

APPLO STUDY CENTRE

NOVEMBER MONTH CURRENT AFFAIRS (1 - 15)

NATION

National Power Portal

- A Centralized Platform for Collation and Dissemination of Indian power sector information.
- The system has been conceptualized, designed and developed by National Informatics Centre (NIC).
- Central Electricity Authority (CEA) is nodal agency for implementation and operational control of NPP.
- NPP is centralised system for Indian Power Sector.
- The Dashboard will act as single point interface for all Power Sector applications launch previously by Power Ministry like TARANG, UJALA, GARV, URJA, VIDYUT PRAVAH, MERIT. The system will be available 24×7 and ensures effective and timely collection of data.

Grahak Sadak Koyla Vitaran App

- The Coal India Limited (CIL) launched Grahak Sadak Koyla Vitaran application for smooth delivery of coal through road for benefiting customers.
- The app aims to bring transparency in the system of loading programme and despatch of coal through road mode.

Coal India Limited

CIL is the largest coal producer company in world and contributes around 81% of coal production in India. Union Government of India

owns 90% of the shares in CIL and controls the operations of CIL through Ministry of Coal. It is headquartered in Kolkata, West Bengal.

Project Saksham

- The Indian Railways has launched Project Saksham, country's largest time-bound "upskilling" exercise for its employees to boost their efficiency.
- Project Saksham aims to upgrade the skillsets of 13 lakh-strong workforce of Indian Railways with a single drive spanning nine months (from January 2018 to September 2018).

Hausla 2017

- The Union Ministry of Women and Child Development celebrated Child Rights Week (Hausla 2017) from 16th to 20th November, 2017.
- In India, Children's Day is celebrated on 14 November and International Child Rights Day is celebrated on 20 November every year. The period between these two important events will be celebrated as Child Rights Week by WCD Ministry).
- "Hausala 2017" festival will provide an occasion to showcase talents of children from Child Care Institutions (CCIs) from various child care institutions across country and provide them space to express their dreams and aspiration.

SHe-box portal

- Launched for both public and private sector.
- The Ministry of Women and Child Development (WCD) launched comprehensive SHe-Box (sexual harassment e-box) online complaint Management System for women to lodge complaints of sexual harassment at workplace.
- It is mainly be for women working in both public and private organizations to ensure effective implementation of Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act (SH Act), 2013.

- Earlier the portal was launched in July 2017 for women working in central government offices. Now it can be accessed by all women who are part of workforce in organised sector across the country.

Deen Dayal SPARSH Yojana

- Ministry of Communications launched a Pan India scholarship program for school children called Deen Dayal SPARSH Yojana to increase the reach of Philately.
- Under the scheme of SPARSH (Scholarship for Promotion of Aptitude & Research in Stamps as a Hobby), it is proposed to award annual scholarships to children of Standard VI to IX having good academic record and also pursuing Philately as a hobby through a competitive selection process in all postal circles.

India not to pursue Islamic banking: RBI

Islamic banking

Islamic banking is banking or banking activity that is consistent with the principles of sharia and its practical application through the development of Islamic economics. Sharia prohibits the fixed or floating payment or acceptance of specific interest of fee for loan of money. It is different from regular banking in that it prohibits earning of interest (or riba) through the business of lending.

India to become world's largest Sulphur Dioxide emitter: Study

- As per study published by researchers at University of Maryland, US, India is overtaking China to become world's largest emitter of anthropogenic Sulphur Dioxide (SO₂).
- SO₂ is an air pollutant that causes acid rain, haze and many health-related problems. It is produced predominantly during burning of coal to generate electricity and vehicular emissions.

First project under Prime Minister's Ladakh Renewable Energy Initiative commissioned

Prime Minister's Ladakh Renewable Energy Initiative

- It aims to minimize dependence on diesel in Ladakh region to meet power requirement by diverting to local renewable sources. The Ministry of New and Renewable Energy is implementing project.
- The approach is to meet power requirements through small/micro hydel and solar photovoltaic power projects and use solar thermal systems for water heating/space heating/cooking requirements. It also envisages setting up of 10 solar photovoltaic power plants in defence establishments.

