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COMPETITION

BOOSTER





Eco/Banking/RBI

ECONOMY

March 1 : Gross domestic product (GDP) for the third quarter (Q3) of financial year 2016-17 (FY17) grew at 7 per cent, allaying fears of any major effect of demonetisation though it was the lowest expansion in four quarters.

According to data released by CSO, Q3FY17 GDP growth was only slightly less than 7.4 per cent in the July-September period despite demonetisation. The growth of Q2 was revised upwards by 0.1 percentage point.

March 3 : Fruit juice player Manpasand Beverages tied up with IRCTCs e-catering service and betting big on Railways to expand its presence.

A total of 2002 such girders, structures that support small beams, were erected for the 30-km-long Noida -Greater Noida corridor which will have 21 stations.

March 4 : Dr Reddy's Laboratories announced that it has acquired 100 per cent stake in Imperial Credit Private Ltd, a Kolkata-based non-banking finance company.

The acquisition was for a consideration of Rs 2.05 crore.

March 4 : Company Nokia Technologies will partner with HMD Global to sell its smart health devices under the Withings brand by June in India.

Nokia Technologies acquired Withings in May 2016 for USD 191 million to launch its Digital Health business.

March 4 : Cognizant said it acquired Japanese digital IT firm Brilliant Service Co for an undisclosed amount, as it continues its buyout spree.

Brilliant Service, which was founded in 2004 and has about 70 employees, helps its customers build connected businesses by leveraging smart device solutions.

March 6 : Finance Ministry has agreed in-principle to allow public sector banks to offer

stock options to their employees from next financial year — a move aimed at retaining experienced hands with better incentives.

According to sources, Employee Stock Option plans (ESOPs) could be given by those banks which have not only earned substantial profit but also made remarkable improvement in managing NPAs.

March 7 : Global rating agency Fitch said Indian economy will grow by 7.1 per cent in the current financial year before stepping up to 7.7 per cent in the next two financial years.

The US-based agency, however, termed the 7 per cent GDP growth for the October-December quarter as surprising, a tad lower than 7.4 per cent in the previous quarter.

March 7 : Reliance Capital has sold its nearly 1 per cent stake in popular digital payments firm PayTm for Rs 275 crore to China's Alibaba Group.

The financial services arm of Reliance Group had invested Rs 10 crore for this stake in Paytm.

March 7 : Mobile manufacturing company OPPO became the new sponsor of the Indian cricket team, replacing broadcasting giants Star India.

March 9 : Technology giant Google has announced the acquisition of Kaggle, a start-up that hosts a number of data scientists, for an undisclosed amount at the Cloud Next 2017 conference.

Founded in 2010, Kaggle is home to the world's largest community of data scientists and machine-learning enthusiasts.

March 9 : France's GDF International plans to sell its entire 10 per cent stake, worth over Rs 2,900 crore, in Petronet LNG Ltd.

GDF, a unit of French energy giant Engie SA, has written to Petronet — India's biggest importer of liquefied natural gas — expressing its desire to exit the company.

It has offered the stake to Petronet's principal promoters — GAIL India Ltd, Oil and Natural Gas Corp (ONGC), Indian Oil Corp (IOC) and Bharat Petroleum Corp Ltd (BPCL).

The four promoter firms hold 12.5 per cent stake each in Petronet. Going by this proportion, they are each entitled to buy 2.5 per cent of GDF's stake.

March 10 : Tata Trusts has joined hands with Lockheed Martin and Department of Science and Technology (DST) for the second edition of India Innovation Growth Programme which focuses on providing support to startups in the country.

March 10 : Oil India Limited (OIL) has signed a MoU with the University of Houston (UH), with the intent of augmenting its reserves base and maximising recovery from its ageing oilfields.

The MoU was inked in the presence of Petroleum & Natural Gas Minister Dharmendra Pradhan.

March 16 : Jet Airways and app-based cab aggregator Uber have joined hands to provide first and last mile connectivity to air travellers.

The cab booking feature will be available to all passengers in the cities where Uber currently operates in India while booking their travel itinerary with the airline on the Jet Airways app.

March 16 : Reliance Communications said it has received approvals from markets regulator SEBI and the stock exchanges for proposed demerger of its wireless business into Aircel Ltd.

March 17 : European aviation major Airbus inked a land licence pact with Delhi International Airport Limited (DIAL) for setting up a training facility, including the country's first full flight simulator.

The land license agreement was signed between DIAL and Airbus India for a period till March 31, 2036. DIAL has received the initial security deposit and ADC and will also receive an annual license fee from this agreement.

March 17 : E-commerce major Snapdeal has partnered with Japan External Trade Organization (JETRO), to showcase popular Japanese SME products on the online marketplace.

Customers can now purchase JETRO products across various categories

including electronic devices, accessories, kitchenware and personal care directly from Snapdeal.

March 21 : Soft drink major PepsiCo has roped in Rio Olympic silver medalist PV Sindhu as brand ambassador for its sports drink Gatorade.

It also has plans to have Sindhu work with the Gatorade Sports Science Institute during the period of partnership to better understand her training and match-day nutrition.

March 22 : Samsung Electronics announced the launch of its flagship mobile payments service in the country.

Apart from allowing users to simply tap and pay on the go using their registered cards, the service, Samsung Pay, has integrated Paytm as well as the governments Unified Payments Interface (UPI) into the application.

March 24 : Financial services company Tata Capital launched a mobile app 'myLoan' to extend its personal loans offering to young and mobile savvy audience.

The app - myLoan is a social profile based personal loan mobile application.

March 25 : State Bank of India (SBI) said it plans to dilute 10 per cent of its stake in the life insurance venture SBI Life through public offer.

The Executive Committee of Central Board in its meeting accorded in-principle approval for initial public offer (IPO).

After this stake sale, SBI's stake in the arm came down to 70.1 per cent from 74 per cent while BNP Paribas Cardif still holds 26 per cent.

March 27 : HDFC Bank managing director Aditya Puri's name has featured in the list of worlds 30 best CEOs, published by American financial magazine Barrons.

According to the magazine, a 2014 trip to Silicon Valley made Puri a digital evangelist.

March 31 : India signed the first loan agreement with the New Development Bank for USD 350 million for development and upgradation of road project in Madhya Pradesh.

The project, which is to be implemented over 5 years, is expected to improve transport connectivity to the interior regions and resultant boost to economic activity in the rural hinterland.

BANK

March 2 : Banks, including HDFC Bank, ICICI Bank and Axis Bank, from March 1 started levying a minimum charge of Rs 150 per transaction for cash deposits and withdrawals beyond four free transactions in a month.

March 7 : India's largest lender SBI has secured over 2.75 lakh of its technology infrastructure endpoints in a tie-up with global cyber security services provider Trend Micro Incorporated.

