

APPLO



STUDY CENTRE

CURRENT AFFAIRS – OCTOBER 2017

PART I

IMPORTANT DAYS

Date	Day	2017 Theme
01 October	International Day of Older Persons	Stepping into the Future: Tapping the Talents, Contributions and Participation of Older Persons in Society.
01 October	World Vegetarian Day	
01 October	International Coffee Day	
02 October	Gandhi Jayanti, International Day of Non-Violence	
First Monday of October	World Habitat Day	Housing Policies: Affordable Homes.
03 October 2017	World Architecture Day	First Monday of every October. 2017 Theme: Climate Change Action!
4 th to 10 th October	World Space Week	2017 Theme: Exploring New Worlds in Space
05 October	World Teachers Day	2017 Theme: Teaching in Freedom, Empowering Teachers
08 October	85th Indian Air	

	Force Day	
09 October	World Post Day	
9th to 14th October	Beti Bachao Beti Padhao Week	2017 Theme: Beti Bachao Beti Padhao Week- The Daughters of New India
10 October	World Mental Health Day	2017 Theme: Mental health in the workplace
10 October	World Day against Death Penalty	
10th to 14th October	India water Week- 2017	2017 Theme: Water and Energy for Inclusive Growth
11 October	International Day of the Girl Child	2017 Theme: EmPOWER girls: Before, during and after conflict"
12 October	World Arthritis Day	2017 Theme: It's in your hands, take action
12 October 2017	World Sight Day:	Observed on second Thursday of October 2017 Theme: Make Vision Count
13 October	International Day for Disaster Reduction	2017 Theme: "Home Safe Home: Reducing Exposure, Reducing Displacement" .
14 October	International Standards Day	2017 Theme: Standards make cities smarter
15 October	International Day of Rural Women	2017 theme: Challenges and opportunities in climate-resilient agriculture for gender equality and the empowerment of rural women and girls
15 October	World Students Day	Declared by UN in 2010 - Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam's

		Birthday.
16 October	World Food Day	2017 Theme: Change the future of migration. Invest in food security and rural development.
17 October	International Day for the Eradication of Poverty	2017 Theme: Answering the Call of October 17 to end poverty: A path toward peaceful and inclusive societies
20 October	World Osteoporosis Day	
20 October	World Statistics Day	
21 October	Police Commemoration Day	
24 October	United Nations Day	
24 October	World Polio Day	
24 October	Raising day of Indo Tibetan Border Police(ITBP)	
27 October	World Day for Audiovisual Heritage	2017 Theme: Discover, remember and share
28 October	National Ayurveda Day	
29 October	World Stroke Day	What's your reason for preventing stroke?
29 October	International Internet Day	
31 October	World Cities Day	2017 Theme: Innovative Governance, Open Cities. The general theme of World Cities Day is Better

		City, Better Life.
31 October	World Savings Day	
31 October	Rashtriya Ekta Diwas(National Unity Day)	To commemorate birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhai Patel
25 Oct - 1 Nov 2017	Global Media and Information Literacy Week	2017 Theme: Media and Information Literacy in Critical Times: Re-Imagining Ways of Learning and Information Environments
27 October	Infantry day in India	To commemorate supreme sacrifices made by Indian Army's infantry against Pakistan in Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) in 1947.
30 Oct - 4 Nov 2017	Vigilance Awareness week	2017 Theme: My Vision - Corruption Free india

NATION

Government launches Intensified Mission Indradhanush to accelerate full immunization coverage to more than 90% by December 2018.

Intensified Mission Indradhanush (IMI)

- "Let no child suffer from any vaccine-preventable disease" - This was stated by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi as he launched the Intensified Mission Indradhanush (IMI) at Vadnagar in Gujarat.
- Through this programme, Government of India aims to reach each and every child under two years of age and all those pregnant women who have been left uncovered under the routine immunisation programme.
- The special drive will focus on improving immunization coverage in select districts and cities to ensure full immunization to more than 90% by December 2018.

- The achievement of full immunisation under Mission Indradhanush to at least 90% coverage was to be achieved by 2020 earlier.

Mission Indradhanush

- Launched in December 2014.
- Aimed to fully immunize more than 90% of children under age of 2 years, as well as all pregnant women, against seven vaccine preventable diseases.
- These diseases are diphtheria, whooping cough, poliomyelitis, tetanus, tuberculosis, measles and Hepatitis B.
- In addition vaccines for Japanese Encephalitis and Haemophilus influenzae type B are also being provided.
- Rubella, Injectable Polio Vaccine Bivalent and Rotavirus are also provided in selected states.

Pradhan Mantri Gramin Digital Saksharta Abhiyan (PMDISHA)

- PMGDISHA is expected to make 6 crore rural households digitally literate by March 2019, making it one of the largest digital literacy programmes in the world.
- PMGDISHA aims at imparting digital literacy to citizens in rural areas free of cost.
- Aims to provide access to information, knowledge, education, and healthcare. It will create avenues for livelihood generation and financial inclusion through digital payments and help bridge the digital divide.

Paryatan Parv

- To boost tourism and to showcase cultural diversity of our country and reinforce the principle of 'Tourism for All'.
- Its objective is to draw focus on the benefits of tourism.
- It was inaugurated at Humayun's Tomb and will be held across the country from the 5th to 25th October 2017.

- During this period, 'Adopt A Heritage' project launched by Ministry of Tourism will be implemented at key sites.

SECURE Himalaya - A six year project

- It was launched by Union Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change (MoEFCC) in association with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
- To ensure conservation of locally and globally significant biodiversity, land and forest resources in the high Himalayan ecosystem spread over four states in India.
- Protection of snow leopard and other endangered species and their habitats is one of the key components of the project which will also focus on securing livelihoods of the people in the region and enhancing enforcement to reduce wildlife crime.

India Water Week 2017

- Inaugurated by the President Ramnath Govind in New Delhi.
- The theme of India Water Week - 2017 is "Water and Energy for Inclusive Growth".
- It is a five day international event. October 10 -14, 2017.
- The 5th edition of India Water Week (IWW) will be celebrated with a multi-disciplinary conference and a concurrently running exhibition enriching the theme and showcasing the technologies and solutions available for the areas under deliberation of the meet.

3rd National Wildlife Action Plan (for 2017 - 2031)

- Unveiled by Government of India.
- To chalk out future road map for wildlife conservation.
- The key focus areas of this plan includes integration of climate change into wildlife planning, conservation of coastal and marine ecosystem, mitigation of human-wildlife conflict, focus on wildlife health among others.

'Rashtriya Sanskriti Mahotsav (RSM) -2017'

- Held from 7th to 9th October, 2017 in India's 1st World Heritage City i.e Ahmadabad, Gujarat.
- Ministry of Culture decided to organize it with an intent to showcase the rich cultural heritage of the Country in all its rich and varied dimensions, viz Handicrafts, Cuisine, Painting, Sculpture, Photography, Documentation and Performing Arts-Folk, Tribal, Classical and Contemporary- all in one place. So far, this Ministry has organised 5 RSM.

Global Wildlife Programme Conference

- Held at New Delhi.
- Jointly hosted by Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change (MoEFCC), World Bank and United Nations Development Programme.
- Theme of the Conference was - "Peoples' participation in wildlife conservation"

Turtle Sanctuary

- The Union Ministry of Water Resources has approved project to set up Turtle sanctuary at **Allahabad** along with River Biodiversity Park at Sangam in Allahabad, Uttar Pradesh under Namami Gange programme.
- The purpose of the Turtle sanctuary is to protect the rich aquatic biodiversity of river Ganga from escalating anthropogenic pressures.