National Testing Agency

The Union Cabinet approved creation of National Testing Agency (NTA) as an autonomous and self-sustained premier testing organization to conduct entrance examinations for higher educational institutions. It will be society registered under Indian Societies Registration Act, 1860.

Facebook launches Disaster Maps in India for better response to disasters.

- It is in a bid to help communities recover and rebuild faster in aftermath of natural disasters.
- The programme will be piloted in two disaster-prone States – Assam and Uttarakhand.

Seven commodities granted Geographical Indication Tag by the Indian patent office. It includes

Banaganapalle mangoes (Andhra Pradesh)

Tulaipanji rice (West Bengal)

Pochampally Ikat (Telangana)

Gobindobhog rice (West Bengal)

Durgi stone carvings

Etikoppaka toys (Andhra Pradesh)

Chakshesang shawl (Nagaland).

Geographical Indication (GI)

A GI is primarily given to agricultural, natural or manufactured product (handicrafts and industrial goods) originating from a definite geographical territory for 10 years at a time.

BRO builds world's highest motorable road

The Border Roads Organisation (BRO) has constructed world's highest motorable road in Ladakh region of Jammu and Kashmir. The 86-km-long road passing through Umlingla Top is at a height of over 19,300 feet.

Coastal Berth Scheme

- It aims to provide financial support to ports or state governments for creation of infrastructure for movement of cargo and passenger by sea or national waterways. It is a part of Sagarmala Programme.
- Sagarmala Project - The Sagarmala project aims to promote port-led development along India's 7500 km long coastline by developing string of ports around coast.

Food Regulatory Portal

- It is a single interface for food businesses to cater to both domestic operations and food imports.
- The portal focuses on six key areas food standards, consistent enforcement, hassle free food imports, credible food testing and codified food safety practices of food sector.
- Launched on the sidelines of World Food India 2017 Expo.

Nivesh Bandhu

It is Investor Facilitation Portal to assist investors to make informed investment decisions. It will provide information on Central and State Governments investor friendly policies, agro-producing clusters, infrastructure, and potential areas of investment in the food processing sector. Launched on the sidelines of World Food India 2017 Expo.

FASTag mandatory for all new 4-wheelers from 01/12/2017 : GoI

FASTag

FASTag is device that employs Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) technology for making toll payments directly from prepaid or savings account linked to it. It is affixed on the windscreen of vehicle and enables the commuter to drive through toll plazas, without stopping for cash transactions.

Legal Entity Identifier mandatory for all large corporate borrowers: RBI.

Legal Entity Identifier (LEI)

- LEI is a 20-digit unique code to identify parties to financial transactions worldwide. The LEI system was developed by G20 in response to inability of financial institutions to identify organisations uniquely, so that their financial transactions in different national jurisdictions can be fully tracked.
- LEI mechanism will help banks to effectively monitor debt exposure of corporate borrowers. It will also enable banks in preventing multiple loans to companies against the same collateral.

India offers to share real-time maritime data with 10 Indian Ocean littoral states. This comes at a time when India is gearing up to counter China's increased presence in Indian Ocean Region (IOR)

Goa Maritime Conclave (GMC)

- Indian Navy had hosted Navy and Maritime Chiefs of 10 countries of Indian Ocean Region (IOR) at first GMC to identify common threats in region and evolve a mechanism on how to tackle them.
- It aimed to bring together like minded nations to evolve and formulate collective responses to emerging challenges in maritime domain.
- It was aimed at “Addressing Regional Maritime Challenges”.

Vidyarthi Vigyan Manthan

A nationwide science talent search examination will be held on 26th November 2017. It is unique initiative to give a boost to learning of science, technology and mathematics among youth-especially the school students.

Vijnana Bharati (VIBHA)

It is one of largest science movement in country led by eminent scientists. It aims to inculcate and generate scientific temper, foster excellence in students and nurture and mentor them for their careers in pure sciences.

Chintan Shivir

- A two-day National Workshop ‘Chintan Shivir’ organized by Department of School Education and Literacy, Ministry of Human Resource Development in New Delhi.
- The main aim of the workshop is to provide holistic education relevant for 21st century India and to bring together key stakeholders from various NGOs, private sector and individuals to deliberate on key themes in the education sector.
- Workshop mainly focuses on five themes i.e. Digital education, Life Skill education, Experimental learning, Physical Education and Value education.