It also secures 29,000 virtual machines of SBI as it is hugely investing on technology focused on digitisation, cloud and mobility and security tools integration.

March 8 : Country's largest lender State Bank of India launched a new facility to enable its employees to work from home.

The Board of the bank has recently approved the Work from Home policy to enable its employees to work while at home using mobile devices to address any urgent requirement they may have, that prevents their travelling to work.

March 8 : IDFC Bank officially launched its Aadhaar pay infrastructure meant for those without any mobile phone to carry out cashless transactions.

The bank aims to reach 50,000-75,000 merchant points to be connected to the Aadhaar pay module in the next two years.

March 10 : The Export Import Bank of India (Exim Bank) has approved USD 750 million loan to Nepal to finance its post-earthquake reconstruction projects.

The Reserve Bank of India said in a statement that the line of credit (LOC) to Nepal is effective from February 24, 2017.

March 15 : IndusInd Bank has entered into an agreement with Infrastructure Leasing and Financial

Services (IL&FS) to acquire 100 per cent stake of the latter's securities services subsidiary.

IndusInd will acquire 100 per cent stake in IL&FS Securities Services (ISSL).

March 22 : Bharatiya Mahila Bank (BMB) will be merged with the country's largest lender State Bank from April 1 to ensure greater banking outreach to women.

According to government gazette notification this (merger) shall come into effect on April 1, 2017.

March 23 : Public sector lender Bank of India (BOI) has sold its entire 5 per cent stake in credit information firm TransUnion CIBIL Ltd to TransUnion International Inc for Rs 190.62 crore.

Bank of India said in a regulatory filing that the Bank has sold its entire stake of 5 per cent (12, 50,000 shares) in TransUnion CIBIL Ltd to TransUnion International Inc (TUI).

The deal was concluded on March 22 at the rate of Rs 1,525 per equity share for a total consideration amount of Rs 190.62 crore.

March 29 : SBI Card launched the Unnati Credit Card to spread credit inclusion among masses. The card was launched by the Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Power, Coal, New and Renewable Energy and Mines Piyush Goyal at a programme in New Delhi.

March 29 : IndusInd Bank has extended its agreement with Lohia Auto Industries for financing their electric three wheelers under the e-rickshaw category. This is in addition to the financing of diesel vehicles which the bank already provides.

The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between IndusInd Bank and Lohia Auto Industries was signed on May 25, 2016 for diesel vehicles and has now been extended to the electronic 3-wheeler segment.

National & State News of the Month

March 3 : The Navy successfully test-fired an anti-ship missile for the first time from an indigenously built Kalvari class submarine.

The weapon was fired from the submarine, the first of India's six Scorpene-class submarines which are being built under the Project 75, and it "successfully hit" a surface target during the trial in the Arabian Sea.

March 3 : An indigenous weapon locating radar 'Swathi' was handed over to the army by state-run military weapons developer DRDO and it is likely to be deployed along the Line of Control in Jammu and Kashmir.

The DRDO also handed over a Nuclear, Biological and Chemical (NBC) recce vehicle and NBC drugs to the army.

March 3 : The Railways will launch an integrated mobile application for all travel-related services, including ticketing, hiring taxis and porters, in order to make a journey hassle-free.

March 3 : In its effort to make Namami Gange programme a mass movement with the involvement of more and more voluntary organisations, National Mission for Clean Ganga under Ministry of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation signed a MoU with Rotary India in New Delhi.

March 4 : President of India and Supreme Commander of Indian Armed Forces, Pranab Mukherjee awarded the Prestigious President's Standard and Colours to 125 Helicopter Squadron and Mechanical Training Institute (MTI) respectively, during a grand ceremonial parade held at Air Force Station Tambaram.

March 7 : Indian Navy's oldest warship INS Viraat retired after nearly six decades in service. Amid various proposals for the ship's future after retirement is to sink it and convert it into a major tourist attraction for divers, Navy Chief Sunil Lanba told NDTV .

March 7 : Amrita University has set up what it claimed was India's first start-up hub to focus

exclusively on cybersecurity.

The new 'Amrita University Cybersecurity Startup Hub' would enable to usher in a new era of innovation, research and startups in the field of cybersecurity, helping Amrita meet a critical national need.

March 10 : INS Tillanchang, a Water Jet Fast Attack Craft (WJFAC) was commissioned into the Indian Navy by Vice Admiral Girish Luthra, the Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief Western Naval Command, at Karwar.

March 10 : Parliament approved a bill granting women working in the organised sector paid maternity leave of 26 weeks, up from 12 weeks now, a decision which will benefit around 1.8 million women.

The law will apply to all establishments employing 10 or more people and the entitlement will be for the first two children. For the third child, the entitlement will be 12 weeks.

March 15 : Finance Minister Arun Jaitley was given the additional charge of the Defence Ministry after Manohar Parrikar resigned to take on the new role of Goa Chief Minister

March 16 : The government approved the National Health Policy which proposes to provide "assured health services to all" in the country.

March 17 : The National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) has partnered with Amazon India to drive digital literacy among women entrepreneurs in Nagaland.

The initiative will enable them to sell their products internationally, Skill Development and Entrepreneurship Minister Rajiv Pratap Rudy said in a written reply to the Rajya Sabha.

March 18 : The three days "International Buddhist Conference" organized by Ministry of Culture and Nava Nalanda Mahavihara, Deemed University was inaugurated by His Holiness The Dalai Lama and Dr. Mahesh Sharma, Minister of Culture and Tourism at Rajgir International Buddhist Conference, Bihar. N.K. Sinha, Secretary M/o Culture and Shri M.L. Shrivastava, Vice-Chancellor, Nava Nalanda Mahavihara Deemed University were present on the occasion.

March 22 : Prime Minister Narendra Modi will dedicate to the nation, India's longest road tunnel built on the Jammu-Srinagar National Highway, which will cut short the distance between Jammu and Srinagar by nearly 30 km.

March 23 : Prime Minister Narendra Modi will visit Sahibganj in Jharkhand on April 6 to lay the foundation stone for a Rs 1,955 crore bridge to be constructed over the Ganga.

March 23 : The Union Cabinet has approved the setting up of a National Commission for Socially and Educationally Backward Classes (NSEBC) as a constitutional body.

The Bill to provide constitutional status to the body will be introduced in Parliament.

March 25 : In a boost to India's maritime prowess, the Navy has successfully conducted the maiden trial firing of newly installed surface-to-air Barak missile system from its aircraft carrier INS Vikramaditya.

During the firing carried out in the Arabian Sea, the missile was fired against a live low flying high speed target.

March 23 : Three naval systems, developed by premier defence research organisation DRDO, was handed over to the navy by Defence Minister Arun Jaitley.