Clean Water Initiative - Jivamritam

- It is Mata Amritanandamayi Math's Rs 100 crore clean water initiative for rural India.
- 'Jivamritam' filtration system, envisaged to provide clean drinking water to 10 million villagers across the nation.

- The programme was organised as part of the 64th birthday celebrations of spiritual leader Mata Amritanandamayi Devi, popularly known as 'Amma' among her devotees.

Neo - A servicing bot

- An Internet bot, also known as web robot, WWW robot or simply bot, is a software application that runs automated tasks (scripts) over the Internet.
- HDFC Life Insurance Company has launched Neo – a servicing bot for Twitter that uses artificial intelligence for customer service.
- HDFC Insurance company hopes to deploy the bot in answering policy – related queries on social media.
- This is the second bot put in operation by HDFC Life, after the launch of SPOK, which was an email bot to answer customer queries.

4th Dialogue of Civilizations

- Held at New Delhi.
- The theme of the Conference is “Technology and Civilization”.

Third International Conference on Yoga

- The two-day ‘International Conference on Yoga for Wellness’ at New Delhi.
- Organized by Ministry of AYUSH as a part of commemorating the celebration of 21st June as International Day of Yoga declared by the United Nations.
- The thematic areas of deliberations include Yoga research in non-communicable diseases and scope of Yoga in Integrated Medicine, Control of Cancer, Depression, Gynecological disorders and Pain Management.
- The theme of this year’s conference will be ‘Yoga for Wellness’.

SANKALP & STRIVE Schemes to boost Skill India Mission

- SANKALP and STRIVE are two new World Bank supported schemes of Rs. 6,655 crore.
- Skills Acquisition and Knowledge Awareness for Livelihood Promotion (SANKALP) and Skill Strengthening for Industrial Value Enhancement (STRIVE).
- SANKALP and STRIVE are outcome focused schemes marking shift in government's implementation strategy in vocational education and training from inputs to results.

MedWatch

- An innovative mobile health App by Indian Air Force.
- Available on the IAF's AFCEL network, comprises a host of features that will provide authentic health information to all IAF personnel.
- A Reminder Tool to enable timely immunization for the children of all Air Warriors is an important component of the App. This will directly enable 'Mission Indradhanush' of the Govt of India.
- 'MedWatch', the first mobile health app in the three Armed Services.

Sampoorna Bima Gram Yojana

- An initiative for expansion of clientele base of Postal Life Insurance.
- All villages under the Saansad Adarsh Gram Yojana will be brought under its ambit.
- At least one village (having a minimum of 100 households) will be identified in each of the revenue districts of the country, wherein endeavour will be made to cover all households of that identified village with a minimum of one RPLI (Rural Postal Life Insurance) policy each.
- Coverage of all households in the identified Sampoorna Bima Gram village is the primary objective of this scheme.

Deep Dharohar

- Organized by the Ministry of Culture.

- The festival was inaugurated by the lighting of 1000 diyas by the participating artists and artisans and children from organisations like the CCRT, SAPNA Prayas and Kailash Satyarthi's foundation.

Bhadbhut Barrage Project

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi laid the foundation stone for the Rs 4,337-crore Bhadbhut Barrage project which aims to stop the ingress of salinity along the Narmada River.

Pratham-Shyok Bridge

- Nirmala Sitharaman inaugurates Pratham-Shyok bridge in Leh that will link Leh to Karakoram, providing connectivity on the strategically important Darbuk-Shyok-Daulat Beg Olde axis for military transport.

Medical Council of India to give Unique Permanent Registration Number to all doctors to help digitise India's registry of doctors through a unique registration number similar to AADHAAR as part of its ongoing e-governance initiative. The move is expected to help doctors practice in different States without seeking different licenses across borders.

Free Eye Check-up Campaign by NHAI

The National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) has launched countrywide Free Eye Check-up Campaign and distribution of spectacles for truck drivers, cleaners and helpers.

GIFT-IFSC ranks at 10th place in global financial centres index

India's first IFSC has been featured at the tenth place in the latest September 2017 edition of Global Financial Centres Index 22 (GFCI) - London.

Dubai's first ever AYUSH conference

- To be held by India.

- To spread awareness about the prevention and management of lifestyle diseases through Yoga and Ayurveda.
- With the theme of 'Lifestyle diseases: Prevention and management through AYUSH'.

48th Conference of Governors

- Started at Rashtrapati Bhavan in New Delhi on October 12, 2017.
- The two-day Conference will deliberate on distinct agenda items in different sessions.
- The theme of the opening session was 'New India-2022'.
- The second session is on the subjects of 'Higher Education in States' and 'Skill Development and Entrepreneurship to Make Youth Employable'.
- In the third session, to take place on October 13, 2017, Governors will make brief remarks on any special issues pertaining to their respective States/Union Territories.
- In the concluding session, a brief report on the deliberations will be presented by the respective conveners.

International Puppet Festival (IPF-2017)

- Held at Mohorkunj in Kolkata, West Bengal.
- The purpose of the fest is to regenerate the emotions attached to puppetry.

Ek Bharat, Shrestha Bharat programme

- Aims to actively enhance interaction between people of diverse cultures living in different States and UTs in India, with the objective of promoting greater mutual understanding amongst them.
- Uttar Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh and Meghalaya have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) under this programme to boost cultural ties.

World Government Summit (WGS)

- 6th edition.
- Scheduled to be held from February 2018 in Dubai, UAE.
- The summit is the largest movement to review and share the best experiences and the first global forum for governments, countries, organizations and private sector leaders interested in the industry of the future.

ASEAN India Music Festival

- First Edition. Held at New Delhi.
- By the Ministry of External Affairs in collaboration with Ministry of Culture
- The Festival is being organized to celebrate the 25th year anniversary of ASEAN-India Dialogue Relations.
- The theme for this commemorative year "Shared Values, Common Destiny"
- Aims to boost cultural influences among the peoples of the ASEAN member states and India.

NMCG Approves Eight Projects worth over Rs 700 Crore

National Mission for Clean Ganga has approved eight projects worth Rs. 700 crore, out of which four pertain to sewage management in Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and West Bengal, three are related to treatment of drains through bio-remediation and one of inventorization and surveillance of river Ganga.

Amul named as the country's best Fast Moving Consumer Goods (FMCG) company in the food sector by the International Advertising Association (IAA).

India is eighth most valuable nation, while the United States retained its top position and China took the second spot in the League of Nations according to Brand Finance's Nation Brands 2017.

Government to celebrate Swachh Bharat Diwas (Diwas - Day) on 2nd October.

SC criminalizes sex with minor wife aged between 15 to 18 years.

The first shipment of US crude oil to India arrived at Paradip Port in Odisha, as part of the two million barrels contracted by India.

Need to balance national interest, human rights on Rohingya refugees: Supreme Court.

AIIB, ADB approves \$ 100 mn loan for India's power sector.

Global Hunger Index 2017: India ranks 100th among 119 nations.

Mukesh Ambani is India's Wealthiest Man for the 10th straight year.

ECONOMICS

RBI to launch financial literacy drive in 9 states.

Odisha government department signs MOU with SBI for integration of SBI e-Pay with cyber treasury.

ICICI Bank commits Rs 10 crore for welfare of armed forces.

Canara Bank launches first digital branch in Bengaluru.

SBI to set up country's largest innovation centre at Mumbai.

