor of a horrific accident, Kiran Kanojia, is a champion blade runner
 9. **Shima Modak**: Has been working relentlessly for the welfare of the distressed. Albeit with very little financial assistance, Shima has helped improve the future of children in her community by taking free education to the doorstep of the vulnerable.

10. **Kanika Tekriwal**: A self-made aviation entrepreneur and cancer survivor, Kanika Tekriwal launched her company, JetSetGo in 2013.
11. **Kamal Kumbhar**: Broke free from the shackles of poverty and a suffocating marriage to create a micro-enterprise network, enabling women like herself to realise their dreams of a brighter tomorrow.
12. **Subasini Mistry**: After losing her husband at a young age, Subasini Mistry saved for two decades to build a hospital for the needy.

NATION - OTHERS

- NCERT (National Council of Educational Research and Training) launches web portal to supply Textbooks online - for schools and individuals.
- Union Cabinet clears proxy voting for NRIs and overseas Indians. Currently, only service personnel are permitted to vote through proxy.
- Union Cabinet approves MoU between India and Spain on cooperation in renewable energy.
- Parliament passes Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (Amendment) Bill, 2017.
- 8th Meeting of the Heart of Asia - Istanbul Process held in New Delhi.

- First meeting of JICF (Japan-India Coordination Forum) held in New Delhi for Development of North-Eastern Region.
- SEBI constitutes TK Viswanathan committee on fair market conduct.
- SC bans use of five heavy metals (lithium, antimony, mercury, arsenic and lead) in firecrackers as they cause air pollution.
- Justice BN Krishna Committee - Had submitted its report to review the institutionalization of arbitration mechanism in India.
- Justice B N Srikrishna Committee - To study issues related to data protection in the country and suggest a draft data protection Bill.
- NGT bans use of non-biodegradable plastic bags in Delhi.
- Indian Coast Guard Ship (ICGS) Shaurya commissioned in Goa.
- India ranks 43rd in 2017 Global Retirement Index. Norway ranks first.
- NCLT (National Company Law Tribunal) Approves Airtel-Telenor Merger.
- India signs loan pact with AIIB for Rural Roads Project.
- India hosted the 19th RCEP Trade Negotiating Committee (TNC) meeting at Hyderabad.

- Indian metro that has become the world's first completely green metro system - The Delhi Metro (for adhering to green building norms for its residential colonies)
- India's rank in the 2017 Digital Evolution Index (DEI) - **53rd**
- India's rank in commitment to reducing inequality - **132nd**
- Parliamentary panel that has recently recommended 100% pension to widow of deceased soldier - **B C Khanduri panel.**
- Hyderabad becomes India's first airport to offer "express security check".
- NITI Aayog proposes Judicial Performance Index for lower judiciary.
- Bharti Airtel has entered into a partnership with Symantec Corporation to protect businesses in India from online threats.
- Coast Guard Ship ICGS 'Varuna' Decommissioned.
- Indian Navy's second (Landing Craft Utility) LCU Mark IV L52 ship commissioned at Port Blair.
- India-ASEAN Youth Summit begins in Bhopal.
- 8th World Renewable Energy Technology Congress held at New Delhi.
- Tata Power has become the first power utility to introduce a QR code based bill payments system in India.

- Qatar Airways Enters Into Interline Partnership with Vistara (Tata Sons + Singapore Airlines).
- NABARD (The National Bank of Agriculture and Rural Development) Sanctions Rs 1,350-cr loan to Rajasthan Government.
- BSNL Launches Digital Wallet in Partnership with MobiKwik.
- RBI Makes Aadhaar Linkage Mandatory for Farmers to ensure hassle-free benefits to farmers under Interest Subvention Scheme.
- Union Government bans import of gold, silver items from South Korea.
- India has 27,312 elephants: 2017 Census Estimation.
- INCOIS - Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services.

STATES

Odisha government and Facebook launches 'SheMeansBusiness' programme.

To train women entrepreneurs in the state - launched in partnership between Odisha's MSME (micro, small and medium enterprises) department and Project Mission Shakti.

Green Airports in Andhra Pradesh - solar power plants at Tirupathi and Vijaywada Airports. Earlier, the Cochin International Airport Limited (CIAL) became the first airport in the world, to be completely powered by solar energy.

MahaDBT, MahaVASTU portals launched by Maharashtra Government

- MahaDBT is an Aadhaar-authenticated electronic mechanism to give benefits to lakhs of beneficiaries under various schemes across all departments.
- MahaVASTU is an Online Building Permission Management System with an electronic workflow for sanctioning building approvals.
- Maharashtra is the first state to launch this system to give direct benefits with 'Aadhaar' authentication.

Care Companion Programme (CCP)

- Launched by Punjab government.
- To educate family members of patient about taking better care of patients.

Telangana State Prisons Department

- Has proposed to accommodate prisoners from overcrowded prisons in India.
- First of its kind offer to rent out its jails to other states to lodge their convicts from overcrowded prisons in India at a monthly rent of Rs 10,000 per person.
- Presently, Norway is the only country that is shutting down its jails or leasing them out to other countries to lodge their prisoners.

"Fete de Puducherry" Begins

Artistes from 11 states and the union territory of Puducherry took part in 'Fete de Puducherry,' a three-day annual cultural festival organised by the government of Puducherry since 1985 as part of celebrating

Independence Day and also Liberation Day of Puducherry (August 16).

Maharashtra CM launches 'Namo Yuva Rojgar Kendra'

1. A farmers' market on wheels, which aims at delivering farm-fresh organic produce at reasonable prices.
2. A total of 125 farm-to-home delivery vans will tour the city to sell the product. The vegetables sold in the mobile vans will be priced 25% lower than the average market rate. The initiative aims to generate jobs for uneducated youth and women.

Odisha Government and Facebook Launches 'SheMeansBusiness' Program

1. Chief minister Naveen Patnaik launched 'She Means Business' programme of Facebook for women entrepreneurs in Odisha.
2. Under the scheme 25, 000 women entrepreneurs and self-help group (SHG) members will be given training on digital marketing skills within next one year.
3. Odisha government's partnership with Facebook aimed to reduce the digital divide and empower nearly 25,000 women entrepreneurs and SHGs.
4. Facebook will also make a database of entrepreneurs in the state and will monitor their growth, turnover and profit after one year.