The naval systems, given to Indian Navy, are USHUS-II submarine sonar, directing gear for hull-mounted sonar array, and inertial navigation system for ship applications.

March 23 : Radha Mohan Singh, Union Minister of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, on 23 March 2017, launched a Coffee Table Book titled "50 Years – The Great Indian Milk Revolution."

March 27 : State-run Pawan Hans has joined hands with public sector chopper maker Hindustan Aeronautics (HAL) to train helicopter pilots. Pawan Hans is a joint venture where state-owned ONGC holds 49 per cent.

March 27 : Tanushree Pareek became the first woman combat officer to be commissioned in the 51-year history of the BSF, the country's largest border guarding force.

Pareek (25) also led the passing out parade of 67 trainee officers that was reviewed by

Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh at the Border Security Force camp.

March 28 : Information & Broadcasting Minister M Venkaiah Naidu launched the online film certification system, e-cinepramaan, with an aim to censor corruption and promote clean cinema.

March 29 : Indian Navy's latest surveillance ship, INLCU L51 was commissioned and it will be part of the fleet deployed to check poaching, illegal fishing, drug trafficking and other unlawful activities in the Indian Ocean region.

It is the first of the eight ships of the LCU Mk IV Class and has been built by M/s Garden Reach Ship Builders & Engineers Ltd, Kolkata.

March 31 : Telecom gear maker Ericsson has signed an agreement with IIT Delhi to jointly work on a programme for 5G technology development in India.

Ericsson and the Indian Institute of Technology Delhi (IIT Delhi) have signed a memorandum of understanding to jointly roll out a 5G for India programme.

STATE

March 1 : India's first dedicated heliport built at a cost of Rs 100 crore for flying in and out of Delhi to nearby areas in choppers became operational.

Civil Aviation Minister Ashok Gajapathi Raju inaugurated the state-of-the-art heliport at Rohini in north Delhi, saying this is the first such integrated facility in South Asia.

March 4 : Taxi-hailing app Ola has signed an agreement with the Madhya Pradesh government to impart training to about 25,000 people.

March 6 : The tallest national flag in the country measuring 360 feet was hoisted at the Attari-Wagah joint checkpost in Punjab. Earlier, the record was held by the one in Ranchi which is 293 feet high. The new flag can be seen from Lahore in Pakistan.

March 8 : Tata Trusts said it has signed an agreement with Tripura government to address iron and iodine deficiencies prevalent amongst the local population in the state.

In Tripura 48.3 per cent of children, 54.5 per cent women and 24.7 per cent of men are diagnosed anemic.

March 15 : Manohar Parrikar has been appointed the chief minister of Goa by the state's Governor, Mridula Sinha. Parrikar will step down from the post of Defence Minister.

After garnering support from independent candidates and small parties, the BJP now claims the support of a total of 22 MLAs in Goa.

March 16 : BJP leader N. Biren Singh was sworn in as the Chief Minister of Manipur.

Governor Najma Heptulla administered the oath of office and secrecy to Singh at Raj Bhavan in state capital, Imphal.

March 16 : Amarinder Singh was sworn-in as the Chief Minister of Punjab.

This is the second time that Amarinder, 75, has become Chief Minister of the state. He was earlier in office from 2002 to 2007.

March 18 : Airbus is setting up a Greenfield training facility at Aerocity, New Delhi, to support India's growing need for Airbus aircraft pilots and maintenance engineers. The ground-breaking for the Airbus India Training Centre was performed by P. Ashok Gajapathi Raju, Minister of Civil Aviation and Tom Enders, CEO, Airbus in the presence of Jayant Sinha, Minister of State for Civil Aviation.

March 18 : BJP leader Trivendra Singh Rawat was sworn in as Uttarakhand Chief Minister.

Governor K K Paul administered the oath of office and secrecy to 56-year-old Rawat, a former RSS pracharak, and nine ministers at a ceremony attended by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, BJP chief Amit Shah and other national and state party leaders.

March 23 : The Bihar government launched an ambitious programme to provide free Wi-Fi facilities in colleges and universities.

The objective is to provide free Wi-Fi facility to help youths to move ahead in life and to become digital smart.

March 24 : Assam Government launched Sustainable Action for Climate Resilient Development (SaCRd) Initiative to develop Majuli, the world's largest river island, as the country's first carbon neutral district.

March 28 : Odisha became the first state in the country to carry financial inclusion and extend banking services to unbanked areas through Self Help Groups (SHGs).

The state government signed an agreement with State Bank of India in this regard.

March 29 : Airports Authority of India, Defense Research and Development Organization (DRDO) and Govt. of Jharkhand signed a tripartite MoU for development of Deoghar Airport in Deoghar district of Jharkhand. The existing Deoghar Airport will be developed for operations of A-320 and C-130 Aircraft. Signing of MoU took place in a ceremony held at the CM Residence.



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तो देखें डिजीटल क्लास

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International News of the Month

March 1 : In an effort to build bilateral military-to-military relations and skills, a 14-day joint defence exercise Al-Nagah-II between the armies of India and Oman will begin in Himachal Pradesh from March 6.

March 1 : South Korea and the United States kicked off their annual, massive military exercise, 'Key Resolve and Foal Eagle'.

Participation in the joint exercises -- known as 'Key Resolve and Foal Eagle' is similar to last year.

March 2 : Sudanese President Omar al-Bashir has appointed a top aide as prime minister, reinstating a post he had abolished after coming to power in a 1989 coup.

March 4 : Iran successfully test-fired a sophisticated Russian-made air defense system.

The report said the test of the S-300 system came during a recent military exercise named Damvand, the name of Iran's highest mountain.

It said the test targeted various flying objects including missiles. With a range of up to 200 kilometers (125 miles) the S-300 is capable of simultaneously tracking and striking multiple targets.

March 7 : The Centre approved a memorandum of understanding (MoU) on renewable energy signed with Portugal. The Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi has given its ex-post facto approval for signing of a MoU on Renewable Energy between India and Portugal. The MoU was signed on January 6, 2017 in New Delhi. The MoU will help strengthen bilateral cooperation between the countries.

March 7 : China will develop a new generation of rockets that can be launched into space from an aircraft.

Air-launched rockets can rapidly replace dysfunctional satellites or, in cases of disaster relief, quickly send up Earth observation satellites to assist in the effort, Li Tongyu, the head of carrier rocket development at the China Academy of Launch Vehicle Technology.

March 9 : President Bidya Devi Bhandari inaugurated a spiritual learning centre in Nepal and said it

would play a vital role in promoting religious harmony and tourism in the country.

March 10 : Iran's Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) have successfully test-fired a domestically built Hormuz-2 ballistic missile.