IndusInd Bank to take over micro finance company Bharat Financial

4th bi-monthly monetary policy review statement for the year 2017-18

- Repo Rate: Unchanged at 6%
- Reverse Repo Rate: Unchanged at 5.75%
- Marginal Standing Facility (MSF) Rate: Unchanged at 6.25%
- Bank Rate: Unchanged at 6.25%
- Cash Reserve Ratio: Unchanged at 4%

- Statutory Liquidity Ratio (SLR): Changed by 50 basis points to 19.5%

STATES

1. **Mathru Poorna scheme:** Launched by Karnataka Government, to meet the nutritional needs of pregnant and lactating women in rural areas of the state.
2. First Meeting of India-Australia Joint Steering Committee held in New Delhi.
3. The third edition of 'Women of India Organic Festival' held at New Delhi.
4. India has opened two immigration check posts along the borders with Myanmar and Bangladesh, a reflection of its growing closeness with the two eastern neighbours.
5. President Kovind inaugurates Shirdi Airport in Ahmednagar, Maharashtra.
6. Madhya Pradesh CM Shivraj Singh Chauhan launches 'Single Click Pension Delivery' scheme, wherein the money will go directly into the account of the beneficiaries.
7. Bhopal is set to become the first state capital to come up with an exclusive toilet for the transgender community.
8. Global Entrepreneurship Summit 2017 to be held in Hyderabad in November.
9. Andhra Pradesh CM Chandrababu Naidu launches 'Swachh Andhra Mission'. Ace shuttler PV Sindhu, has been chosen as the brand ambassador of Swachh Andhra.
10. 'No helmet, no petrol' rule comes into force in Andhra Pradesh.
11. Country's first ITI for dibyangans (differently abled persons) - Dibrugarh, Assam.
12. Gujarat first state to slash VAT on fuel prices.
13. Three-day Global Medical Conference held at Chandigarh. The aim of the conference 'IMTechCon 2017' is to engage industry and academic leaders to discuss current unmet medical needs globally.

14. The Rajasthan assembly has become the first in India to call attention and adjournment motions and proposals online from legislators to send them to the state government.
15. Bengaluru's Kempegowda International Airport (KIA) is all set to become country's first Aadhaar-enabled airport by 2018.
16. The Uttarakhand Government and a charitable funding agency 'Swan Cultural Center and Foundation' launched 'Solar Briefcase' scheme in Kedarnath Dham to provide electricity to remote areas in the hill state.
17. India's first state to incorporate skill development programme in higher education - Rajasthan.
18. Himachal Pradesh Government has recently implemented the Senior Citizen Health Insurance Scheme (SCHIS).
19. Himachal Pradesh: PM laid foundation stones for the construction of AIIMS at Bilaspur and for the construction of Indian Institute of Information Technology at Una.
20. Bihar - had launched a state-wide campaign against child marriage and dowry on the occasion of Mahatma Gandhi's birth anniversary.
21. 'Mukhyamantri Samoohik Vivaah Yojana' (a mass marriage scheme) for BPL families - Uttar Pradesh.
22. First mobile post office in Tamil Nadu becomes functional in Chennai.
23. First Open Defecation Free (ODF) tribe district of Rajasthan - Durgapur.
24. 9th Annual 'World Dental Show 2017' - held at Mumbai.

INDIA AND WORLD

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

The Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has given its ex-post facto approval to the Memorandum of

Understanding (MoU) between India and Myanmar on upgradation of the Women's Police Training Centre at Yamethin, Myanmar.

President Ram Nath Kovind visited Djibouti and Ethiopia. It is his first trip abroad.

India signs €300 million Finance Contract with European Investment Bank for Bangalore Metro Rail Project Phase II Line R6.

Nepal, India to conduct first joint tiger census for the first time in their national parks, forests and protected areas.

Germany to help Indian Railways to increase speed. A joint declaration of Intent was signed between Ministry of Railways and Germany in Rail Bhavan.

Cabinet approves MoC between India and Japan to establish Liquid, Flexible and Global LNG Market.

India, Ethiopia sign agreements on trade, communication.

India, Djibouti sign pact on bilateral consultations

WORLD

US, Israel withdraws from UNESCO

The US and its ally Israel have announced they will withdraw from the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, accusing the body of "anti-Israel bias". (UNESCO's Headquarters - Paris).

G-20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors Meeting

The Union Minister for Finance and Corporate Affairs, Shri Arun Jaitley participated in the G-20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors (FMCBG) Meeting in Washington D.C.

Tokyo is world's safest city, Delhi is 43rd, Mumbai is 45th

The index, produced by The Economist Intelligence Unit, was based on 49 indicators covering digital, health, infrastructure and personal security.

Catalonia referendum: 90% voted for independence. Catalonia - An autonomous region in north-eastern Spain that has been demanding independence and wants to be a separate nation.

Hurricane Nate - hits central American countries Costa Rica, Nicaragua, and Honduras.

In a gun shoot at Las Vegas, USA more than 50 people were killed.

UAE begins collecting 'sin' taxes on tobacco, energy drinks.

China Overtakes US As World's Largest Ice Cream Producer.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Sibir (Siberia)

- World's biggest and most powerful nuclear-powered icebreaker ship.
- Launched by Russia.
- Built under Project 22220 into the water at the Baltic Shipyard in St Petersburg.

Experimental ebola vaccines

- The clinical trials of two experimental Ebola vaccines cAd3-EBOZ and rVSV-ZEBOV were found to be safe and capable of eliciting immune response against Ebola virus that lasts for at least one year.
- The findings were based on a study of clinical trials on 1,500 adults that began during West Africa Ebola outbreak. Three groups of 500

volunteers received one of the vaccine candidates or a placebo (saline injection).

S & T - Others:

1. India's first Sewage Treatment Plant (STP) under Hybrid Annuity Mode will come up in Haridwar (Uttarakhand) and Varanasi (Uttar Pradesh).
2. World's largest combustion research centre inaugurated at IIT Madras.

US approves first test to screen Zika virus in donated blood.

3. Iceland has opened world's first negative emissions plant that turns CO₂ into stone at Hellisheidi.
4. Michibiki - Global Positioning system of Japan.
5. ISRO to set up research centre in Guwahati.

DEFENCE

BIMSTEC DMEx-2017

- India to conduct the First 'BIMSTEC Disaster Management Exercise-2017'
- It will be conducted by the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) in Delhi and the National Capital Region (NCR).
- The main focus of the BIMSTEC DMEx-2017 will be on testing the region's preparedness and resilience towards effective activation of inter-Governmental interaction/dialogue/agreements for immediate deployment of regional resources for disaster response.

Mitra Shakti 2017

- The fifth India-Sri Lanka Joint Training Exercise MITRA SHAKTI 2017 started with a grand Opening Ceremony conducted at Aundh Military Station, Pune.

- The exercise is based on Counter Terrorist Operations and an Infantry company from both the countries is participating in the same.

DREE

- Pacific Resilience Disaster Response Exercise and Exchange.
- Joint military exercise between USA and Bangladesh.
- Held at Dhaka in Bangladesh.

PASSEX

Indian Naval Ships **Satpura and Kadmatt** participated in Passage Exercise (PASSEX) with Japanese Marine Self Defence Force (JMSDF) held at Sasebo, Japan.

Others - Defence:

1. **India and Bangladesh** will start a major project to maintain and repair damaged pillars along the 4,096-km long Indo-Bangla border, said India Border Security Force (BSF).
2. **SS Athenia** - A British ship torpedoed during World War II has been found off Irish Coast.
3. UN ends 13-year military peacekeeping mission in **Haiti**.