Delhi Police launches YUVA - a skill development programme

- A skill development programme under Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY).

- Aims to connect with youth by upgrading their skill as per their competencies.
- It will help youths to get gainful employment under PMKVY.
- It will also play important role in building up confidence and faith of youths in police organization.

Telangana CM Chosen for Agriculture Leadership Award for his innovative services rendered to the welfare of farmers and the farm sector. The award, instituted by Indian Council of Food and Agriculture in 2008, is presented every year since then.

MEA to Inaugurate First Videsh Bhavan in Mumbai

The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) has decided to integrate all its offices in Maharashtra into a single building - the "Videsh Bhavan" - for effective management of its engagement with the State Government of Maharashtra. (Videsh means foreign)

Manipur's Nungthang Tampak- North East's First 100% Computer Literate Village.

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

E-waste Disposal from Schools Kicks Starts in Kerala at Thiruvananthapuram.

Instead of simply disposing e-Waste as garbage which create environmental issues, scientific methods are used to recycle and refurbish the e-Waste as per the norms set by Govt of India, a novel process which avoids spreading of hazardous materials like Mercury, Lead, Cadmium, Barium etc in to the environment.

J & K Government to Set Up First Eco-Park

The Jammu and Kashmir government has decided to build an Eco-Park on over 34 acres of land reclaimed from encroachers in the state's Rajouri district. The park is a first-of-its-kind project in the region. It will have a botanical garden, a cactus garden, a cafeteria and other amenities.

PM Launches Highway Project in Rajasthan

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated 11 National Highway projects in Rajasthan, covering a total length of about 873 km.
- The projects include a 6-lane cable stayed bridge across river Chambal at Kota; 4-laning of Gomati Chauraha-Udaipur section of NH-8, and Rajsamand-Bhilwara section of NH-758.
- He visited the Pratap Gaurav Kendra which provides information, through various exhibits, about the life, valour and achievements of Maharana Pratap, the famous King of the erstwhile kingdom of Mewar.

Operation Sajak - Conducted in coastal areas (recently in Kanyakumari), a kind of rehearsal done to avoid infiltration of terrorists.

AMMA Mobile App:

1. AMMA - Assured Multi Model Access App.
2. To pay electricity bills through mobile app.
3. Launched by TNEB under Digital India Scheme.

Gobindobhog Rice:

A specialty from Burdwan district of West Bengal, has got the geographical indication (GI) status.

States - Others

- Religion Freedom Bill 2017 (that prohibits religious conversion) passed in **Jharkhand**.
- **Uttar Pradesh** Government launches Namami Gange Jagriti Yatra - an awareness drive along banks of Ganga River to maintain cleanliness.
- **Haryana** government ban use of liquid nitrogen in food and drink.
- Amazon India has signed a MoU with **Telangana** state handloom department to educate weavers and artisans to directly sell their products to Amazon customers.
- **Maharashtra** has launched “Namo Yuva Rojgar Kendra” for unemployed youth.
- **Bihar** has launched mobile therapy vans for elderly people.
- India’s first state to implement coal utilisation between power units - **Gujarat**.
- India’s first micro forest to be built at **Chhattisgarh**.
- India’s first helicopter-taxi service - **Bengaluru**.
- City to host the 2017 India - ASEAN Youth summit - **Bhopal**.

- **Karnataka** Government launches clouding seeding **Project Varshadhari** - to cause artificial rain.
- **Karnataka** Ties up With Microsoft to Develop India's First Farm Price Forecasting Model.
- **Andhra Pradesh** First to Implement Bharat QR Digital Payments.
- For the first time in India, Special Ambulance for Elephants introduced in **Sathyamangalam**, Tamil Nadu.
- India's first railways disaster management centre to come up at **Bengaluru**.
- India's first university for aviation (Rajiv Gandhi National Aviation University - RGNAU) to come up at **Rae Bareilly**, Uttar Pradesh.
- India's first university for world peace (Dr. Vishwanath Karad MIT World Peace University - MITWPU) - **Pune**, Maharashtra.
- Kalinga Institute of Social Sciences, **Bhubaneswar**, Odisha - First Tribal University in the world.
- Museum on the partition of the Indian sub-continent - To come up at **Amritsar**, Punjab.

- “181” - 24 hour Helpline for women by **Telangana** Government to report on violence against women.
- Indira Canteen – Subsidized canteen in **Karnataka** (in line with AMMA canteen of TN).

WORLD

15th BIMSTEC Ministerial meeting begins in Kathmandu.
 BIMSTEC - Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation . Head Quarters – Dhaka, Bangladesh.

Global Entrepreneurship Summit

- India and US to co-host.
- At Hyderabad, Telangana from 28th to 30th November 2017.
- American delegation will be led by US President Donald Trump’s daughter Ivanka Trump.
- To be organized by the NITI (National Institution for Transforming India) Aayog in coordination with Ministry of External Affairs.

Mekong Ganga Cooperation (MGC) bloc

- An initiative by India and five ASEAN countries, Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, Thailand and Vietnam
- For cooperation in tourism, culture, education, as well as transport and communications.

- Launched in 2000 at Vientiane, Laos. It is named after Ganga and the Mekong which both are civilizational rivers.
- MGC initiative aims to facilitate closer contacts among the people inhabiting these two major river basins.

IAEA opens world's first low Enriched Uranium bank in Kazakhstan

- The UN global nuclear watchdog, International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) has opened world's first low Enriched Uranium (LEU) Bank in Oskemen in Kazakhstan.
- The bank is owned and managed by IAEA.
- It will be the **first of its kind LEU bank not to be under control of any individual country.**
- The IAEA also manages 123 tons of uranium in Angarsk, Russia but it is under the control of Russian government.
- **Purpose of Bank: Last resort Supply, Non-proliferation efforts, No disruption to nuclear fuel trade.**
- International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) - HQ - Vienna, Austria.
- IAEA is an international organization that seeks to promote the peaceful use of nuclear energy, and to inhibit its use for any military purpose, including nuclear weapons.

US and South Korea to Begin 10-day Long Annual Military Exercise - Ulchi Freedom Guardian drill - maintain stability on the Korean peninsula.