However, this missile is capable of engaging targets at a distance of up to 300 kilometers.

March 15 : Seema Verma has been confirmed by the US Senate for a top health care position in the Trump administration, becoming the second Indian-American in the new government to be approved by the upper chamber of the US Congress.

A health policy consultant, she is known as the architect of health care reforms in several states, including Indiana.

March 16 : An agreement between India and Namibia on capacity building of officials was cleared by the Union Cabinet.

The memorandum of understanding will be signed between Lal Bahadur Shastri National Academy of Administration, Mussoorie and Namibia Institute of Public Administration and Management in the field of capacity building of public officials of Namibia and other training activities for the benefit of both the institutes.

March 16 : The government approved signing of an agreement with Bangladesh for greater cooperation with regard to marine aids to navigation that includes advice on lighthouses and beacons besides vessel traffic service.

March 17 : Pakistan Navy said it conducted a successful test of a land-based anti-ship missile, bolstering the operational reach of the country's navy to launch long-range, anti-ship missiles from land.

The missile is equipped with advanced technology and avionics, which enable engagement of targets at sea with a high degree of accuracy

March 17 : A railway research centre in Australia has entered into an agreement with the Indian Railways to support future research and technology development related to critical infrastructure in India.

Representatives from Monash University Institute of Railway Technology (IRT) and Dedicated Freight Corridor Corporation of India Limited (DFCCIL) run by the Ministry of Railways signed an agreement in New Delhi.

March 18 : India and Russia signed two key agreements for long-term maintenance and technical support for Russian-made Su-30MKI fighter jets of the Indian Air Force.

The pacts were signed between India's Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) and the two Russian companies in presence of Defence Minister Arun Jaitley and Russia's Industry and Trade Minister Denis Manturov.

March 23 : The Union Cabinet, presided by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, was apprised of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed between the Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-In) and the US Homeland Security Department on cooperation in the field of Cyber Security.

March 24 : The World Bank signed a USD 100 million credit agreement with the Centre and Uttarakhand to improve quality of healthcare services in all 13 districts of the state.

March 24 : A state-owned Chinese construction giant sealed a deal to build a Aus\$6 billion (US\$4.6 billion) mining infrastructure project to tap into resource-rich northwestern Australia.

Sydney-based BBI Group (BBIG) said the agreement with the China State Construction Engineering Corporation (CSCEC) to develop the mine, port and rail project would create a new gateway to the Pilbara region for iron ore exporters.

March 25 : The United Nations came out with a commemorative work marking 70 years of India's relationship with the global body.

The book 'Seven Decades and Beyond: The UN-India Connect' traces the journeys of India and the UN "as they have informed and enriched each other over the past seven decades .

March 27 : China-backed bureaucrat Carrie Lam was elected as Hong Kong's first woman Chief Executive who quickly pledged to heal the "divisions" in the gleaming territory which has seen unprecedented demands for

democracy and protests at the Communist giants growing influence.

March 28 : Pakistan and South Africa signed the first MoU to strengthen defence ties, especially defence industrial production and exchange of military information and training of armed forces.

The Memorandum of Understanding on 'Defence and Defence Industrial Cooperation' was signed in Islamabad during the visit of South African Defence Minister Nosiviwe Mapisa-Naekula.

March 28 : Sima Kamil, a veteran banker was appointed President and CEO of the United Bank Limited (UBL), becoming the first woman to lead a major Pakistani bank in the conservative Muslim nation. The United Bank Limited is one of the big five commercial banks in Pakistan.

March 28 : Reliance Group Chairman Anil Ambani has been inducted on the international advisory board of global think-tank Atlantic Council that has among its members former US National Security Advisor Zbigniew K. Brzezinski and former Australian Prime Minister Kevin Rudd .

March 29 : IT major TCS partnered with Discovery Education, a digital education content provider, to launch an initiative to transform US education by embedding computational thinking and problem solving into core school subjects.

More than 3,000 TCS employees will be involved as mentors and support the building of local coalitions in each city.

March 31 : India has become part of IEA Association that will allow the country play a more "visible and influential" role in the global energy landscape.

The "Activation of Association" is expected to serve as a bridge and platform for wider-ranging and deeper co-operation and collaboration between IEA member and Association countries in the future.

March 31 : India and South Korea agreed to deepen cooperation among their small and medium enterprises through technology transfer, joint ventures, business alliances and facilitation of mutual market access.

Both countries also emphasized on providing support to each other's startups in accordance with their schemes and programmes.



Sports News of the Month

March 1 : India will host the World Women's Youth Boxing Championship in November this year the first major international event to be held in the country since 2010.

In 2010, India had hosted the Commonwealth Championships followed by the Commonwealth Games.

March 1 : The All India Football Federation (AIFF) appointed Luis Norton de Matos as the head coach of the Indian squad for the upcoming FIFA U-17 World Cup.

March 1 : India won its first gold medal at the ISSF World Cup in New Delhi after pistol shooter Jitu Rai clinched the top position in the 50m men's air pistol event. This was his second medal after he won the bronze medal in the 10m pistol event.

March 2 : Indian captain Virat Kohli was nominated for the prestigious Polly Umrigar award presented to the International Cricketer of the Year while all-rounder Ravichandran Ashwin will be receiving the Dilip Sardesai award for Best Performance in Bilateral Series. For Kohli, this will be the third time that he will be conferred with this award after 2011-12 and 2014-15 season.

March 2 : West Indies batsman Dwayne Smith, who made his last appearance for the national side at the 2015 World Cup, has announced his retirement from international cricket with immediate effect.

According to the ESPN cricinfo report the 33-year-old's decision came ahead of the Pakistan Super League (PSL) qualifying final match between Islamabad United and Karachi Kings in which he is representing the former side.

March 4 : In a first for shooting sport, India's Angad Veer Singh Bajwa teamed up with Haley Dunn of the USA to claim the Grand Prix bronze medal in mixed team skeet event of the ISSF World Cup.

March 6 : Unseeded American Sam Querrey stunned second-seeded Rafael Nadal 6-3, 7-6 (7/3) to win the ATP Mexico Open and end the Spaniard's run of perfection in Acapulco.

Querrey, ranked 40th in the world, fired 19 aces en route to his first career victory over Nadal in five meetings. The Spaniard, winner in Acapulco in 2005 and 2013, had never even lost a set in Acapulco.

March 8 : India's Ravichandran Ashwin and Ravindra Jadeja have become the first pair of spinners to be jointly top-ranked in the ICC Player Rankings for Test Bowlers.

Jadeja caught up with his Ashwin in the ranking released after India defeated Australia by 75 runs in the second Test in Bengaluru.

March 15 : Double Olympic gold medallist Joanna Rowsell Shand announced her retirement from international cycling.