COMMITTEES

1. Rina Mitra Study Group - To examine problems of people residing in border areas.
2. Justice (Retd.) G. Rohini Commission - To examine sub categorization of OBC.
3. Rajiv Kumar (Vice-Chairman, Niti Aayog) Committee - High Level Committee for proper management of water resources in North East Region.
4. PV Reddi - Head of the 2nd National Judicial Pay Commission (NJPC), to look into pay hike issue of lower court judges.

5. Shashi Tharoor committee - Parliamentary committee on External Affairs to examine India-China relations.
6. Uday Kotak Committee - Recommendations on Corporate Governance.
7. Amrender Sharan - Appointed by the Supreme Court (SC) as amicus curiae on plea seeking re-probe of Mahatma Gandhi assassination.
8. RBI forms High-level Task Force on Public Credit Registry under the chairmanship of Yeshwant M. Deosthalee.

APPOINTMENTS

1. Audrey Azoulay (France) - Next UNESCO chief.
2. Anupam Kher - Appointed as Chairman of Film and Television Institute of India (FTII) in Pune.
3. Soumya Swaminathan (from Tamil Nadu) - Appointed as Deputy Director General of WHO.
4. Rajnish Kumar - New Chairman of SBI.
5. Nisha Biswal - Head of US-India Business Council.
6. Pooja Kapur - India's next ambassador to the Republic of Macedonia.
7. Gautam Bambawale - India's next ambassador to China.
8. V M Kwatra - India's next ambassador to Principality of Monaco.
9. Khurelsukh Ukhnaa - New prime minister of Mongolia.
10. Prithika Yashini - India's first transgender Sub-Inspector of Police took charge at Choolaimedu Police Station, Chennai.

AWARDS/HONOURS

NOBLE PRIZES - 2017

Economics Nobel - Richard H. Thaler

- The Sveriges Riksbank Prize in Economic Sciences in Memory of Alfred Nobel 2017 was awarded to US professor Richard H. Thaler "for his contributions to behavioural economics."

- Dr. Thaler (72) has incorporated psychologically realistic assumptions into analyses of economic decision-making.
- Dr. Thaler's contributions have built a bridge between the economic and psychological analyses of individual decision-making.
- Richard H. Thaler wins 2017 Nobel Prize in Economic Sciences.

Nobel Peace Prize - International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN)

- The Norwegian Nobel Committee honoured the Geneva-based group “for its work to draw attention to the catastrophic humanitarian consequences of any use of nuclear weapons and for its ground-breaking efforts to achieve a treaty-based prohibition of such weapons.”
- ICAN is a global civil society, a coalition of non-governmental organisations from over 100 countries around the globe, working to promote adherence to and full implementation of Treaty on Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons.
- It is a leading civil society actor which has taken efforts to achieve a world without nuclear weapons.
- Its headquarters are in Geneva, Switzerland.

Nobel Prize in Literature - Kazuo Ishiguro

- British author Kazuo Ishiguro, best known for his novel *The Remains of the Day*, has won the Nobel Literature Prize.
- The award was given for his works that are of great emotional force which uncovers the abyss beneath our illusory sense of connection with the world.
- Born in Nagasaki, he moved to Britain with his family when he was five years old.

Nobel Prizes in Physiology or Medicine

- 2017 Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine – awarded jointly to Jeffrey C. Hall, Michael Rosbash and Michael W. Young. All of them are from United States of America.

- They were awarded for discovering molecular mechanisms controlling circadian rhythm.
- Their discoveries explain how plants, animals and humans adapt their biological rhythm so that it is synchronized with Earth's revolutions.
- Circadian rhythm is basically a 24-hour internal clock that is running in the background of your brain and cycles between sleepiness and alertness at regular intervals. It's also known as your sleep/wake cycle. It is a 24-hour cycle in physiological processes of living beings, including plants, animals, fungi and cyanobacteria. It influences such biological functions as hormone levels, sleep, body temperature and metabolism.

Noble Prize in Chemistry

- Awarded jointly to Jacques Dubochet (Switzerland), Joachim Frank (Germany and US) and Richard Henderson (UK).
- They were selected for developing cryo-electron microscopy for the high resolution structure determination of biomolecules in solution.
- Cryo-electron microscopy gives scientists opportunity to look at machinery of life in 3D form. This was not possible with earlier forms of electron microscopes as more powerful beams would destroy biological matter. It allows the study of fine cellular structures, viruses and protein complexes at molecular resolution.

Nobel Prize in physics

- Awarded jointly to three American scientists Rainer Weiss, Barry C. Barish and Kip S. Thorne for the first observations of gravitational waves.
- All three scientists have played leading roles in the Laser Interferometer Gravitational-Wave Observatory, or Ligo, experiment, which in 2015 made the first historic observation of gravitational waves.

Anna Politkovskaya Award

- Gauri Lankesh becomes first Indian to win Anna Politkovskaya Award.
- It is given in memory of slain Russian reporter and political activist Anna Politkovskaya, a Russian investigative reporter and activist who uncovered state corruption and rights abuses, especially in Chechnya.
- It is presented annually by Reach All Women in War (the RAW in WAR organisation) and honours women human rights defenders from around world. This year marks 11th anniversary of killing of Anna Politkovskaya who was shot dead in lobby of her Moscow apartment block at age of 48 on October 7, 2006. RAW in WAR is a London-based, non-governmental organisation (NGO) supporting women human rights defenders and victims of war.

First-ever Miss Wheelchair World

- A psychology student from Belarus, Aleksandra Chichikova, was chosen Miss Wheelchair World in the first-ever edition of the beauty pageant held in Warsaw, Poland.
- India's Rajalakshmi won the 'Miss Popularity award' at pageant. This is three years after she won Miss Wheelchair India in 2014.

18th Lal Bahadur Shastri National Award

- Lal Bahadur Shastri National Award for Excellence in Public Administration, Academics and Management for the year 2017 to Dr. Bindeshwar Pathak.
- He has contributed immensely in the direction of getting rid of the practice of manual scavenging. The Mayor of New York had declared April 14, 2016 as the 'Dr. Bindeshwar Pathak International Day' keeping in mind this contribution made by Dr. Pathak. He also received the Padma Bhushan in 1991.

Sri Meenakshi Sundareswarar Temple adjudged as **cleanest iconic place** in country under Swachhta Hi Seva (Cleanliness is service) programme. The temple earned the top slot from among 10 iconic places selected under the Swachh Bharath Mission in the country.

Mathrubhumi Literary award

Eminent critic, biographer and orator **M K Sanu** has been chosen for the Mathrubhumi Literary Award for 2016 in recognition of his rich contribution to the Malayalam literature.

Centenary National Award for Literature

Eminent writer **Namita Gokhale** has been nominated for the first Centenary National Award for Literature. The award is to be conferred by one of the most prestigious literary bodies in India- the Asam Sahitya Sabha.

Jnangarima Manad Alankaran

The Jnanpith Jury Board, at a meeting, unanimously decided to confer the Jnanarima Manad Alankaran 2017 to **Elangbam Sonamani Singh**, noted Manipuri litterateur.

T D Radhakrishnan - Selected for **Vayalar award** (given for the best literary work in Malayalam) for his work 'Sugandhi Enna Andal Devanayaki'.

TM Krishna - A Carnatic vocalist, wins **2015-16 Indira Gandhi Award for National Integration**.

Classical singer Manik Bhide - Chosen for **Bhimsen Joshi Award**. The Maharashtra government award, the highest in the category of performing arts, consist of Rs. 5 lakh in cash, a plaque and citation.

Madhu Valli - She is from USA and has been crowned Miss India Worldwide.

Gurbax Singh Sandhu - Long-serving Indian boxing coach has been honoured with the **National Awards for senior citizens**.