China Launches First Cyber Court in e-commerce Hub of Hangzhou, amid a spike in the number of online disputes. Hangzhou is home to many Internet companies, including e-commerce giant Alibaba.

Japan Launches New Satellite to Improve Country's GPS. The Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA).

First Regional Centre of New Development Bank (NDB) Opens in South Africa

- The New Development Bank (NDB), formerly referred to as the BRICS Development Bank, is a multilateral development bank established by the BRICS Nations (Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa) with an initial authorised capital of the bank is USD 100 billion.
- The idea for setting up NDB was proposed by India at the 4th BRICS summit in 2012 held in New Delhi. The creation of a NDB was the main theme of the meeting.
- Head quartered at Shanghai, china. President: K. V. Kamath from India.

International Military Music Festival in Moscow at "Spasskaya Tower"

It is the parade of the best military music bands of Russia and other countries that takes place every year at Red Square in Moscow. This Music Festival is a mega event, where military musicians represent the variety of national, artistic and military traditions of the world.

Google Expands Public Wi-Fi to Indonesia

- After a successful run in India, Google has brought its public Wi-Fi programme 'Google Station' to Indonesia that will help improves access to Internet at railway stations and other locations.

- Google, in collaboration with Railtel, has rolled out free Wi-Fi service at several railway stations in India, offering high-speed internet to millions of people.
- Google launched its first free WiFi services at Mumbai Central station in January 2016.

Taiwan Launches First Homegrown Satellite

- Taiwan has launched Formosat-5, the first homegrown observation satellite, from an air base in the US, the island nation's National Space Organisation (NSO) announced.

Android Oreo Released by Google

Google has released the latest version of its Android mobile operating system (OS), which is named after Oreo chocolate biscuits.

- It adds a new "picture-in-picture" mode that lets some apps run in a small corner of the screen.
- Android Oreo introduces measures to help people manage the volume of notifications on their devices, which has been described as "notification diarrhoea".

Previous Android Versions	
Version	Name
1.0	Not named
1.1	Petit Four
1.5	Cupcake
1.6	Donut
2.0	Éclair
2.2	Froyo
2.3	Gingerbread
3.0	Honeycomb
4.0	Ice cream Sandwich
4.1	Jelly Bean
4.4	Kitkat

5.0	Lollipop
6.0	Marshmallow
7.0	Nougat
8.0	Oreo

Microsoft Unveils 'Project Brainwave' for Real-Time Artificial Intelligence, a deep learning acceleration platform for real-time artificial intelligence (AI).

The Project Brainwave system is built with three main layers:

- High-performance distributed system architecture;
- A hardware DNN engine synthesized onto FPGAs; and
- A compiler and runtime for low-friction deployment of trained models.

Pepper

A Japanese company has introduced a new role for humanoid robot “Pepper” - a Buddhist priest for hire for funerals.

Iraqi PM Slam Kurdish Referendum as ‘Unconstitutional’

- Iraqi Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi said the referendum on independence of the semi-autonomous region of Kurdistan was “unconstitutional”, and rejected the Kurdish attempts to include the ethnically-mixed province of Kirkuk in the referendum.

Europabruecke: The world’s longest pedestrian suspension bridge, in Randa Switzerland.

Sri Lankan Navy commissions India-built AOPV - Advanced Offshore Patrol Vessel (AOPV), the first-ever purchase from a foreign ship builder, to boost its search and rescue capabilities. Named as “SLNS Sayurala”

World - Others:

1. Qatar to become first Arab state to offer permanent residency to some non-citizens.
2. Shanghai hosted the 2017 meeting of BRICS Trade Ministers.
3. World's longest pedestrian suspension bridge has been opened at Switzerland.
4. Country that has successfully launched satellite-carrying rocket "Simorgh" into space - Iran.
5. World's largest exporter of beef, as per recently released OECD-FAO Agricultural Outlook 2017-2026 report - Brazil.
6. Oxford University Press (OUP) has recently launched online dictionaries in two Indian languages - Tamil and Gujarati.
7. US designates Hizbul Mujahideen as Foreign Terrorist Organisation.
8. World Health Organisation declares Somalia free of polio.
9. Italy to Host G-7 Interior Ministers' Summit in October.
10. Festival of India being Organized in Cote D'ivoire, Liberia and Guinea
11. A New Bridge Over Mechi River at Indo-Nepal Border.
12. Festival of India Being Organised in Brazil from 31 August-9 September 2017.

13. Typhoon Hato - Devastated South China.

14. Hurricane Harvey - Hits Texas (US).

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

ISRO, NASA working towards realization of NISAR Mission by 2021

NISAR

1. NISAR is a dual frequency (L & S Band) Radar Imaging Satellite.
2. It will be the first radar imaging satellite to use dual frequency.
3. NASA - will be responsible for design and development of L-band SAR, GPS system, 12m unfurlable antenna and data recorder.
4. ISRO - will be responsible for design and development of S-band SAR, Spacecraft Bus, data transmission system, spacecraft integration & testing, launch using GSLV and on-orbit operations.
5. **Mission Life:** It is expected to be launched in year 2021. It will have mission life of 3 years.
6. **Operational orbit:** The satellite is planned to be launched into a Sun-synchronous dawn to dusk orbit.

7. Applications:

- Will provide an unprecedented detailed view of Earth by taking snapshots every week using advanced radar imaging.
 - Designed to observe and take measurements of some of the planet's most complex processes, including ecosystem disturbances, natural hazards such as earthquakes, tsunamis, volcanoes and landslides.
 - Will be used also for natural resources mapping & monitoring, estimating agricultural biomass over full duration of crop cycle.
 - Will also monitor floods and oil slicks, coastal erosion, coastline changes and variation of winds in coastal waters, surface deformation studies due to seismic activities etc
8. **Cost of the project:** Costing around \$1.5 billion, it will be world's most expensive earth-imaging satellite till date.
9. **Space Diplomacy:** The mission will establish a general pathway for future joint missions between ISRO and NASA for Mars exploration. It will also further joint missions between ISRO and NASA for Mars exploration. It will also further strengthen the Indo-US ties.