Shand had won the women's team pursuit at four editions of the World Championships (2008, 2009, 2012 and 2014). She grabbed the gold medal in the same discipline at the Olympic Games in London and Rio in 2012 and 2016.

March 15 : SSP chawrasia golf Hero open Shiv Shankar Prasad Chawrasia became the only second Indian golfer to successfully defend the Hero Indian Open golf title.

He achieved this feat on 12 March 2017 by clinching a seven-stroke win at the redesigned DLF golf and country club in Gurugram, Haryana.

March 15 : Shashank Manohar has resigned as ICC Chairman with immediate effect and leaves vacant the top position in world cricket. Manohar has stepped down from his post just eight months in charge.

March 15 : Continuing the professional boxing boom in India, the first ever Pro Boxing India Championship will be held in association with the Asian Boxing Council later this year.

A total of 48 boxers will be seen participating in the inaugural edition of PBIC wherein there would be a total of 32 male pugilists and 16 female pugilists.

March 16 : Union Minister Babul Supriyo has been appointed vice-president of the FIFA U-17 World Cup organizing committee.

March 23 : Veteran pistol shooters Pemba Tamang of the Army and Samaresh Jung of the CISF won gold and bronze respectively in men's 25m centre fire pistol event at the Sardar Sajjan Singh Sethi Memorial Masters Shooting competition.

March 23 : Extending his good form, Ankur Mittal clinched the gold medal at the ISSF Shotgun World Cup in the double trap event, pipping his Australian rival James Willet in the final in a world record equalling effort. Mittal had settled for a silver at the recent International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF) World Cup in New Delhi, where Willet had won the gold.

March 24 : Meghalaya will be hosting the National Games 2022 coinciding with the 50th year of the creation of the state, sports and youth affairs minister Zenith M Sangma informed the assembly.

March 27 : West Bengal lifted the Santosh Trophy for the 32nd time after Manvir Singh struck in the 119th minute for a 1-0 win over Goa, extending their domination in the premier domestic football tournament.

March 27 : Ravindra Jadeja became the 10th Indian player to accomplish the all-round double of 1000 runs and 100 wickets in Test cricket. Before him, nine other Indians had achieved this feat with Vinoo Mankad being the first.

March 27 : Ferrari's Sebastian Vettel stormed to victory ahead of the UK's Lewis Hamilton and Finland's Valtteri Bottas at the Australian Grand Prix, giving the Italian team a second victory in 18 months.

March 27 : Australia's Shaun Tait, one of the world's fastest bowlers in his prime, has called time on his injury-ridden career.

Tait, last played for Australia in January 2016.

March 27 : The International Hockey Federation and Government of Odisha officially confirmed that the Men's World League Final 2017 and Men's World Cup 2018 will be held in Bhubaneswar.

The Kalinga Stadium will host the two of hockey's biggest events, where World League and World Cup champions will be crowned.

March 28 : India defeated Australia by eight wickets in the fourth and final Test at the Himachal Pradesh Cricket Association (HPCA) Stadium to clinched the four-match series 2-1 to regain the Border-Gavaskar Trophy.

Lokesh Rahul hit a half-century and guided the hosts to victory along with stand-in captain Ajinkya Rahane after the early departure of Murali Vijay and Cheteshwar Pujara.

March 28 : The Indian cricket team retained the International Cricket Council (ICC) Test Championship mace and also won a cash award of \$1 million for ensuring the top position in the Test Team rankings on the annual April 1 cut-off date.

The ICC Test Championship mace is awarded to teams that reach the number-one spot in the ICC Test Team Rankings.

The side to finish second will get \$500,000 while the side finishing third will receive \$200,000. The fourth-placed team, which is England, will get \$100,000.



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Science & Miscellaneous News of the Month

SCIENCE

March 1 : India successfully test-fired its indigenously developed supersonic interceptor missile capable of destroying any incoming enemy ballistic missile at low altitude.

This the second time that the missile has been test-fired in less than a month and is part of an effort to put in place a multi-layer missile defence system.

March 3 : Scientists, including one of Indian origin, have created one of the highest-resolution 3D maps of dark matter ever, offering detailed evidence for the existence of the elusive particles believed to make up about 80 per cent of the universe.

The dark matter map is derived from Hubble Space Telescope Frontier Fields data of a trio of galaxy clusters that act as cosmic magnifying glasses to peer into older, more distant parts of the universe, a phenomenon known as gravitational lensing.

March 6 : An upcoming space telescope - the most powerful probe ever built - may help find if any of the seven newly discovered planets around the TRAPPIST-1 star can host life, NASA scientists say.

March 11 : Radha Mohan Singh, Union Agriculture and Farmer's Welfare Minister, on 11 March 2017 laid the foundation stone of the Banana Research Centre at Gorole, Vaishali, Bihar.

The Banana Research Centre is established to fulfil the aspirations of the banana growers of Vaishali.

March 17 : Japan has launched a surveillance satellite 'IGS Radar-5' aboard an H-2A rocket.

These types of satellites are designed to capture images from several hundred kilometres above the earth and are used to monitor the areas where North Korea conducts its ballistic

March 24 : In a key advance for safely navigating future human exploration of the solar system, NASA said it is set to send its next-generation atomic clock to space in late 2017. This clock will be smaller, lighter and magnitudes more precise than any atomic clock flown in space before.

March 27 : Scientists have identified a crater on Mars, possibly created by an asteroid that triggered 150 metre-high tsunami waves when it plunged into an ocean on the red planet three billion years ago.

The researchers have identified what they think is the best candidate for the impact crater, a 120km-wide bowl called Lomonosov. The feature is extremely degraded today, with a collapsed crater rim.

March 27 : NASA is planning to launch a balloon-based observatory that will measure emissions from the interstellar medium - the cosmic material found between stars.

The data from the mission will help scientists determine the life cycle of interstellar gas in our Milky Way galaxy, witness the formation and destruction of star-forming clouds, and understand the dynamics and gas flow in the vicinity of the centre of our galaxy.

March 31 : SpaceX has launched its first recycled rocket, the biggest leap yet in its bid to drive down costs and speed up flights.

The Falcon 9 blasted off from Florida's Kennedy Space Center, hoisting a broadcasting satellite into the early evening clear sky on the historic rocket reflight. It was the first time SpaceX founder Elon Musk tried to fly a booster that soared before on an orbital mission.

MISCELLANEOUS

March 1 : According to survey Delhi slips two places to rank ninth while Thiruvananthapuram retains its number one position in the annual city governance ranking, which evaluated 21 major cities from the country's 18 states.

The Annual Survey of India's City-System (ASICS) was undertaken by not-for-profit institution Janaagraha Centre for Citizenship and Democracy (JCCD).