Rajesh Nath - an Indian personality has been conferred the 'Cross of the Order of Merit', the highest civilian honour of Germany.

Birendra Sasmal - an Indian entrepreneur has won the prestigious International Business Person of the Year award in London for innovative IT solutions.

Prajapati Trivedi - First Indian academician to have been elected as Fellow to America's National Academy of Public Administration (NAPA), considered the highest recognition internationally in the field of public administration.

Jagmeet Singh - Elected as Leader of New Democratic Party, an important political party in Canada.

BOOKS AND AUTHORS

The Coalition Years: 1996-2012: Autobiography of Pranab Mukherjee

SPORTS AND GAMES

1. FIFA suspends Pakistan from international football.
2. Ashish Nehra set to retire from International cricket on November 1.
3. Mercedes-Benz and Laureus Sport has named Cricketer Yuvraj Singh as their first brand ambassador in India.
4. Bengaluru to host 12th World Sudoku, Puzzle Championships.
5. Pooja Kadian - Bagged India's maiden gold medal at the World Wushu (Kung Fu) Championships.
6. Indian golfer Ajeetesh Sandhu wins Asian Tour title Yeangder Tournament Players Championship (TPC) in Taipei.

CURRENT AFFAIRS – OCTOBER 2017

PART II

NATION

Article 35A

- Article 35A was incorporated into the Constitution in 1954 by a Presidential order issued under Article 370 (1) (d) of the Constitution
- Article 35A of the constitution empowers J&K legislature to define state's "permanent residents" and their special rights and privileges without attracting a challenge on grounds of violating the Right to Equality of people from other States or any other right under the Constitution.
- The Article bars non-J&K state subjects to settle and buy property in J&K.

India tops list of new TB cases in 2016: WHO Report

India has topped list of seven countries, accounting for 64% of the over 10 million new tuberculosis (TB) cases worldwide in year 2016 India was followed by Indonesia, China, Philippines, Pakistan, Nigeria and south Africa.

BharatNet

- BharatNet is Union Government's ambitious rural internet connectivity programme which is implemented by Bharat Broadband Network Limited (BBNL).
- It is world's largest rural broadband connectivity programme using Optical fibre.
- Bharat Net seeks to connect all of India's households, particularly rural areas, through demand, affordable high-speed broadband connectivity of 2 Mbps to 20 Mbps to realize the vision of Digital India.
- The project is being funded by Universal service Obligation Fund (USOF).

Adopt a Heritage Scheme [Apni Dharohar Apni Pehchan Project]

- Launched by Union Ministry of Tourism on World Tourism Day (27th September) in close collaboration with Ministry of Culture and Archaeological Survey of India (ASI).
- Under it, Private, Public Sector Companies and Corporate individuals were invited to adopt heritage sites and to take up responsibility for making them and promote sustainable tourism through conservation and development under their CSR activities.
- Companies will be known as “**Monument Mitras**”.
- Government has given Letter of Intent to 7 companies for 14 monuments under Adopt a Heritage Scheme.

TRAI recommends **40% reduction** in carbon emission by 2022-23 for sustainable telecommunications considering 2011-12 as the base year in order to make telecom sector greener.

Start-up Sangam Initiative

- Launched by Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas.
- To develop new business models, marketing plans, technology and innovations in heavy oil and gas industry sector by supporting 30 start-ups.

Bharatmala programme

- Bharatmala envisions 44 economic corridors across country at cost of at least Rs 5 lakh crore.
- It is aimed at speeding up cargo movement and development of multimodal logistics hubs and parks on periphery of major commercial centres.
- The project involves constructing 24000km of fresh highways.
- It also includes construction of feeder routes alongside national highways.
- Around 80% of Bharatmala projects will be government funded, engineering procurement and construction (EPC) model while rest will be a hybrid-annuity public private partnership (PPP).

MSME Delayed Payment Portal – MSME Samadhaan

- It will help micro and small entrepreneurs across the country to directly register their cases relating to delayed payments by Central Ministries, Departments, CPSEs, and /State Governments.
- The Micro, Small and Medium Enterprise Development (MSMED) Act, 2006 contains provisions to deal with cases of delayed payment to Micro and Small Enterprises (MSEs).

#IamThatWoman

- In an attempt to end Gender bias in women against women, the Ministry of Women and Child Development is undertaking online campaign #IamThatWoman.
- Through the campaign, the Ministry seeks to highlight the various aspects of women standing 'by' and 'for' women.
- Twitter and Facebook users have been encouraged to tag and share stories of women helping women with a photograph and post online with the hashtag #IamThatWoman.

APEDA to promote NE products in Bangladesh and Myanmar

The Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) has taken up a programme for promotion of north eastern products in Bangladesh and Myanmar.

The SBI Foundation has committed Rs10 crore for the conservation and restoration of the **Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Terminus (CST)** of Mumbai over a period of three to five years. CST formerly known as Victoria Terminus, is a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Izzat Ghar

The Centre has asked each state to name the toilets in their rural households as - Izzat Ghar, or to use a phrase in regional language equivalent to - **house of dignity**.

'Paika Bidroha' to be named as 1st War of Independence

- The Paika Bidroha' (Paika rebellion) of 1817 will find a place in the history books as the First War of Independence' from the next academic session.
- 2017 is the bicentenary of the Paika rebellion, and Centre has allocated Rs. 200 crore for commemorating it across the country.
- Paikas were peasant militia under the Gajapati rulers of Odisha who rendered military service to the king during times of war.
- They rebelled against the British rule under the leadership of **Bakshi Jagabandhu Bidyadhara** as early as **1817**.

Most Authentic Brand in India

Indian consumers regard Google as the most authentic brand, even though Amazon.com tops the list globally. In India, Google is followed by Microsoft, Amazon, Maruti Suzuki and Apple.

NATION - ONE LINERS

- The first ever All India Institute of Ayurveda - New Delhi.
- Website of CIPAM (Cell for IPR Promotion and Management) was launched in New Delhi.
- Bureau of Indian Standards Act 2016 comes into effect.
- Supreme Court bans dirty pet-coke, furnace oil in Haryana, Rajasthan, UP in a bid to reduce air pollution in Delhi and National Capital Region (NCR).
- India ranks 40 among 137 countries in global competitiveness index.
- India ranks 108 among 144 countries in global gender gap.

- Times Higher Education Rankings: IISC & IIT Bombay among world's top 200 for engineering and computer sciences.

ECONOMICS

- RBI sets up task force for **India Public Credit Registry**. It will be chaired by **Y .M Deosthalee**.
- AU Small Finance Bank tied up with Small Industries Development Bank of India (Sidbi) to launch a Rs200 crore fund for providing loans to micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs).
- The Asian Development Bank and the Government of India signed \$300 Million Loan to Promote Fiscal Reforms in West Bengal.
- The Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the Government of India signed a \$65.5 million loan agreement to continue interventions to check coastal erosion on the Western Coast in Karnataka.
- India and World Bank sign \$200 Million Loan Agreement for the Assam Agribusiness and Rural Transformation Project.

STATES

South Asia's first Ro-Ro ferry service

Prime Minister inaugurated first phase of Ro-Ro (roll-on, roll-off) ferry service between Ghogha in Bhavnagar district and Dahej in Bharuch district in the Gulf of Cambay, Gujarat. It is South Asia's first world class Ro-Ro ferry service.

Ro-Ro ferry services

- They are vessels made to carry wheeled cargo (such as cars, trucks, semi-trailer trucks, trailers, and railroad cars) that are driven on and off ferry on their own wheels or using a platform vehicle.
- It is opposite of lift-on and lift-off (lo-lc) vessels which uses crane to unload cargo.