India's Global Positioning System: NavIC

- The Indian Regional Navigation Satellite System (IRNSS) is an independent regional system developed by India on par with the US-based GPS, Russia's Glonass and Galileo developed by Europe.

- The navigation system offers wide services like terrestrial and marine navigation, disaster management, vehicle tracking and fleet management visual and voice navigation for drivers.
- It was named “Navic” (Navigation with Indian Constellation) by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

ISRO to develop full-fledged Earth observation satellite

Hyperspectral Imaging Satellite (HySIS) is a full-fledged earth observation satellite, to be developed by ISRO.

- It will enable distinct identification of objects on earth by reading the spectrum for each pixel of a scene from a space.
- It can be used for a range of activities including monitoring of environment finding oil and minerals apart from military surveillance.
- The satellite has the Hyperspectral imager which can identify 55 spectral or colour bands from 630 km above ground.
- Hypspx was first tried out in Chandrayaan-1 mission who mapped the lunar mineral resources.

About ISRO:- Established - 15 August 1969(1962 as INCOSPAR). Headquarters - Bangalore. Founder: Vikram Sarabhai. Director: A. S. Kiran Kumar. ISRO built India's first satellite, Aryabhata, which was launched by the Soviet Union on 19 April 1975.

Zika virus

- Widely spread by the Aedes Aegypti, a less common variety of mosquito that also carries the diseases dengue and chikungunya.

- Zika can lead to infants with microcephaly, or abnormally small heads, and to a sometimes debilitating condition known as **Guillain-Barre syndrome** in adults who have been bitten.

Asteroid Florence

1. Biggest asteroid ever detected by NASA
2. It is the biggest asteroid to fly near Earth in more than a century.

USS Indianapolis

1. Important warship during World War-II.
2. Drowned by Tapan Navy and has not been found for the past 72 years.
3. It has now been found in Pacific Ocean.

India's first private missile production facility unveiled

A joint venture between Kalyani Group and Israel's Rafael Advanced Defence Systems Ltd, inaugurated in **Hyderabad**.

Low-cost, sensitive CO sensor developed by IISc (Indian Institute of Science, Bengaluru)

Israel launches first environmental research satellite Venus.

- Venus - Vegetation and Environment Monitoring New Micro-Satellite.
- Joint venture between the Israel Space Agency (ISA) and its French counterpart CNES.

Astronomers found WASP-121b exoplanet with glowing water atmosphere.

WASP-121b:

- A gas giant commonly referred to as a 'hot Jupiter'. It has 1.2 times greater mass and 1.9 times greater radius than Jupiter. It is located approximately 900 light years from Earth. It orbits around its host star every 1.3 days in very close proximity.

S & T - OTHERS:

1. **Launch of navigation satellite IRNSS-1H (via PSLV-C39) unsuccessful (31 August 2017).**
2. Versius: World's smallest surgical robot developed by UK scientists
3. IIT Researchers develops bioartificial implantable pancreas.
4. IIT Researchers develop biosensor to detect kidney disorders.
5. **CSIR-NIIST develop new technique to produce bioethanol from cotton-stalks.**
6. *Nasikabatrachus bhupathi*: New frog species with pig face discovered in West Ghats. It has been named after the Indian herpetologist S. Bhupathy.
7. Two new species of Earthworm discovered in Kerala.
8. Malpelo plate: New tectonic microplate discovered off the coast of Ecuador.
9. First plant-based vaccine against Zika virus developed by researchers from Arizona State University (ASU) in the U.S.

10. IIT-Kharagpur has invented a low-cost dirt detector that alerts authorities when a place needs cleaning.

BOOKS AND AUTHORS

- The world's shortest woman Jyoti Amge today unveiled a 51-foot high book at a programme.
- The book 'Kadve Vachan' written by Jain saint Acharya Tarun Sagar Maharaj - the book contains various "bitter" discourses about life and guides people for better living.
- Immortal India (on contemporary issues) - Amish Tripathi.
- 'I Do What I Do: On Reform, Rhetoric & Resolve' - Raghuram Rajan, Former RBI Governor
- 'I am HIV positive, so what?' - Authored by Jayanta Kalita about Mr. Pradip Kumar Singh (a bodybuilder from Manipur. In 2007, he won the Mr. Manipur title, and in 2012 he clinched the Mr. South Asia title.)
- "India at 70: Snapshots since Independence" - Roshen Dalal.
- The Adivasi will not dance - Hansda Sowendra Shekhar
- The English translation of writer Perumal Murugan's novel *Mathorubhagan (One Part Woman)* has won the Sahitya Akademi's award for translation in English. The translation was done by Aniruddhan Vasudevan.

PERSONS AND PLACES IN NEWS

- Lyricist Prasoon Joshi - Chairman of CBFC (The Central Board of Film Certification). He replaced former Chairman Pahlaj Nihalani.
- 6 new members of CBFC - Ms. Gautami Tadimalla, Narendra Kohli, Naresh Chandra Lal, Vivek Agnihotri and Ms Vidya Balan.
- Executive Director of World Bank - S. Aparna from India. To represent the constituency of India, Bangladesh, Bhutan and Sri Lanka for three years.
- Dev Patel to be honoured with Asia Society Game Changers Award.
- Arvind Panagariya resigns as vice-chairman of NITI Aayog.
- Brand ambassador for Swachh Bharat Mission in UP - Akshay Kumar
- 13th Vice President of India - Venkaiah Naidu.
- 45th Chief Justice of India - Justice Dipak Misra.
- New Vice Chairman of NITI Aayog - Economist Rajiv Kumar.
- Chief of Securities and Exchange Board of India - Ajay Tyagi. (About SEBI: Founded - 12 April 1992, Headquarters - Mumbai)
- Chairman and Managing Director of SIDBI (Small Industries Development Bank of India) - Mohammad Mustafa.