March 1 : "Lipstick Under My Burkha", which was denied a release certificate by the censor board, has won the audience award at the Glasgow Film Festival.

March 3 : Delhi Metro has made it to the Limca Book of Records for erecting 200 girders in one of its upcoming lines within a month.

The feat has been achieved on the Noida - Greater Noida corridor.

March 4 : India will have the largest Muslim population in the world by 2050, American think tank Pew Research Centre has predicted in its latest report. The research estimated that India will have more than 300 million Muslims by 2050, while continuing to remain a majority-Hindu country.

March 6 : Chandigarh will be hosting a three-day long Destination North East 2017 event, aimed at showcasing North East as a potential destination for investment.

The event is being organised by the Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region (DoNER), government of India and an industry body PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

March 6 : A book chronicling digital progress in Madhya Pradesh, penned by Bhopal-based journalist and author Sarman Nagele, has been released in Japan.

Digital Madhya Pradesh, written in Hindi, was released by Asian Productivity Organisation Secretary General Santhi Kanoktanaporn recently.

March 7 : Chinese smartphone maker OnePlus has roped in Bollywood veteran Amitabh Bachchan as its new brand ambassador for India.

March 8 : A two-week-long Indo-Nepal joint military exercise 'Surya Kiran' began at Pithoragarh in Uttarakhand with an aim to enhance anti-terror cooperation.

Christened 'Surya Kiran', it is eleventh such joint exercise between armies of the two countries in boosting counter insurgency operations in mountainous terrain.

March 8 : IISc (Indian Institute of Science) Bangalore has been ranked eighth in the Times Higher Education or the Rankings for the year 2017, making it a proud moment for the Indian education sector. This is for the first time, an Indian university has featured in the list of top 10 universities of the world.

The list of 'Best Small Universities in the World 2017' was released recently. Small universities are those with fewer than 5,000 students.

March 8 : According to the Hurun Global Rich List the India. Mukesh Ambani, chairman of Reliance Industries Ltd, is the richest Indian billionaire with a fortune of Rs175,400 crore (\$26 billion).

Ambani topped the list of 132 individuals in India while globally he is at rank 28.

March 8 : The two-day International Yoga festival is scheduled to begin in New Delhi on 8 March 2017.

The festival is expected to witness participation from more than 3500 participants including well-known yoga gurus, masters, scholars, policy makers and representatives from over 15-18 countries from across the world.

March 16 : Shreya Ghoshal has become the first Indian singer to make it to Madame Tussauds, with her wax figure set to be showcased at the upcoming Delhi wing of the museum.

Ghoshal's statue will be seen striking a singing pose.

March 16 : The 105th session of Indian Science Congress, a gathering of scientific luminaries from countries across the world, will be held at the city-based Osmania University (OU) from January 3 to 7 next year.

March 16 : Hyderabad has been ranked as the top Indian city in the quality of living ranking, for the third year in a row, as per Mercer's Quality of Living rankings 2017. For the second year in a row, according to the study, New Delhi continues to be ranked lowest, with scores remaining constant.

March 17 : India has fared moderately in a global ranking of countries as per the percentage of women appointed in ministerial positions, but was at a bleak position in another list on number of women parliamentarians.

The Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) and UN Women launched the 'Women in Politics 2017 Map', a visual representation of women's political empowerment on the sidelines of the ongoing session of the Commission on the Status of Women here.

India ranked 88th out of 186 countries in the list with of 18.5 per cent of women appointed in ministerial positions as of January 1, 2017. Countries like Rwanda, Kenya, Mozambique and South Sudan fared better than India in the ranking.

March 18 : Five Indians have made it to the World Economic Forum's (WEF) 100 Young Global Leaders list 2017.

The individuals who represented India in the list include Paytm Founder and CEO

Vijay Shekhar Sharma, Shruti Shibulal of The Tamara Hospitality, Blippar Founder and CEO Ambarish Mitra, Hindol Sengupta, Editor at large Fortune India and Rwitwika Bhattacharya — Agarwal Founder and CEO Swaniti Initiative.

March 18 : NRI businessmen Hinduja have retained their position as the richest Asians in the UK in 2017 with an estimated wealth of 19 billion pounds, an increase of 2.5 billion pounds over last year, according to an annual ranking of the richest Asians in Britain.

Steel tycoon Lakshmi N Mittals secured the second place with a fortune of 12.6 billion pounds - up from 6.4 billion pounds last year - in the Eastern Eye Asian Rich List, Britains 101 Wealthiest Asians 2017.

March 21 : Microsoft co-founder Bill Gates once again topped the Forbes magazine list of the world's richest billionaires, while US President Donald Trump slipped more than 200 spots to rank 544th.

Gates, whose wealth is estimated at \$86 billion, led the list for the fourth straight year.

March 21 : India ranked a lowly 122 on a list of the world's happiest countries, dropping four slots from last year and coming behind China, Pakistan and Nepal. Norway ranks as the happiest country in the world, according to The World Happiness Report 2017, which ranks 155 countries by their happiness levels.

March 22 : India has ranked a lowly 131 among the 188 countries surveyed for human development, a new UN report has said, bracketing the third-largest Asian economy alongside its South Asian neighbours like Pakistan, Bhutan and Nepal.

India's Human Development Index rank in 2014 was also 131.

March 23 : According to the global energy architecture performance index released by Geneva-based World Economic Forum (WEF), India has marginally improved its position to 87th place in this list.

Switzerland has topped this list and was followed by Norway, Sweden, Denmark and France in the top five. India's rank improved three places from 90th last year.

March 24 : SBI chief Arundhati Bhattacharya and Indian-origin physician Raj Panjabi have been named by Fortune magazine among

the world's 50 greatest leaders who are transforming the world and inspiring others to do the same.

Bhattacharya, Chairman of India's largest bank and the first-ever woman to do so, has been ranked 26th on the list while Panjabi, founder and CEO of Last Mile Health, follows closely on the 28th spot.

March 24 : Four Indian destinations including Goa and New Delhi, have featured in the top 25 Asia list of TripAdvisor's Travellers Choice awards.

According to the Travellers Choice Awards Asia list, India takes the second spot in the Asia list with four winning destinations. Thailand leads with five wins. The four Indian cities that featured in the top 25 list in Asia are Goa (11), New Delhi (13), Jaipur (18) in Rajasthan and Agra (19) in Uttar Pradesh.

March 24 : The Union Government on 22 March 2017 informed that five Indian cities were included in the Tentative List of UNESCO World Heritage Sites.

The information was given by the Union Minister of State for Culture and Tourism (Independent Charge) Dr Mahesh Sharma in a written reply in the Rajya Sabha.