- The first of its kind Ro-Ro ferry in India will be able to carry up to 100 vehicles and 250 passengers between the two ports.
- It will reduce the distance between Ghogha to Dahej from 310 kilometres by road to 30 kilometres and will reduce seven to eight hours of travel time to link Saurashtra with South Gujarat to one hour.
- Ro-Ro ferry is a small part of Sagarmala project, that aims to promote port-led development in the country by harnessing India's 7,500-km long coastline, 14,500-km of potentially navigable waterways and strategic location on key international maritime trade routes

Rajasthan passes bill to provide reservation to Gujjars and four other nomadic communities. The bill seeks to provide 5% reservation to Gujjars and four other nomadic communities viz. Banjara, Gadia-Lohar, Raika and Gadanya in state government jobs and educational institutions as Other Backward Classes (OBCs). It increases reservation for OBCs from 21% to 26%.

Bhavantar Bhugtan Yojana

- By the Government of Madhya Pradesh.
- The objective of this scheme is to ensure reasonable prices to the farmers for their agriculture produces and thereby protecting them from losses suffered on account of distress sale.

Madhya Pradesh tops in digital initiatives: Survey

Madhya Pradesh has emerged as the top state in terms of digital initiatives, followed by Maharashtra and Andhra Pradesh.

'Prerna' - A project for women farmers. Launched by Mahindra & Mahindra in the state of Odisha. To empower women working in the agriculture sector by promoting efficient and ergonomic farm tools and equipment.

Biggest human logo: The Meghalaya Election Department has entered Limca Book of Records for the formation of the biggest human logo

comprising young voters in the state. The logo formation was part of Mission Unite (U and I towards Enrolment).

STATE - ONE LINERS

Kerala govt prohibits using 'Dalit', 'Harijan' in official communications. The government has also banned the usage of word "Keezhalar" which was used to refer to scheduled communities.

Rajasthan Government introduces bill prohibiting probes against judges, officers without sanction.

Vrindavan and Barsana declared pilgrimage sites by Uttar Pradesh government.

Microsoft Partners with Karnataka Government to bring Artificial Intelligence to agriculture.

India's first Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Kendra for Skilling in Smart Cities inaugurated in New Delhi.

Arunachal Pradesh Assembly approves Kamle as 23rd district.

Haryana records 39 percent of all cancer cases in India.

International Puppet Festival held at Kolkata.

INDIA AND WORLD

- **India, Italy** sign six pacts and to enhance counter-terror cooperation. Subjects of the pact include energy, cultural cooperation, safety in railway sector, mutual investments, diplomatic relations. **Italy PM - Paolo Gentiloni.**
- **India, Sri Lanka** Ink MoU for **housing project** deal in Hambantota. Hambantota port is located right in middle of vital energy supply

lines in Indian Ocean, connecting Middle East and East Asia. In recent times, coastal city of Hambantota had gained strategic significance after Sri Lankan government had decided to build massive deep-sea port and airport with huge Chinese loans.

- India grants USD 585,000 aid to a university in Sri Lanka's Tamil-dominated north as part of its development partnership with the country in the field of higher education.
- India, Brazil and South Africa (IBSA) have signed the IBSA Trust Fund Agreement that seeks to fight poverty in developing countries. It was signed at the 8th IBSA trilateral Ministerial Commission Meeting in Durban, South Africa
- India and Japan have signed memorandum of cooperation (MoC) on Technical Intern Training Programme (TITP) to significantly expand the bilateral cooperations in the field of skill development.
- India sends first wheat shipment to Afghanistan via Chabahar port.
- Sri Lankan Coast Guard commissions OPV SURAKSHA gifted by India.
- India to help develop Colombo, Trincomalee Ports in Sri Lanka.

WORLD

World's first hybrid electric tram powered by hydrogen fuel cells - It was launched in China's Tangshan city, north China's Hebei Province to give big boost to green energy in public transport. The ecologically-friendly tram emits only water without any pollutants. It does not produce any nitrogen oxides.

Japan's general election - Japan's ruling coalition of Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) and Komeito party led by Prime Minister Shinzo Abe (LDP) won an overwhelming victory in general election.

Catalan government

- Spanish Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy announced the immediate sacking of Catalan leader Carles Puigdemont and his government and called new elections in the region on December 21.
- This followed the decision taken by the Catalan parliament to unilaterally declare independence of the region in the northeast of Spain.

The world's worst cities for women

A survey by Thomson Reuters Foundation ranked Delhi among the world's worst megacities when it comes to women safety. Delhi has been placed at fourth position after Cairo, Karachi and Kinshasa (Congo).

Chile named best country to visit

Chile has been named the best country to visit next year by Lonely Planet in its 'Best in Travel 2018' list. **South Korea** and **Portugal** have ranked second and third respectively.

WORLD - ONE LINERS

- 70 Indian words included in Oxford English Dictionary 2017 edition.
- First International Day of Diplomats celebrated in Brasilia on October 24.
- Singapore has the world's "most powerful" passport, according to a global ranking topped for the first time by an Asian country. India ranked at 75th position.
- 4th ASEAN Defence Ministers Meeting-Plus held in Philippines.
- Southeast Asian defence ministers' meeting - Venue - Philippines. Mrs. Nirmala Sitharaman will attend the meeting on behalf of India.

- Jeff Bezos passes Bill Gates to become the world's richest person. He topped the Bloomberg Billionaires Index for the first time.
- Burundi becomes first country to leave International Criminal Court.
- Gandhi museum inaugurated in Durban, South Africa.
- Peru approves medicinal use of marijuana.
- Bernie Meyer - American Gandhi.

SUMMITS AND CONFERENCES

First International Conference on Consumer Protection

- The theme of the conference was "Empowering Consumers in New Markets."
- India is organizing the event at the request of United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD).
- The two-day Regional Conference on Consumer Protection will be held in October at New Delhi.
- India has not invited Pakistan and North Korea to attend the first global conference on consumer protection.

Global Ayurveda Meet - Kerala

International Gita Mahotsav - Haryana.

Mauritius will be the partner country and Uttar Pradesh as partner state.

UN Summit on Conservation of Migratory Species (CMS) in 2020

- India will host next Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS) Conference of Parties 13 (CMS)

COP13) in year 2020. CMS COP is also known as a *Global Wildlife Conference*. It is held once in three years.

- The theme of the CMS COP12 was " **Their Future is Our Future - Sustainable Development for Wildlife and People**" - held at Manila, Philippines.
- Four Asian vulture species from India gets highest protection under CMS.
- Species awarded highest protection are Asian vultures are *red-headed vulture, white-rumped vulture, Indian vulture* and *slender-billed vulture*. They are faced with threats such as poisoning, hunting, collision with electricity cables and habitat degradation.

14th SAARC Law Conference held in Colombo, Sri Lanka.

SAARC:

South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) is a regional intergovernmental organization and geopolitical union of nations in South Asia. Its member states include Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Nepal, Maldives, Pakistan and Sri Lanka. It comprises 3% of world's area, 21% of world's population and 3.8% of global economy as of 2015.

2nd edition of World Congress on Marxism

China is going to host 2nd edition of World Congress on Marxism. It will be held at Peking University in Beijing in May 2018 with theme "Marxism and the current world and China". It coincides with 200th birth anniversary of Karl Marx.

First BIMSTEC Task Force on Traditional Medicine meeting held in New Delhi.

BIMSTEC - The Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation is an international organisation involving a group of countries in South Asia and South East Asia. Headquarters: Dhaka, Bangladesh. Members - Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Myanmar, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Thailand.