Cauvery Tribunal

- **Gets Six Months Extension** - upto May 02, 2018.

- Cauvery is an inter-State basin having its origin in Karnataka and flowing through Tamil Nadu and Puduchery before outfalling in Bay of Bengal.
- Government of India on June 02, 1990 constituted the Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal (CWDT) to adjudicate the water dispute among Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Kerala and Puducherry.

Govt to promote Khichdi as 'Brand India food'

- Over 800 kg khichdi, a traditional Indian dish relished by both rich and poor, was prepared live on November 4 at the World Food India event here in a bid to create world record and popularise it as brand India food globally.
- Khichdi has been selected as Brand India Food because it symbolises the country's unity in diversity.

ICICI's Chanda Kochhar ranks 32 in Forbes' World's 100 most powerful women list. Other Indian women in the list are CEO of HCL Enterprise Roshni Nadar Malhotra, Chairperson of Biocon Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw, Chairperson of Hindustan Times Group Shobhana Bhartia and actress Priyanka Chopra. German Chancellor Angela Merkel was ranked first in the list.

India's Second TISC

India's second Technology and Innovation Support Center (TISC) to be established at the Centre for Intellectual Property Rights (CIPR), Anna University, Chennai, under the World Intellectual Property Organization's (WIPO) TISC program.

ONGC gets government nod for acquiring HPCL in line with the government's plan to create an integrated energy major with businesses spread across the hydrocarbon value chain.

IDFC Bank partners with mobile wallet major MobiKwik to launch a co-branded virtual Visa prepaid card for customers of MobiKwik.

- One need not be a customer of IDFC Bank to use the co-branded prepaid card.
- MobiKwik had a user base of 65 million. In the last one year, MobiKwik's reach has increased from 1 lakh to 20 lakh merchants.

'Suno RBI Kya Kehta Hai' campaign

The Reserve Bank will soon launch an awareness campaign - Suno RBI Kya Kehta Hai - through SMSes to warn the public against falling prey to unsolicited and fictitious offers from fraudsters.

Union minister Alphons Kannanthanam elected unopposed to Rajya Sabha from Rajasthan. The seat fell vacant after M Venkaiah Naidu's election as the country's vice president on August 5.

Extreme weather events: India 6th most vulnerable country

India is the sixth most vulnerable country in the world in terms of facing extreme weather events with Haiti, Zimbabwe, Fiji, Sri Lanka and Vietnam taking top five positions in the fresh list of nations facing climate risk.

Varanasi Tops The List of Country's Most Polluted City

- Varanasi's Air Quality Index (AQI) at 4 PM was at an alarming 491, followed by Gurugram at 480, Delhi at 468, Lucknow at 462 and Kanpur at 461.
- Notably, pollution level is categorised as 'severe' when the AQI ranges between 401 and 500, which affects healthy people and seriously impacts those with existing diseases.

India's first ever 'Air Dispensary'

Northeast is all set to get India's first-ever "Air Dispensary" based in a helicopter. Helicopter will be based at two locations, namely Imphal in Manipur and Meghalaya in Shillong.

Youth Fest at Kishtwar, J&K

- Army organised a mega event Youth Fest : 2017 on 13 Nov 2017 at the historic Chowgan ground of Kishtwar.
- The Fest was an amalgamation of varied programmes highlighting the rich culture of different regions of India and stalls of food, entertainment and games for people of all the age groups to rejoice & cherish.
- The event also encompassed display of various ethnic specialities from across the country.

BharatNet Phase II

The government launched Phase II of BharatNet project through which it aims to provide high-speed broadband connections to all panchayats by the end of 2019.

NATION - One liners

- P.D. Siwal Committee - to investigate the 1 November blast at state-run NTPC Ltd's Unchahar power plant in Raebareli and suggest measures to prevent such incidents.
- 2nd National Judicial Pay Commission for subordinate judiciary in country - Headed by Justice (Retd) J P.Venkatrama Reddi.
- **India will be free from poverty, corruption, terrorism by 2022: Niti Aayog.**
- India re-elected member of UNESCO's executive board. Executive board is UNESCO's top decision-making body.