March 25 : Coal India, ONGC and Indian Oil Corporation emerged as star financial performers among India's central public sector enterprises in 2015-16, whereas SAIL, BSNL and Air India incurred most losses, a government survey has showed.

The Public Enterprises Survey, tracking the performance of CPSEs in 2015-16, revealed that the top three loss-making CPSEs -- SAIL, BSNL and Air India -- incurred a loss equal to 51.65 per cent of the total loss made by the top 10 loss-making CPSEs in 2015-16.

March 27 : India has become the third largest aviation market in terms of domestic passenger traffic, beating Japan.

India's domestic air passenger traffic stood at 100 million in 2016 and was behind only the US (719 million) and China (436 million), Sydney-based aviation think-tank Centre for Asia Pacific Aviation (CAPA) .

March 31 : Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar released a book 'Deterioration of higher education' in Patna.

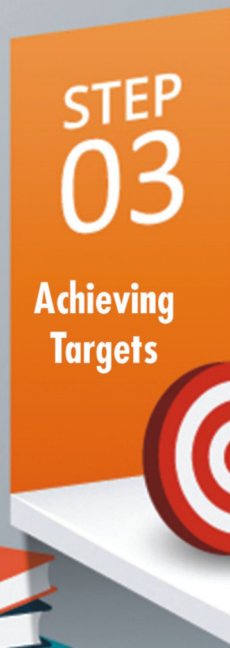
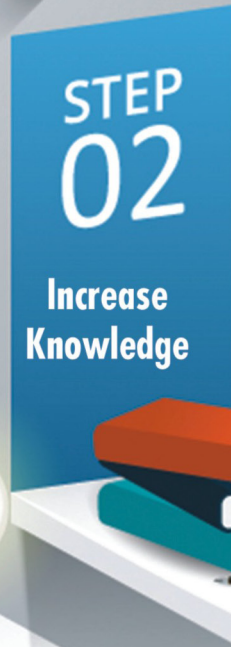


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Appointments of the Month

Roberto Azevedo : World Trade Organization (WTO) members agreed by consensus to appoint Roberto Azevedo for a second four-year term as Director-General at a meeting of the General Council.

Sanjiv Singh : Sanjiv Singh has been appointed Chairman of the Indian Oil Corporation Ltd (IOCL), the country's largest commercial enterprise.

The Appointments Committee of Cabinet approved his appointment to the post for a period of five years.

Nand Kumar Sai : Senior tribal leader from Chhattisgarh and ex parliamentarian Shri Nand Kumar Sai assumed charge as the chairman of National Commission for Scheduled Tribes (NCST) in New Delhi.

D R Doley Barman :

Senior police officer D R Doley Barman was appointed as Director of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel National Police Academy, Hyderabad.

The academy is a premier training institute for police officers.

She has been appointed in place of Aruna M Bahuguna.

N K Sinha : Culture Secretary N K Sinha was given additional charge of the post of Secretary, Ministry of Tourism.

The competent authority has approved the assignment of additional charge to Sinha, a 1980 batch IAS officer of Bihar cadre, with immediate effect.

P K Purwar : P K Purwar was appointed as Chairman and Managing Director of state-run telecom major Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL).

JS Deepak : Telecom Secretary J S Deepak has been named as India's next

Ambassador to the World Trade Organisation (WTO) from June this year 2017.

A 1982 batch IAS officer from Uttar Pradesh, Deepak, who is at present attending the World Mobile Congress at Barcelona, has been shifted with "immediate effect" from the telecom ministry and has been made Officer on Special Duty in the commerce department.

Amjad Hussain B Sial :

Pakistan's senior diplomat Amjad Hussain B Sial assumed office as the new Secretary General of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC).

Sial has assumed charge of the office of Secretary General of SAARC from March 1, 2017.

Rakesh Kumar Singh Bhadauria :

Air Marshal Rakesh Kumar Singh Bhadauria assumed charge as Air Officer Commanding-in-chief of the Southern Air Command.

Soma Mondal : State-run Steel Authority of India (SAIL) said Soma Mondal has taken over as its Director Commercial.

Prior to this, Mondal was Director (Commercial) at NALCO, Bhubaneswar.

Manjeev Singh Puri :

Manjeev Singh Puri, India's Ambassador to the European Union, Belgium and Luxembourg, is set to be the country's envoy to Nepal.

According to the sources at the Indian Embassy here said that Puri's name has been proposed with the term of Ranjit Rae coming to an end.

Sudhin Mathur : Sudhin Mathur has been named as Managing Director of Motorola Mobility India and has been inducted as a full-time director on the company's Board.

T Jacob : Senior IAS officer T Jacob has been appointed as Secretary, Union Public Service Commission (UPSC).

He will hold the rank of an Additional Secretary in the Government of India.

Ajit Pai : US President Donald Trump has nominated Indian-American Ajit Pai to serve another term at the powerful Federal Communications Commission.

Pradeep Nair : Pradeep Nair, a seasoned public and private sector leader, will be the Ford Foundation's regional director for its recently registered branch office in New Delhi serving India, Nepal, and Sri Lanka.

P K Pujari : Power Secretary Pradeep Kumar Pujari has been given additional charge of the post of Secretary, Department of Telecommunications (DoT).

Pujari is a 1981 batch IAS officer of Gujarat cadre. Deepak, a 1982 batch IAS officer from Uttar Pradesh cadre, was on March 1, shifted from the Telecom Ministry and made Officer on Special Duty in the Commerce department.

Rajendra Menon : Justice Rajendra Menon was sworn in as the Chief Justice of the Patna High Court by Bihar Governor Ramnath Kovind at a function here in Raj Bhawan.

Justice Menon would retire on June 7, 2019.

Tulsi Gabbard : Tulsi Gabbard, the first Hindu lawmaker in the US Congress, elected as the co-chair of the Congressional Caucus on India and Indian-Americans, has vowed to work for furthering Indo-US relations.

Jwala Gutta : India's most successful doubles specialist Jwala Gutta has been appointed a member of the governing body of Sports Authority of India (SAI).

The two-time Olympian Jwala, has won the bronze medal at the 2011 World Championship.

Bibhu Prasad Kanungo :

Odisha's Bibhu Prasad Kanungo was on 14 March 2017 appointed as Deputy Governor of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) with effect from April 2017.

Rajendra Menon : Justice Rajendra Menon was sworn in as the Chief Justice of the Patna High Court by Bihar Governor Ramnath Kovind at a function in Raj Bhawan.

Chief Minister Nitish Kumar, his Deputy Tejashwi Prasad Yadav and others were present on the occasion.

Karun Sreerama : Indian-American engineer Karun Sreerama has been named to head Houston's Department of Public Works and Engineering by the city's Mayor Sylvester Turner.