- New secretary general of the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) - Dr. Sanjaya Baru.
- Dhanraj Pillay - Has been honored with the East Bengal football club's highest honour "Bharat Gaurav"
- Rwanda's new president - Paul Kagame.
- New President of Kenya - Uhuru Kenyatta
- Iran's President for the second term - Hassan Rouhani.
- Newly elected Prime Minister of Papua New Guinea - Peter O'Neill.
- Newly elected Prime Minister of Pakistan - Shahid Khaqan Abbasi.
- Milkha Singh has been appointed as the WHO Goodwill Ambassador for physical activity in the South-East Asia Region (SEAR)
- Ruth Pfau (from Germany), popularly known as Pakistan's Mother Teresa has passed away.
- Yisrael Kristal (Israel), the world's oldest man passed away.
- Jeanne Moreau, the legendary film actress passed away. She hailed from France.
- Issac Devakumar, Maths teacher from Krishnampalayam, Erode district has been awarded Best Teacher award by Government of China.
- Vijay Narayan - Appointed as Advocate General of Tamil Nadu.

- Second transgender in Tamil Nadu Police Department - Nazriya from Ramanathapuram district selected as Police Constable.
- Sprint legend Milkha Singh has been appointed as the World Health Organisation's goodwill ambassador for physical activity in South-East Asia Region (SEAR).
- Konkani writer Mahabaleshwar Sail receives 2016 Saraswati Samman for his novel "Hawthan (हॉवटण)" that captures cultural lives of traditional potter community in Goa.
- **Comptroller and Auditor General of India - Rajiv Mehrishi . He will succeed Shashi Kant Sharma.**
- Justice Dipak Misra - 45th Chief Justice of India.
- **Sunil Arora - appointed as one of two Election Commissioners.**
- Union Home Secretary - Rajiv Gauba
- Vishal Sikka Resigns as MD and CEO of Infosys. He will be replaced by Nandan Nilekeni (the architect of the world's largest biometric ID card programme Aadhaar)
- **Ashwani Lohani - New Chairman of Railway Board.**
- Rajiv Bansal - Air India chief.
- Dr. Mamta Suri - Executive Director, IBBI (Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India)
- Sohail Mahmood - Pakistan's High Commissioner to India

- Nikolay Kudashev - Russia's New Ambassador to India -
- O. Panneer Selvam - TN deputy CM.
- Dharmendra Kumar - DG, Railway Protection Force
- Prof Digambar Behera - Awarded Biju Patnaik Award for Scientific Excellence.
- Christopher A. Wray - Director of Federal Bureau of Investigation (USA).
- Travis Sinniah (Tamilian) - Appointed Sri Lanka's Naval Chief.
- Emma Stone has been named Hollywood's best-paid female actor in Forbes' annual list of top earners for 2017.
- Alibaba's Jack Ma Asia's Richest Man - According to Forbes Real-time Billionaires List.
- PV Sindhu - Named First Brand Ambassador of tyre maker Bridgestone India.
- Nitasha Biswas from Kolkatta - The Winner of Miss Transqueen India 2017. Loiloi from Manipur bagged the first runner-up position and Ragasya from Chennai was crowned the second runner-up.
- 'Hero' of Paris Climate Agreement Died - Tony de Brum, the former Marshall Islands foreign minister who became a leading advocate for the landmark Paris Agreement and an internationally recognized voice in the fight against climate change, has died aged 72.

- Former Manipur Chief Minister and a member of the first Lok Sabha Rishang Keishing passed away following brief illness in Imphal. He was 96.
- India's Oldest Cinematographer Ramananda Sengupta Died.
- Brian Aldiss ("grand old man" of science fiction), British Science Fiction Writer Died.
- Comedy legend Jerry Lewis (Hollywood's most entertaining comedians) dead at 91.
- Australia's Olympic champion Stephen Wooldridge died.
- Pushpa Bhargava - Veteran molecular biologist and a vehement critic of genetically modified crops, Pushpa Mittra Bhargava, died.
- Former freedom fighter K.E. Mammen passes away due to age-related diseases in Neyyatinkara, Kerala.

SPORTS AND GAMES

Grameen Khel Mahotsav

1. First edition of Rural Games or Grameen Khel Mahotsav will kick-start from Delhi and will take place between 28th August to 3rd September, 2017.
2. The Rural Games will aim at popularizing the indigenous games like wrestling, athletics etc. and will also have fun games like Matka Race, Tug of War for senior citizens to add the fun element in the games.

World Badminton Championship - Held at Glasgow, Scotland

1. PV Sindhu won Silver - She lost against Japan's Nozomi Okuhara of Japan in the women's singles finals.
2. Saina Nehwal Won Bronze - She lost against Rio Olympics bronze medalist Nozomi Okuhara of Japan in the women's singles semifinals.

Summer Olympics Host: Paris , Los Angels

Paris will host the 2024 Summer Olympic Games. Los Angeles will host the 2028. International Olympic Committee president- Thomas Bach

Asian Shotgun Championship

- Ankur Mittal Wins Gold in Asian Shotgun Championship.
- Kynan Chenai and Shreyasi Singh of India have won bronze in mixed team trap event.
- Shooter Maheshwari Chauhan bagged a bronze medal. Becomes India's first women's skeet individual medal at a top international competition.

Usain Bolt Finishes 3rd in 100 Meters at World Athletics Championship, was left behind by veteran American sprinter Justin Gatlin who claimed Gold.

GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCES NATIONAL SPORTS AWARDS 2017.

Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna Award

1. It is India's highest sporting award given for the spectacular and most outstanding performance in the field of sports by a sportsperson over a period of four years.

- 2. Recipients are:** Devendra Jajaria (Para Athletics) and Sardar Singh (Hockey).

Dronacharya Award

1. It bestowed upon coaches for producing medal winners at prestigious international sports events.

2. Recipients are:

Dr. R. Gandhi (Athletics)

Heera Nand Kataria (Kabaddi)

G.S.S.V. Prasad (Badminton)

Brij Bhushan Mohanty (Boxing)

P.A. Raphel ((Hockey)

Sanjoy Chakraverthy (Shooting)

Roshan Lal (Wrestling).

Arjuna Award

1. It is India's second highest sporting award bestowed upon sportsperson for consistently outstanding performance for four years.

2. Recipients are:

V.J. Surekha (Archery), Khushbir Kaur (Athletics), Arokia Rajiv (Athletics), Prasanthi Singh (Basketball), Laishram Debendro Singh (Boxing), Cheteshwar Pujara (Cricket), Harmanpreet Kaur (Cricket), Oinam Bembem Devi (Football), S.S.P. Chawrasia (Golf), S.V. Sunil (Hockey), Jasvir Singh (Kabaddi), P. N. Prakash (Shooting), A. Amalraj (Table Tennis), Saketh Myneni

(Tennis), SatyawartKadian (Wrestling), Mariyappan (Para-Athletics) and Varun Singh Bhati (Para-Athletics).