3rd Global Investors' India Forum

Held at New Delhi. The theme of the event was "Ideate, Innovate, Implement and Invest in India" and it was attended by global industry stalwarts. The event was organized by the ASSOCHAM.

World Food India-2017 (WFI-2017)

A mega international food event held at New Delhi from November 3. Odisha was the 'Focus State' in the World Food India (WFI)-2017,

11th World Congress on Adolescent Health

Held at New Delhi. The theme for World Congress on Adolescent Health 2017 was "Investing in Adolescent Health-the Future is Now'.

14th Dalai Lama during his three-day maiden visit to Manipur addressed at the International Peace Conference in the Imphal. It was aimed at promoting peace and harmony in the northeastern region.

UN wildlife summit in 2020 - India will host the next United Nations (UN) global wildlife conference in 2020.

6th annual LNG Producers Consumer Conference - Held at Tokyo, Japan.

DEFENCE

OPV Vikram

- Offshore patrol vessel (OPV) named OPV Vikram.
- Larsen and Toubro (L&T) handed over "Vikram" to the Indian Coast Guard.
- It is the country's first-ever such defence vessel to be built private shipyard.

INDRA - 2017

The first ever Tri Services Joint Exercise between Indian and Russian Armed Forces will be conducted in the Eastern Military District of Russia in October 2017.

Exercise INDRA-2017 will be conducted at the 249th Combined Army Range Sergeevsky and in the Sea of Japan near Vladivostok.

CORPAT

- CORPAT (Coordinated Patrol) - Bilateral exercise between the Indian and Indonesian navies.
- Indian Naval ship Sukanya reached Belawan port, Indonesia.
- The exercise is aimed at fostering closer maritime ties with countries located on the rim of the Indian Ocean.

Anti-Submarine Drill

India - Japan Naval exercise on strategies to counter submarines held in Indian Ocean in October, 2017.

INS Kiltan

- Commissioned into Indian Navy.
- Indigenously-built anti-submarine warfare stealth corvette.
- Kiltan is the latest indigenous warship after Shivalik class, Kolkata class and sister ships INS Kamorta and INS Kadmatt to have joined the Indian Navy's arsenal wherein a plethora of weapons and sensors have been integrated to provide a Common Operational Picture (COP).
- The ship derives its name from one of the islands in Aminidivi group of the strategically located Lakshadweep and Minicoy group of islands.

Defence Ministry to raise three new tri-service agencies

- Ministry of Defence (MoD) is expecting to raise three new tri-service agencies in field of cyber warfare, space and special operations shortly.
- The new tri-service agencies are Defence Cyber Agency, Defence Space Agency and a Special Operations Division.
- These agencies will be headed by officers of rank of Major General and equivalent in Navy and Indian Air Force.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Sophia

A humanoid named Sophia has made history by becoming the first robot in the world to be granted citizenship. Saudi Arabia offered citizenship to the robot, designed by entrepreneur David Hanson.

World's fastest, shortest laser pulse

- Scientists from ETH Zurich in Switzerland have successfully created the world's shortest X-ray laser pulse with duration of just 43 attoseconds (1×10^{-18} of a second). This laser pulse is the shortest controlled event that has ever been created by humans.
- **Laser** - An acronym for Light Amplification by Stimulated Emission of Radiation. It is highly coherent, unidirectional beam of perfectly monochromatic light. It has greater energy than normal light. It is used in range of application like sensors, optical communication sources etc.

Scientists link new virus to kala-azar

- Scientists have found that parasite called *Leptomonas seymouri* hosting virus called *Lepsey NLV1* may be also responsible for spread of kala-azar (visceral leishmaniasis).
- Earlier it was believed that parasite *Leishmania donovani* (sandfly) alone is responsible for spread of the dreaded infection.

Hemidactylus kangerensis: New species of large gecko discovered in Eastern Ghats at Chhattisgarh's Kanger Ghati National Park. Its common name is the *Kanger valley rock gecko* and scientific name is *Hemidactylus kangerensis*, named after the valley where it was discovered.

CarbFix Project

- World's first negative emissions carbon-capture plant begins operations in Iceland.

- The world's first negative emissions plant under the CarbFix Project to turn atmospheric carbon dioxide (CO₂) into stone has begun operations in Hellisheidi, Iceland.
- It is intended to lock away carbon dioxide by reacting it with basaltic rocks. Work on the project began in 2007.

Sawfish - Scientists on World Sawfish Day (observed on October 17th) announced that sawfish, sighted off Indian coast less than 10 times in over a decade appears to be more threatened than tigers and elephants.

Ichthyosaur fossil - (152 million-year-old) discovered for first time in India at Kutch desert region of Gujarat. Ichthyosaur is an extinct marine reptile (fish-lizards).

CSIR-NIIST scientists develop organic near-infrared filter that allows only near-infrared (NIR) light to pass through it.

Microsoft joins IIT Kharagpur to create 'deeper' search engine in a bid to take on Google Search. Bing is a web search engine owned and operated by Microsoft.

China unveils track-less train that runs on virtual rails at 70 kilometre per hour.

AWARDS AND HONOURS

53rd Jnanpith Award

Eminent Hindi Litterateur Krishna Sobti (92) was awarded the 53rd Jnanpith Award for the year 2017 for her path-breaking contribution to Indian literature. She will be overall eight women to win this prestigious award. She hails from Punjab.

Man Booker Prize 2017

- Awarded to US author George Saunders for his first full-length novel "Lincoln in the Bardo". The book chronicles the death of Abraham Lincoln's 11-year-old son Willie.
- The award, launched in 1969, was only open to writers from Commonwealth states until it began permitting authors from other English-speaking countries in 2014.
- Last year Paul Beatty became the first American to win the award for his novel "The Sellout".

Sakharov Prize

- **The democratic opposition and political prisoners in Venezuel**
- **World Food Prize - 2017**
- Recipient - Dr. Akinwumi Ayodeji Adesina, President of the African Development Bank Group for helping Africa get it right in agriculture and making it a key player of securing food for the world.
- The prize was founded by Norman E. Borlaug, a native of northeast Iowa who was awarded the 1970 Nobel Peace Prize for his life's work on feeding the world through the scientific advancements of the Green Revolution.

2017 Blue Planet Prize

- The world's most prestigious award for pioneers in environmental science was given to **Prof. Hans Joachim Schellnhuber from Germany**. He was awarded for establishing new field of science 'Earth System Analysis' and introducing most influential concepts including the notion of tipping elements in the climate system in Tokyo.
- Beside him, **Prof Gretchen C. Daily from US** also won the award for her work promoting practical conservation by revealing the value of nature.

Golden Peacock Award

- Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N **Chandrababu Naidu** has received the 'Golden Peacock Award' under the category - Global Leadership in Public Service and Economic Transformation - at a convention in London.

National Kalidas Award

- Recipient - Ram Gopal Bajaj (Renowned theatre director).
- It is an award instituted by the Madhya Pradesh government in the field of theatre.

Lata Mangeshkar Award

- Recipients - Alka Yagnik and Udit Narayan.
- Madhya Pradesh governments prestigious National Lata Mangeshkar Award will be honoured for their contribution in the field of music composition and singing).

Green Platinum Award

The **Govardhan Eco Village**, set up by the International Society for Krishna Consciousness (ISKCON) in Palghar district, has won the green platinum award, instituted by Indian Green Building Council (IGBC). Govardhan Eco Village is a farm community and retreat centre.