- India's 1st consignment of wheat assistance to Afghanistan reaches Chabahar port.
- **The Tata Group is India's most valuable brand, followed by Reliance and Airtel according to a rating by Interbrand India.**
- Environment ministry forms 7-member panel to monitor Delhi pollution. The committee will be headed by environment secretary CK Mishra.
- **GST Council cuts tax slab for 178 items from 28% to 18%**
- **ICICI Bank launches voice-based international remittance service on its Money2India application.**
- **Yes Bank signs MoU with government for Rs 1,000 crore financing for food processing projects.**
- HDFC Bank to set up SmartUp zones in 30 cities across the country where specially trained bank staff will offer tailor-made banking and advisory solutions to entrepreneurs.
- HDFC Bank makes RTGS, NEFT online transactions free.

INDICES

World Economic Forum's (WEF) Global Gender Gap Index 2017

- India ranks 108th out of 144 countries, primarily due to less participation of women in the economy and low wages.
- The index measures gender gap as progress towards parity between men and women in four indicators (i) Educational attainment, (ii) Health and survival, (iii) Economic opportunity and (iv) Political empowerment.
- Iceland is most gender-equal country with score of 0.878.

World Bank ease of doing business rankings 2018

- **India ranks 100 among 190 countries.**
- The report ranks New Zealand, Singapore and Denmark as the easiest countries in the world to do business.

Global Business Optimism Ranking

- India ranks 7th.
- Indonesia is at the top, followed by Finland (2nd), the Netherlands (3rd) as per Grant Thornton's International Business Report (IBR).

Gender Vulnerability Index

- **Goa ranks top, Bihar at bottom of Gender Vulnerability Index (GVI)** released by Child development NGO Plan India.
- Goa has been ranked as safest place for women while Delhi is also ranked very low.

The India Youth Development Index and Report 2017

- The objective of constructing the India Youth Development Index (YDI) 2017 is to track the trends in Youth Development across the States.
- The Index enables recognizing the high and low performing states, identifies the weak domains and informs the policy makers the priority areas of intervention for youth development in the states.
- The Rajiv Gandhi National Institute of Youth Development (RGNIYD), Sriperumbudur, Tamil Nadu, an Institute of National Importance has come out with Youth Development Index and Report 2017.
- This is a pioneering attempt made by the Institute in 2010 which it followed up with the India Youth Development Index in 2017.

STATES

'She Pad' scheme

In order to ensure menstrual hygiene among girls, the Kerala government rolled out the 'She Pad' scheme. The scheme will benefit female students from classes 6 to 12. The scheme will facilitate free sanitary napkins, storage spaces for napkins and environment-friendly incinerators at all government and aided schools in the state.

India's first Blackbuck conservation reserve

It is to come up at Allahabad's Meja, Uttar Pradesh. It will be first of its kind conservation reserves in India exclusively dedicated to blackbuck. Indian Blackbuck (*Antelope cervicapra*) is an antelope and is the only living species of the genus *Antelope*. It is considered to be the fastest animal in the world next to Cheetah.

Sonepur cattle fair, Asia's largest

The traditional cattle fair was held on the confluence of Ganga, Gandak and Mahi rivers in Bihar.

STATES - ONE LINERS

1. 2nd Technology and Innovation Support Centre established in Chennai at Centre for Intellectual Property Rights (CIPR), Anna University.
2. Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) grants **Rs. 13,000 cr loan to Andhra Pradesh.**
3. OHEPEE (Odisha Higher Education Programme for Excellence & Equity) Project: Government inks \$ 119 Million Loan Agreement with World Bank
4. **Assam, Singapore sign MoU for skilling youths under Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Grameen Kaushalya Yojana.**

5. North India's biggest Butterfly Conservatory Park to come up in Gurugram to save species under threat from rapid urbanisation from going extinct.
6. Haryana becomes first state to treat Hepatitis-C patients with oral medicine.
7. **West Bengal Gets GI (Geographical Indication) Tag for Rasogolla.**
8. Urdu declared the second official language in Telangana.
9. **Uttar Pradesh tops in mobilising Jan Dhan accounts.**



WORLD

ICIJ releases Paradise papers

The International Consortium of Investigative Journalists (ICIJ) has released 'The Paradise Papers', a global investigation that reveals the offshore activities of some of the world's most powerful people and companies.