Dhyan Chand Award:

1. It is bestowed upon sportspersons for life time contribution to sports development.
2. **Recipients are:** Bhupender Singh (Athletics), Syed Shahid Hakim (Football), Sumarai Tete (Hockey).

Sports - Others

- BCCI ordered to lift lifetime ban on cricketer Sreesanth - by Kerala HC.
- HS Prannoy jumps to world no 15 in badminton ranking.
- Viswanathan Anand jumps to joint top position in Sinquefield Cup
- Ravindra Jadeja tops ICC ranking among all-rounders in Test Cricket.
- Joshna and Dipika get bronze at World Doubles Squash Championship.
- Manju Kumari secures bronze at Junior World Wrestling.
- Vijender Singh wins WBO Asia Pacific Super Middleweight title.
- Hockey tournament: ONGC wins Murugappa Gold Cup.
- Country hosting the 2017 FIBA Asia Championship - Lebanon.

- Subroto Cup International Football Tournament Began in Delhi. This season seems to be more promising with a special emphasis on “BETI-BACHAO, BETI-PADHAO, BETI-KHELAO”.
- India Wins U-15 SAFF (South Asian Football Federation) Football Championship
- Louise Hamilton won the Belgian Grand Prix Formula One race, beating Sebastien Vettel.
- Shapath Bharadwaj Wins Bronze at Junior Shotgun World Cup in Porpetto, Italy.
- Cristiano Ronaldo Becomes UEFA Player of the Year
- London to Host 2018 Table Tennis Team World Cup
- Government to Establish First National Sports Museum in New Delhi at Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium.
- New Zealand will host ICC Under-19 Cricket World Cup 2018
- Virat Kohli Continues to Top ICC ODI Rankings for Batsmen
- India beat Sri Lanka - Test Series 2017.

தமிழக அரசின் சுதந்திர தின விருதுகள் - 2017

- ❖ சிறந்த மாநகராட்சி - திருநெல்வேலி
- ❖ சிறந்த நகராட்சிகள் - சத்தியமங்கலம், பூந்தமல்லி, திருமங்கலம்
- ❖ சிறந்த பேரூராட்சிகள் - பொன்னம்பட்டி, இருசூர், நம்பியூர்
- ❖ டாக்டர் அப்துல் கலாம் விருது - பேராசிரியர் ச.ப. தியாகராஜன்
- ❖ துணிவு மற்றும் சாகச செயலுக்கான கல்பனா சாவ்லா விருது - சீ. பிரித்தீ, திருவண்ணாமலை
- ❖ மாற்றுத் திறனாளிகள் - கண் அறுவை சிகிச்சை மருத்துவர் நலனுக்காக மிகச் சிறந்த டாக்டர் வீ.ம. சங்கரன், காஞ்சிபுரம் சேவை புரிந்தோருக்கான, சிறந்த டாக்டருக்கான விருது
- ❖ சிறந்த சமூக பணியாளருக்கான - மதுரை, கியூர் அறக்கட்டளை விருது மற்றும் ஆராய்ச்சி மைய நிறுவனர் வெ.பெ. இளையபாரி
- ❖ நல் ஆளுமை விருதுகள் - காவல் வீட்டு வசதி வாரியம், வேளாண்மை, வணிக வரி ஆகிய மூன்று துறைகளின் செயல்பாடுகளைப் பாராட்டி, நல் ஆளுமை விருதுகள் வழங்கப்பட்டன.
- ❖ மருத்துவ சேவைக்கான விருது, சென்னை மருத்துவக் கல்லூரி கல்லீரலியல் துறைத் தலைவர், நாராயணசாமிக்கும், மரங்களின் வேர்களுக்கு நேரடியாக தண்ணீர் ஊற்றும். நவீன தொழில்நுட்பத்தை கண்டறிந்ததற்காக, வருவாய் துறை நிர்வாக ஆணையர் சத்யகோபாலுக்கும் பாராட்டு சான்றிதழ் வழங்கப்பட்டது.
- ❖ மாற்றுத் திறனாளிகளுக்கு அதிக அளவில் கடனுதவி வழங்கி சிறந்த மாவட்ட மத்தியக் கூட்டுறவு வங்கிக்கான விருது தொடர்ச்சியாக மூன்றாவது முறையாக தொடர்ச்சியாக சேலம் மாவட்ட மத்திய கூட்டுறவு வங்கி பெற்றுள்ளது.
- ❖ மாநில இளைஞர் விருது : சமூகப் பணியில் ஆர்வமுடன் ஈடுபடும் இளைஞர்களுக்கு, தமிழக அரசு, மாநில இளைஞர் விருதுகளை வழங்கி வருகிறது. இவ்வாண்டுக்கான முதல்வரின் மாநில இளைஞர் விருது, கோவையைச் சேர்ந்த பத்மநாபன், விருதுநகரை சேர்ந்த உமையலிங்கம், திருநெல்வேலியை சேர்ந்த, ஸ்ரீபதிதங்கம் ஆகியோருக்கு வழங்கப்பட்டது.

MISCELLANEOUS

Dheeran Chinnamalai

- He was a Tamil chieftain and Palayakkarar of Kongu Nadu who fought against the British East India Company.
- Dheeran Chinnamalai was born on 17 April 1756 in Melapalayam, Chennimalai near Erode, Tamil Nadu. His birth name was as Theerthagiri.
- Chinnamalai was betrayed by his cook Nallapan and was captured by the British sepoy in 1805.
- He was hanged at Sankagiri Fort along with his two brothers on 31 July 1805 on the day of Aadi Perukku.

INDIA AND WORLD

India, Nepal sign 8 MoUs.

India and Nepal have signed eight Memorandum of Understanding (MoUs) in various fields, including Housing grant, prevention of drugs, post-earthquake reconstruction packages in health and education sectors.

Signed MoUs are

1. Agreement on Cooperation in the field of standardization and conformity assessment.
2. MoU between Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) and the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Nepal (ICAN).