The 2nd British Asian Achievers Awards

Prominent NRI industrialist **Lord Swraj Paul** has been conferred with the Life Time Achievement Award here for his outstanding contributions in the fields of manufacturing industry, education and philanthropy .

Indian peacekeepers in Sudan awarded UN medal for their professionalism and service in protecting civilians and building durable peace in the conflict-ridden country.

Indira Gandhi Award for National Integration

Carnatic vocalist **T M Krishna** won 30th Indira Gandhi Award for National Integration for 2015 -16 for his services in promoting and preserving national integration in the country.

Pramod Mahajan Smriti Award

Veteran Bollywood actor Anupam Kher received Pramod Mahajan Smriti Award in Pune.

Jaipur and Srinagar Airport ranked first and second in ACI (Airports Council International)-ASQ (Airport Service Quality) Survey in the category of 2-5 million passengers.

Next Generation leader by Time magazine

- Time Magazine has included Delhi University student Gurmehar Kaur in its list of Next Generation Leaders for 2017.

Women's Creativity in Rural Life Award - Choti Kumari Singh from Bihar, for her work to uplift the Musahar community, considered one of the most downtrodden in the state's caste-ridden society. She won the Women's Creativity in Rural Life Award from the Switzerland-based Women's World Summit Foundation.

Hridaynath Mangeshkar Award - Veteran writer-lyricist Javed Akhtar

Petroleum Ministry conferred with Swachh Bharat Inter-Ministerial Award.

IIT Bombay top ranked Indian institute in QS Asia University Rankings.

BOOKS AND AUTHORS

- Dream nation: Uniting a Country with Handwritten Dreams: A Book on Kalam. The book contains inspiring words of Dr A.P.J. Abdul Kalam. The book was co-authored by Saji Mathew and Jubie John.
- Hema Malini's Biography: Beyond The Dream Girl. Written by Ram Kamal Mukherjee.
- Those Eventful days: Vidyasagar Rao (former i/c. Governor of TN).
- A Journey Towards Self-Reliance by Department of Defence Production, Government of India) - Released by Defence Minister Mrs. Nirmala Seetharaman.

PERSONS AND PLACES IN NEWS

- Y.G. Modi - National Investigation Agency's Director-General
- Neelamani N. Raju - Karnataka's first woman police chief, Director General and Inspector General of Police (DG and IGP).
- Vikram Singh - Appointed as Private Secretary to President.
- Suresh Sethi - MD and CEO of India Post Payments Bank (IPPB).
- Sunny Verghese - Appointed as new chairman of World Business Council for Sustainable Development [WBCSD]
- Jacinda Ardern (Labour Party) - New Zealand's next PM
- Sibi George - Next Ambassador of India to Switzerland
- Alok Verma - CBI Director
- Rakesh Asthana - Appointed CBI special director

- Shri Dineshwar Sharma - Appointed as Central Government's Representative in J&K
- Jayant Rikhye - HSBC CEO for India
- N.J.Gangte - Appointed High Commissioner of India to Zambia
- Ranjit Kumar, India's second-most senior law officer, has resigned from the the post of Solicitor General of India citing personal reasons.
- B C Khanduri committee - Parliamentary standing committee on defence.
- Arun Jaitley led panel - Public Sector Bank mergers
- 5-member committee formed to select editor-in-chief of Rajya Sabha Television (RSTV) - headed by Prasar Bharati Chairman A Surya Prakash.

OBITUARY

- Eminent classical singer Girija Devi passed away in Kolkata. Known as the "thumri queen", Girija Devi popularised the genre of semi-classical Indian music.
- Tamil writer Melanmai Ponnusamy. He was a Sahitya Akademi award winner. He won the award in 2008 for his short story collection, Minsara poo.

SPORTS

FIFA U-17 World Cup 2017

- England won 17th edition of FIFA U-17 World Cup by defeating Spain in the final match held at Kolkata, West Bengal.
- II runner-up - Brazil.

- 'Golden Ball' Award - Phil Foden of England (tournament's best player).
- 'Golden Shoe' Award - Rhian Brewster of England (most goals).
- 'Golden Glove' Award - Brazil's goalkeeper Gabriel Brazao.
- The official Mascot for FIFA U-17 World Cup 2017 - Clouded leopard named 'Kheleo'.

FIFA Award winners

- Cristiano Ronaldo - Best FIFA Men's Player
- Lieke Martens - Best FIFA Women's Player
- Celtic - FIFA Fans Award
- Sarina Wiegman - Best FIFA Women's Coach
- Zinedine Zidane - Best FIFA Male Coach
- Gigi Buffon - Best Goalkeeper
- Olivier Giroud - Puskas Award for best goal

Pro Kabaddi League

- Held at the Jawaharlal Nehru Indoor Stadium in Chennai
- 2017 - Season 5.
- Patna Pirates beat Gujarat Fortune giants to clinch its third straight title in the ProKabaddi league.

Badminton French Open Super Series title

- Men's single: Kidambi Srikanth wins French open final to collect his fourth Super Series title of the year. In the final match, he defeated Japan's Kenta Nishimoto. He clinched titles at Indonesia, Australia and Denmark earlier this year.
- Women's single: Won by Tai Tzu-ying from Chinese Taipei

Denmark Open

- Men's Singles - Kidambi Srikanth won by defeating Korea's Lee Hyun Il. This is his third Super Series title.
- **Women's singles:** Ratchanok Intanon (Thailand) won the title by defeating Akane Yamaguchi (Japan).

- **Men's Double:** Chinese pair of Liu Cheng and Zhang Nan won the title by defeating Indonesian pair of Marcus Fernaldi Gideon and Kevin Sanjaya Sukamuljo.
- **Women's doubles:** South Korean pair of Lee So-hee and Shin Seung-chan won the title by defeating Japanese pair of Shiho Tanaka and Koharu Yonemoto.
- **Mixed doubles:** Chinese pair of Zheng Siwei and Chen Qingchen won the title by defeating Hong Kong pair of Tang Chun Man and Tse Ying Suet.

Tianjin Open title

Maria Sharapova won her first title since May 2015, beating Aryna Sabalenka in the Tianjin Open final.

Shanghai Masters

Roger Federer wins over Rafael Nadal.

2017 Asia Cup hockey title

India won 2017 Asia Cup hockey title by defeating Malaysia in the final match held in Dhaka, Bangladesh. It was India's overall third Asia Cup title and earlier it had won it in 2003 and 2007

ATP World Tour: Vienna

Rohan Bopanna of India and Pablo Cuevas of Uruguay won the doubles title in the Erste Bank Open. They beat Marcelo Demoliner and Sam Querrey.

Sports - others:

1. Indian boxers win 8 medals in Balkan Open held at Sofia, Bulgaria. [4 golds, 1 silver and 3 bronze].
2. Johor Cup hockey: Indian junior team wins bronze medal defeating the host country Malaysia.
3. Gaganjeet Bhullar (Indian golfer) lifts Macao Open Trophy for the second time.

4. Lewis Hamilton (British racer) wins United States Grand Prix by defeating his rival Sebastian Vettel (German racer).
5. Jitu Rai and Heena Sidhu won gold in air pistol mixed team event - at the world championships held at New Delhi.
6. Manav Thakkar - First Indian to Top ITTF Junior Circuit Rankings.
7. National Games to be held next year (November 2018) in Goa.
8. Pakistan to host 2018 Asian Cricket Council Emerging Nations Cup.
9. Martina Hingis announces retirement from pro tennis.
10. Kavita Devi becomes first Indian woman wrestler to sign with WWE.
11. Mexican Grand Prix: Britain's Lewis Hamilton takes fourth title.