ISA, EBRD ink pact on solar energy

The International Solar Alliance (ISA) and European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) have signed Joint Financial Partnership Declaration for cooperation on renewable energy projects around the world. The collaboration between the ISA and the EBRD would also help funding of solar projects both in African and other countries.

Most improved economy in the world

Brunei Darussalam has been named the most improved economy in the world for the third year in a row in the World Bank's Doing Business Report 2018.

Kazakhstan to change its name by 2025

The central Asian country of Kazakhstan is changing its name to Qazaqstan in a challenge to Russian influence over the country.

Bangladesh's first Hindu Chief Justice Surendra Kumar Sinha has resigned after facing allegations of bribery and money laundering.

International solar alliance to support setting up 1000 GW of solar energy capacity by 2030 across its member countries.

Guinea becomes new member of International Solar Alliance.

Saudi Arabia approves Yoga as a sports activity.

INDIA AND THE WORLD

UN-India Partnership Fund

India has pledged additional US \$100 million towards UN-India Partnership Fund to significantly scale up its support to sustainable development projects across the developing world.

Bandhan Express

A new passenger train service between **Kolkata** and Bangladesh's southwestern industrial city of **Khulna** was flagged off by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, his Bangladesh counterpart Sheikh Hasina and the West Bengal chief minister. A fully air-conditioned weekly passenger train service that will run every Thursday.

India, Philippines ink four agreements in various fields

India and Philippines have signed four agreements in areas of defence, agriculture, small and medium enterprises and tie-up between think-tanks.

Emirates NBD, the UAE's second-largest lender, has started operations in India.

DEFENCE

PRABAL DOSTYK 2017

A 14 - day joint training exercise between the Indian Army and the Kazakhstan Army held at Bakloh, Himachal Pradesh.

SAMPRITI

The seventh edition of Indo-Bangladesh joint military training exercise begun in Meghalaya. It is held alternately in India and Bangladesh every year. Previous edition of 'SAMPRITI' was held at Tangail in Dhaka, Bangladesh in 2016.

EX BLUE FLAG-17

Blue Flag is a bi-annual multilateral exercise, which aims to strengthen military cooperation amongst participating nations. A biennial military aviation exercise conducted by Israel at Uvda Air Force Base in Israel. Indian Air Force is participating with the C-130J special operations aircraft along with Garud commandos.

SAGAR KAVACH

The Governments of Odisha and neighbouring West Bengal conducted joint security exercise named 'Sagar Kavach' to further tighten the existing coastal security mechanism along the 630 km long coastline.

NIRBHAY

'NIRBHAY' - India's first indigenously designed and developed Long Range Sub-Sonic Cruise Missile which can be deployed from multiple platforms. It was successfully test fired from the Integrated Test Range (ITR), Chandipur, Odisha.

CATOBAR

Indian Navy is likely to use advanced catapult-based aircraft launch mechanism (CATOBAR) from United States for its second indigenous aircraft carrier (IAC-II), which is on drawing board.

India's first Military Literature Festival to be held at Chandigarh in December as a tribute to the armed forces.



SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Musa paramjitiana: New species of wild banana discovered in Andaman and Nicobar.

Tyrannomyrmex alii: New ant species discovered in the Western Ghats in the Periyar Tiger Reserve, Kerala. It has been named *Tyrannomyrmex alii* (or *T. alii*), after eminent myrmecologist Musthak Ali, who is regarded as the India's 'ant man'.

Pongo tapanuliensis: New species of orangutan identified in remote upland forests of North Sumatra.

Fossils of oldest mammal ancestor discovered in UK - A tiny rat-like creature, a nocturnal mammal was discovered on Jurassic Coast of Dorset. The mammal is earliest in line that evolved into humans.

China launches two BeiDou-3 navigation satellites - These two satellites represent third phase of BDS system (BeiDou-3). It is the final stage of the establishment of Chinese space-based navigation architecture.

Earthquake-proof concrete - Researchers from University of British Columbia (UBC) in Canada have developed earthquake-proof fibre-reinforced concrete that can dramatically enhance the earthquake resistance of seismically vulnerable structures.

BadRabbit ransomware - Mass attacks of ransomware called BadRabbit were observed recently in Russia.