3. MoU on Modalities for Utilization of India's Housing Grant Component to support Reconstruction of 50,000 Houses.
4. Three MoUs on Implementation of the Grant Component of India's Post-Earthquake Reconstruction Package in the Education Sector, Cultural Heritage Sector in Nepal.
5. MoU for Implementation Arrangement for Construction of Mechi Bridge under ADB's SASEC Road Connectivity Programme (Tranche 2), Funded by India.
6. MoU on Drug Demand Reduction and Prevention of Illicit Trafficking in Narcotic Drugs, Psychotropic Substances and Precursor Chemical and Related Matters.

ECONOMIC SURVEY PROPOSES TRANSPARENCY OF RULES ACT (TORA)

- TORA - A progressive legislation to end any asymmetry of information regarding rules and regulations faced by an average citizen.
- The objective of TORA is to help citizens overcome an opaque mesh of complicated rules that often leads to corruption and endless litigation.

Key Features of TORA

TORA will require all government departments to mandatorily place all citizen-friendly rules on their website. Government Officials will not be able to impose any rule not mentioned beforehand. It will make mandatory for updating all existing laws by the department.

Government websites will also have to notify the date and time of each change made. TORA will normally be applicable after a specified time after the rule has been posted. "TORA compliant" departments will ensure that citizens get authentic and updated information.

PARLIAMENT PASSES BANKING REGULATION

(AMENDMENT) BILL, 2017.

Key Features of the Bill Initiating insolvency proceedings: It will enable the Central government to authorize the RBI to direct banking companies to resolve specific stressed assets by initiating insolvency resolution proceedings under the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016.

Issuing directions on stressed assets: It empowers RBI to issue directions to banks for resolution of stressed assets from time to time.

Committee to Advise banks: It enables RBI to specify committees or authorities to advise banks on resolution of stressed assets. RBI will appoint or approve members on such committees.

Applicability to State Bank of India (SBI): It inserts provision to make above provisions applicable to the SBI and its subsidiaries and also Regional Rural Banks (RRBs).

LOK SABHA PASSES STATE BANKS (REPEAL AND AMENDMENT) BILL, 2017.

- The Lok Sabha has passed the State Banks (Repeal and Amendment) Bill, 2017. The bill seeks to repeal the two Acts namely State Bank of India (Subsidiary Banks) Act, 1959, and State Bank of Hyderabad Act, 1956.

- It also seeks to amend the State Bank of India (SBI) Act, 1955 to remove references to subsidiary banks and powers of SBI to act as an agent of the RBI for subsidiary banks.

Parliament passes IIIT (Amendment) Bill, 2017.

The Bill amends the IIIT Act, 2014.

Key Features of the Bill

- **Appointment of Director:** The Bill modifies the composition of the search-cum-selection committee which recommends names to the central government for the appointment of the Director of an IIIT. Further, it replaces the Director of an IIIT with the Director of an Indian Institute of Technology.
- **Appointment of Assistant Professor and other above posts:** The Bill permits the Board of Governor of Institutes to appoint Assistant Professors and all the posts above that level as well.
- **Incorporation of an Institute:** It declares the Indian Institute of Technology, Design and Manufacturing (ITDM), Kurnool in Andhra Pradesh as an institution of national importance. Further it adds ITDM, Kurnool to the Schedule of the parent Act which consists of other institutions of national importance.

JUDGEMENTS

SUPREME COURT DECLARES RIGHT TO PRIVACY AS FUNDAMENTAL RIGHT UNDER CONSTITUTION.

The nine-judge Constitution Bench of the Supreme Court headed by Chief Justice of India JS Khehar in a landmark unanimous decision

has declared right to privacy a fundamental right under the constitution.

With this, the apex court overruled its own previous eight-judge Bench and six-judge Bench judgments of M.P. Sharma and Kharak Singh delivered in 1954 and 1961, respectively, both of which had pronounced that the right to privacy is not protected under the constitution.

Supreme Court Judgment

The apex court ruled that right to privacy is an intrinsic part of Right to Life and Personal Liberty under Article 21 and entire Part III of the Constitution. It overruled the apex court's earlier two judgements that right to privacy is not protected under the Constitution. The apex court also had voiced concern over the possible misuse of personal information in the public domain. The question whether Aadhaar violates right to privacy will be dealt with by the five-judge bench which has been hearing the petitions since 2015.

Comment

The Supreme Court of India's judgment gains international significance as privacy enjoys a robust legal framework internationally, though India had earlier remained circumspect. The judgment finally reconcile Indian laws with the spirit of Article 12 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948) and Article 17 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), 1966, which legally protects persons against the arbitrary interference with one's privacy, honour and reputation, family, home and correspondence.

SC STRIKES DOWN INSTANT TRIPLE TALAQ.

The Supreme Court of Indian has declared Islamic practice of instant divorce through triple talaq as unconstitutional, illegal and void and not protected by Article 25 (freedom of religion) of the Constitution.

The verdict was given by the 5 member multi-religion constitutional bench of the SC. Justice Kurian Joseph (Christian), Justice U.U Lalit (Hindu) and and Justice Rohington F, Nariman (Parsi) gave majority judgment. Chief Justice J.S. Khehar (Sikh) and Justice S. Abdul Nazeer (Muslim) dissented against majority judgment.

SC Judgement.

In a 3:2 majority judgment, the SC held that triple talaq (referred as Talaq-e-Biddat) is against the basic tenets of Quran and hence, is unacceptable.

The three majority judges held that triple talaq is manifestly arbitrary and violative of the constitution and fundamental right under Article 14 (equality before law) so it must be struck down. Two dissenting judges were in favour of putting the practice on hold for six months and asking the government to come out with a law.

“பாரதி குயில்தோப்பு”

புதுச்சேரியில் உள்ள கருவடிக்குப்பம் மாந்தோப்பினை “பாரதி குயில்தோப்பு” என அவ்வரசு பெயரிட்டுள்ளது. பாரதியார் ஆங்கிலேயர்களின் கைது நடவடிக்கையிலிருந்து தப்பிக்க 26.08.1908 அன்று ரயில் மூலம் பிரெஞ்சுக்காரர்களின் ஆதிக்கத்தில் இருந்த புதுச்சேரி கருவடிக்குப்பத்துக்குச் சென்றார். அப்போது அங்கிருந்த மாந்தோப்பு ஒன்றிற்கு தினமும் கவிதைகள் எழுதினார். பின்னர் அக்கவிதைகள் தொகுப்பு குயில்பாட்டு என்று பெயரிடப்பட்டது. பாரதியார் அப்பகுதியில் பத்தாண்டுகள் தங்கியிருந்தார் என்பது குறிப்பிடத்தக்கது.





APPOLO STUDY CENTRE
No.25, Nandhi Loop Street,
West C.I.T. Nagar, Chennai - 600 035
Near T.Nagar Bus Stand,
Landmark: Nandhi Statue
Ph: 24339436, 42867555, 9840226187
E-mail: appolotnpsc@gmail.com
Website: www.appolosupport.com
www.appolotraining.com

PRACTICE QUESTIONS

1. Who among the following is/are the members of the present Election Commission of India?

1. Om Prakash Rawat 2. Sunil Arora 3. Neelam Joshi

a. (1) only **b. (1) & (2) only**

c. (2) & (3) only d. (1), (2) & (3)

2. Consider the following statements.

1. 10th India - European Union Counter Terrorism Dialogue was held at Brussels on August 30, 2017.

2. 11th India - European Union Counter Terrorism Dialogue will be held in 2018 at New Delhi.

Select the correct statements.

a. (1) only b. (2) only c. Both (1) & (2) d. **Neither (1) nor (2)**

3. Recently India signed MoU with which country to issue postage stamps with Diwali as theme?

a. Nepal b. Vietnam **c. Canada** d. Malaysia

4. Match the following :

Day		Significance	
A. August 29		1. International Youth Day	
B. August 12		2. International Bio-diesel Day	
C. August 10		3. World Humanitarian Day	
D. August 19		4. International Day against Nuclear Tests	

	A	B	C	D
a.	3	4	1	2
b.	4	1	2	3
c.	1	2	4	3
d.	4	3	2	1

5. India's first ever Miss Trans Queen 2017 has been crowned to?
a. **Nitasha Biswas** b. Ragasyac. Loiloi d. Raveena

6. Consider the following statements.

1. Kerala's Chamravattom Village is the India's first 100% computer literate village.
2. Manipur's Nungthaang Tampak Village has become North East's first 100% computer literacy village.

Select the correct statements.

- a. (1) only b. (2) only **c. Both (1) & (2)** d. Neither (1) nor (2)

7. Match the following :

	2017 Summit/Conference				Host Country
A.	BRICS Summit				1. Gurugram
B.	Indian Ocean Conference				2. Sri Lanka
C.	Digital Haryana Summit				3. China
D.	SCO meeting on disaster prevention				4. Kyrgyzstan
	A	B	C	D	
a.	2	3	1	4	
b.	3	2	1	4	
c.	4	3	1	2	
d.	3	2	1	4	

8. Recently Union Government constituted Kamakoti task force with what objective?

- a. **to leverage Artificial Intelligence for India's economic transformation**
- b. to leverage Digital Payments for India's economic transformation
- c. to leverage Waste Management for India's environment transformation

d. none of the above

9. 'New E-waste Disposal Scheme in State Schools' has been recently launched by which State Govt. or Union Territory?

a. New Delhi **b. Kerala** c. Puducherry d. Gujarat

10. Match the following :

	Book				Author
	A	B	C	D	
A.	I do what I do				1. Raghuram Rajan
B.	I am HIV positive, so what				2. Jayanta Kalita
C.	The Adivasi will not dance				3. H.S. Shekhar
D.	Tireless voice and relentless journey				4. Venkaiha Naidu
a.	1	2	3	4	
b.	2	3	1	4	
c.	4	3	2	1	
d.	3	4	1	2	

11. Consider the following statements.

1. 58th edition of Subroto Cup International Football Tournament was held in New Delhi.
2. Special emphasis of 58th edition of Subroto Cup International Football Tournament is Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao, Beti Khilao.

Select the correct statements.

- a. (1) only b. (2) only
c. **Both (1) & (2)** d. Neither (1) nor (2)

12. NITI Aayog has launched which campaign to maximize the impact of Atal Tinkering Labs?

- a. Leader Campaign b. Leader India Campaign
c. Mentor Campaign **d. Mentor Indian Campaign**

13. Swasth Bachche, Swasth Bharat is programme, recently launched by which Union Ministry?

a. **Ministry of Human Resource Development**

b. Ministry of Health and Family Welfare

c. Ministry of Social Welfare

d. *Ministry of Women and child Development*

14. Exclusive 24x7 helpline '181' for women was recently launched by which State Government.

a. Andhra Pradesh

b. Karnataka

c. Tamil Nadu

d. **Telangana**

15. Consider the following statements.

1. Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC) is a statutory censorship and classification body under the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting.

2. Prasoon Joshi, famous lyricist is newly appointed Chair Person of CBFC.

3. CBFC Headquarters is located in New Delhi.

a. (1) only b. **(1) and (2) only** c. (2) and (3) only d. (1), (2) and (3)

16. India's First Ever Aviation University is proposed to be set up in which State/UT?

a. Goa

b. Maharashtra

c. **Uttar Pradesh**

d. New Delhi

17. Union Home Minister recently launched the live twitter wall for promoting which of the following portal?

a. Harpan Portal

b. **Bharat Ke Veer Portal**

c. Humraaz Portal

d. Veer Jawan Portal

18. Consider the following statements.

1. World Elephant Day is observed every year on August 12.
2. Nationwide Campaign Gajyatra was launched on 2017 World Elephant Day to protect World Elephants in the country.

Select the correct statements.

- a. (1) only b. (2) only **c. Both (1) and (2)** d. Neither (1) nor (2)

19. Recently which parliamentary panel has recommended 100% pension to widow of deceased soldier?

- a. **B.C. Khanduri Panel** b. Bhupander Yadav Panel
c. Ganesh Singh Panel d. Ramesh Bais Panel

20. Which of the following State Handloom Department has signed MoU with Amazon India to educate weavers and artisans to directly sell their products to Amazon Customers?

- a. Andhra Pradesh **b. Telangana**
c. Tamil Nadu d. UP