A1689B11 - Scientists discover universe's most ancient spiral galaxy known as A1689B11, recorded so far in the universe.

NASA spots 20 planets that may host alien life.

PERSONS AND PLACES IN NEWS

1. Cornelia Sorabji - Google's Doodle honours India's first woman advocate.
2. Audrey Azoulay - Appointed new DG of UNESCO.
3. Ajay Bisaria - Appointed India's high commissioner to Pakistan.
4. Ravi Bangar - Next Ambassador of India to Ecuador.
5. **Suresh Chukkapalli - Appointed as Consul General of Korea.**
6. **Shri Nasir Kamal - Additional Director General, BSF**
7. Saad al-Hariri - **Lebanese prime minister, resigned.**
8. Sethurathnam Ravi - Appointed as chairman of BSE.
9. Hasmukh Adhia - Appointed as Finance Secretary.
10. **Debjeni Ghosh - Next NASSCOM (The National Association of Software and Service Companies) President.**
11. Rice Field laboratory in Manila named after PM Modi ('Shri Narendra Modi Resilient Rice Field Laboratory').
12. Tulsi Gabbard (first Hindu lawmaker in the US Congress) - Chairperson of World Hindu Congress 2018 to be held in Chicago next year.
13. Padma Shri awardee author Manu Sharma (Hindi) passes away.
14. Former Test cricketer Milkha Singh passes away.
15. Former Nepal PM Bista passes away at 90.

AWARDS AND HONOURS

UNESCO's Creative Cities Network

Chennai included in UNESCO's Creative Cities Network for Contribution in Music. It was among 64 cities from 44 countries that were designated as UNESCO Creative Cities. Chennai is the third Indian city on the list of UNESCO Creative Cities list after Jaipur (added as City of Music) and

Varanasi (City of Crafts and Folk Art) were added last year. UNESCO's Creative Cities Network - launched in 2004.

Jnanpith Award - 2017

Renowned Hindi littérateur Krishna Sobti has been chosen for this year's Jnanpith Award. She hails from Gujarat in Pakistan's Punjab Province.

Dun & Bradstreet award

- Tata Power Solar has won 'Dun & Bradstreet - Everest Infra Awards 2017' under Infrastructure Project category for commissioning India's largest solar project under Domestic Content Requirement for NTPC at Anantapur in Andhra Pradesh.
- Dun & Bradstreet - Everest Industries Ltd Infra Awards 2017, into its 7th edition, felicitates India's leading infrastructure companies and projects across various categories.

2017 UNESCO Asia-Pacific Awards

- Tamil Nadu's historic Sri Ranganathaswamy Temple in Srirangam became a national symbol of conserving cultural heritage after bagging an Award of Merit from UNESCO - the 2017 UNESCO Asia-Pacific Awards for Cultural Heritage Conservation.
- The Sri Ranganathaswamy Temple is the only religious centre in the whole of South India to bag the award in 2017.
- On a side note, the famous Christ Church in Mumbai and Royal Bombay Opera House are the other historic Indian monuments that received the Award of Merit this year, in addition to the temple.

Jewish Nobel Prize - Genesis Prize

- Recipient - Natalie Portman. Awarded in recognition of her commitment to social causes and deep connection to her Jewish and Israeli roots. Her social activism was in areas such as gender equality, combatting poverty, microfinance and animal rights.

- The Jewish Nobel Prize - The \$1 million award, is granted each year to a person recognised as an inspiration to the next generation of Jews through professional achievement and commitment to Jewish values.

Mother Teresa Award 2017 for social justice

- The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) has been named as the recipient of the Mother Teresa Memorial Award for Social Justice, 2017 as an acknowledgement of its exceptional work worldwide.
- The UNHCR provides humanitarian aid to innumerable people internally displaced by conflicts and helping stateless people all over the world,
- Harmony Foundation has instituted the only official award in memory of Mother Teresa, who attained sainthood in September 2016.

Awards for Best Urban Transport Practices by Central Government

- Surat gets Best City Bus Services Award of Government of India for attracting 87% of private vehicles and auto rickshaw users .
- Mysuru gets Best Non-Motorised Transport Award for its Public Bicycle Sharing.
- Kochi wins Best Urban Transport Initiative Award for fastest completion of its integrated Metro Rail.
- Hyderabad commended for Traffic Management; Chittor for accident reduction initiative.

National Entrepreneurship Award 2017 under Mentor Category - Recipient - Dr. Renu Swarup, Senior Adviser in the Department of Bio-technology, Ministry of Science & Technology has been awarded with National Entrepreneurship Award, 2017 under Mentor (Government) category in the Recognition Track.

Entrepreneur of the Year Award 2017 by ASSOCHAM (Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India) - Awarded to CMC Skills' Founder Ms. Maya Swaminathan Sinha.

2017 Tata Literature Live! Lifetime Achievement Award - Awarded to Veteran actor and playwright, **Girish Karnad**. He is also recipient of Padma Shri and Padma Bhushan awards.

Sumitra Charat Ram Award for Lifetime Achievement - Awarded to Eminent classical singer late Girija Devi.

Mumbai's Royal Opera House bags UNESCO heritage award - has been awarded the **UNESCO Asia-Pacific Award for Cultural Heritage Conservation**.

Apollo Munich Health Insurance Company wins 'General Insurance Company of the Year' at 21st Asia Insurance Industry Awards.

SUMMITS AND CONFERENCES

APEC summit 2017

- The Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) summit was held in Da Nang, Vietnam. It is a year-long hosting of APEC meeting
- The theme of summit was 'Creating New Dynamism, Fostering a Shared Future'.
- Next year's APEC summit will be held in Papua New Guinea.
- It marks the second time Vietnam will be playing host to the APEC, having hosted the event previously in 2006.

Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC)

- It is regional economic forum of 21 Pacific Rim member economies that promotes free trade throughout the Asia-Pacific region.
- Its headquarters are in Singapore.
- 21 Members Economies: Australia, Brunei, Canada, Indonesia, Japan, South Korea, Malaysia, New Zealand, Philippines,

Singapore, Thailand, United States, Taiwan, Hong Kong, China, Mexico, Papua New Guinea, Chile, Peru, Russian and Vietnam.

- India is observer of APEC since 2011 and has applied for membership.

31st ASEAN Summit

- Held at Manila, Philippines.
- ASEAN's theme for 2017 is 'Partnering for Change, Engaging the World'.
- ASEAN was formed on 8 August 1967. It has 10 member countries.
- Rodrigo Duterte (Current president of Philippines) is the current Chairman of the organization.

15th Asia Pacific Computer Emergency Response Team Conference

- Held in India
- It was organised by Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-In) under the aegis of Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology.
- The theme of conference was “Building Trust in the Digital Economy”.

7th Asia Ministerial Energy Roundtable (AMER) in Bangkok

- Venue - Bangkok, Thailand.
- India is the current chair of International Energy Forum (IEF) which is promoting the AMER - a biennial event bringing together Energy Ministers and experts from Asian countries.
- Ministerial Roundtable speak topic - “Natural Gas: Overcoming Market and Policy Hurdles to the Golden Age of Gas”.

10th South Asia Economic Summit

Held at Kathmandu, Nepal with the theme “Deepening Economic Integration for Inclusive and Sustainable Development in South Asia”.

Nobel Prize Series-India 2018

- The Goa government with the Department of Bio-Technology, Ministry of Science and Technology and Nobel Media, Sweden to hold the ‘Nobel Prize Series – India 2018 to be held from February 1-28 , 2018.
- The Nobel series has earlier been organised in Gujarat.
- The event will consist of exhibition from the Nobel Museum and Nobel dialogues in which Nobel laureates will interact with school children and teachers.

Global Clubfoot Conference

- Organised by the CURE India in partnership with the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.
- Clubfoot is one of the most common orthopaedic birth defects. It can cause permanent disability if not treated early.
- This affects the child’s mobility and confidence. Inevitably, education and schooling suffer – and the child cannot fulfil his or her potential.

World Food India 2017

- Venue - New Delhi.
- WFI is the most anticipated international mega food event, as India welcomes to host biggest ever congregation of global investors and business leaders of major food companies from 3-5 November in New Delhi.

- Organized by Ministry of Food Processing Industries under leadership of Union Minister Smt Harsimrat Kaur Badal
- World Food India aims to transform Food Economy and realize the vision of doubling of farmers' income by establishing India as a preferred investment destination and sourcing hub for the global food processing industry.
- This is the first time that India is hosting such an event for the Food processing sector.
- **Investments worth \$11 bn committed during World Food India.**
- A Guinness World Records was also created by cooking 918 kg of Khichdi at the event.

Organic World Congress - 2017

- A three-day Organic World Congress - 2017 being organized at Greater Noida.
- The Organic World Congress (OWC) is organized once every three years in a different country and this time it is being organised in India.
- The last edition of the Organic World Congress took place in Istanbul, Turkey, in 2014.
- The International Federation of Organic Farming Movements (IFOAM) and OAFI are organizing the event where 55 seeds group from 15 Indian states will showcase 4,000 varieties of seeds.
- The goal is to move from organic India to the organic world - India is one of the oldest organic agricultural nations of the world.

World Youth Forum

- Scheduled to be held at Sharam El Shiekh, Egypt.
- Col Rathore has been deputed to represent the country at the Forum.
- The Forum aims to provide a platform to the youth from all over the globe to engage with the key global policy makers.

- The forum will cover role of youth in business and innovation, challenges and making of future leaders, gender equity and women empowerment among other things.

India Disaster Response Summit

- Organised jointly by the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) and Facebook, on how best to leverage social media platforms to 'prepare, respond and recover' for, during and after a disaster.

37th India International Trade Fair

- Held at New Delhi.
- The theme of fair is “Startup India, Standup India”.
- Vietnam is partner country, while Kyrgyzstan is focus country for this edition of fair. Jharkhand is participating as partner state in the event.

India's 1st Tribal Entrepreneurship Summit

India's first Tribal Entrepreneurship Summit has been organised in Dantewada, Chhattisgarh. Aiming to inspire, nurture and promote the spirit of entrepreneurship among the tribal youth. The summit is part of 8th Global Entrepreneurship Summit being held in India.

Asian Bankers Association summit.

For the first time, the nation's financial capital (Mumbai) will host the 34th annual conference of the Asian Bankers Association (ABA). It will be hosted by State Bank, with the theme of 'Asia's turn to transform'.

ONE LINERS

- **21st World Congress of mental health** - Held at New Delhi, with the theme “Partnerships for Mental Health”.
- 4th Annual India-Canada Ministerial Dialogue on Trade - held at New Delhi.

- **First Heli Expo India & International Civil Helicopter Conclave began** in New Delhi.
- The largest so far ASEAN-India business summit to be held in New Delhi.
- Two-day conference of States Power Ministers to be held in Rajgir, Bihar.
- **New Delhi hosted the 9th global green film fest.**

SPORTS / GAMES

Asian Women's Boxing Championships

- Mary Kom won gold medal.
- Event held at Ho Chi Minh City in Vietnam.
- She defeated North Korea's Kim Hyang Mi in the final.

Women's hockey Asia Cup 2017

- Event held at Kakamighara, Japan.
- India defeated China. With this victory, India qualified for 2018 World Cup. It was India's second Women's Asia Cup title and first one was won in 2004.

AIBA Women's Youth World Championships ambassador

Five-time world champion MC Mary Kom was named ambassador of the AIBA Women's Youth World Championships to be held in Guwahati in November. Besides five world titles, Mary Kom also has an Olympic bronze medal to her credit.

Commonwealth shooting Championships

Heena Sidhu claimed the 10m air pistol gold, while Deepak Kumar fetched a silver in the 10m air rifle event at the Commonwealth Shooting Championships held at Brisbane, Australia.

SPORTS - OTHERS

1. India's star gymnast Dipa Karmakar has been conferred a D.Litt. degree from the National Institute of Technology (NIT) Agartala. The 24-year-old Tripura girl is the first Indian woman gymnast to have qualified for the Olympics.
2. HS Prannoy, Saina Nehwal win 82nd Senior National Championship titles by defeating Kidambi Srikanth and PV Sindhu respectively. Held at Nagpur.
3. Pankaj Advani clinched his 17th world title defeating Mike Russell of England in the IBSF World Billiards Championship held at Doha.
4. Pakistan off-spinner Saeed Ajmal announces retirement from all forms of cricket.
5. **Sebastian Vettel wins Brazilian Grand Prix.**