53-year-old Sreerama, a consistent local political donor, would replace retiring director Dale Rudick as chief of Houston's USD 2 billion and 4,000-plus-employee operation.

Mahesh Kumar Jain :

IDBI Bank has appointed Mahesh Kumar Jain as its new Managing Director & Chief Executive Officer.

Jain will head IDBI Bank for the remaining period of his current tenure or until further orders, whichever is earlier.

Ankur Khanna : The International Cricket Council (ICC) announced the appointment of Ankur Khanna to the post of Chief Financial Officer (CFO).

Tehmina Janjua : Tehmina Janjua assumed charge as Pakistan's new foreign secretary, becoming the first woman in the history of the country to assume the position.

Janjua replaced Aizaz Chaudhry, a career diplomat who has taken up

charge as Pakistan's new ambassador to the United States. She was long considered a favourite for the position.

Jason Kothari : E-commerce firm Snapdeal today announced the appointment of Jason as the Chief Executive Officer of its digital payment platform FreeCharge and a commitment to invest an additional USD 20 million in the company.

Jason is a strong, strategic and versatile business leader and entrepreneur, who has already been the CEO of two successful companies.

Amul Thapar : An Indian-American legal luminary Amul Thapar has been nominated by US President Donald Trump to a key judicial position on the powerful US court of appeals.

Amul Thapar, 47, who in 2007 became the first South Asian Article III judge when he was appointed as a US District Judge for the Eastern District of Kentucky, is the first Indian-American to be nominated by Trump for a top judicial post.

Upendra Tripathy :

Former New and Renewable Energy Secretary Upendra Tripathy has been appointed as the full-time interim Director General of International Solar Alliance.

Tripathy was secretary Ministry of New and Renewable Energy from April 1, 2014 until October 31, 2016.

Hardeep Singh Puri :

India's former Ambassador to the UN, Hardeep Singh Puri has been appointed as the chairman of a city-based autonomous think-tank that works under the Ministry of External Affairs.

Hardeep Singh Puri (65), a 1974-batch Indian Foreign Service

officer, is expected to take up the assignment at the Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS) shortly.

Madhabi Puri Buch :

Madhabi Puri Buch has been appointed as new whole time member of SEBI.

She is founder-director of Agora Advisory Pvt Ltd and currently at the New Development Bank in Shanghai, China.

Maninder Singh : Diversified financial services major Religare Enterprises (REL) has elevated Maninder Singh as the group chief executive officer (CEO). He has replaced interim Group CEO Nalin Nayyar.

Rajesh Mandawewala :

Textile firm Welspun India has re-appointed Rajesh Mandawewala as the managing director for five years.

Mandawewala, whose term is going to end on March 31, is co-promoter of the firm and has been associated with the company since its inception.

Vanita Gupta : Indian-American Vanita Gupta, who headed civil rights division in the Department of Justice in the Obama Administration, has been appointed as president and CEO of The Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights, becoming the first woman to head the prestigious organisation.

Vanaja N Sarna : Senior bureaucrat Vanaja N Sarna has been appointed as chairperson of Central Board of Excise and Customs (CBEC).

Sarna, a 1980 batch officer of Indian Revenue Service (Customs and Central Excise), is at present member in the CBEC, an apex policy making body for indirect taxes.

Awards of the Month

Rapid Lion Awards 2017 :

Filmmaker Sanjay Leela Bhansali's epic saga "Bajirao Mastani" scooped major trophies, including the best director and best film overall, at the South African International Film Festival, also known as the Rapid Lion Awards.

There were no entries from China and Brazil, the other countries in BRICS.

Truman scholarship Nomination :

Seven Indian-American students have been selected for the prestigious Harry S Truman Scholarship, which is given to college juniors for demonstrating leadership potential and a commitment to public service.

The finalists will be interviewed by a foundation regional review panel from March 3 to April 7, with the scholars being announced on April 21.

Visitor's Awards 2017 :

Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) has won the annual Visitor's Award for the 'Best University', 2017.

Deepak Pant from the Central University of Himachal Pradesh won the Visitor's Award for 'Innovation' while the Visitor's Award for 'Research' has been jointly won by Shyam Sunder from Banaras Hindu University (BHU) and Professor Niranjan Karak from Tezpur University.

Courage Award 2017 :

Former President Barack Obama was named the 2017 winner of the John F. Kennedy Profile in Courage Award for carrying on his fellow Democrat's legacy.

President Kennedy called on a new generation of Americans to give their talents to the service of the country.

Maryland International Film Award :

Filmmaker Onir's documentary "Raising The Bar" has been selected by the annual Maryland International Film Festival.

The documentary is about six young individuals with Down syndrome and

follows their stories at the World Down Syndrome Congress in Chennai.

Global NGO Excellence Award :

DATRI, the largest unrelated blood stem cell donor's registry in India, has received the Global NGO Excellence Award under the Best Healthcare NGO category.

The award was presented at the 6th World Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) Day in Mumbai on February 18.

Vigyan Pratibha Samman :

Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan honoured P Kunhikrishnan, the director of Satish Dhawan Space Centre.

Chouhan honoured Kunhikrishnan with Vigyan Pratibha Samman .

Top honours at BCCI Award :

Virat Kohli became the first player to win the prestigious Polly Umrigar Award for the third time when he walked away with the coveted title at the BCCI Annual Awards ceremony.

Best Actress Award at IFFAA :

Bollywood actress Aishwarya Rai Bachchan won Best Actress Award at the International Film Festival and Awards of Australia (IFFAA).

Aishwarya grabbed the award for her role in 2016 film 'Sarbjit'.

Doctor of Science degree Honour :

RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat was conferred honorary degree of Doctor of Science (DSc) by the city-based Maharashtra Animal and Fishery Sciences University.

Wellcome Book Prize 2017 :

Two Indian-American authors- Siddhartha Mukherjee and Paul Kalanithi have been shortlisted for the 30,000 pound Wellcome Book Prize, which celebrates fiction and non-fiction works engaged with the topics of health and medicine.

Regeneron Science Talent Search Award :

Indian-American teenager, Indrani Das, won the top, \$250,000 prize in the prestigious Regeneron Science Talent Search competition for her research on treating brain injuries and diseases.

Another Indian-American, Arjun Ramani, took the third place, which carries a prize of \$150,000, for his project on networks using mathematical field of graph theory and computer programming.

Times of India Sports Award :

Ace shuttler and Rio Olympics silver medalist P V Sindhu was bestowed the Best Sports person of the Year award at the Times of India Sports Awards (TOISA).

Sindhu was also given the best Badminton player for the year award, selected by the jury. Shuttler Kidambi Srikanth bagged the best badminton player award in the people's choice category.

Ellis Island Medal of Honour :

PepsiCo CEO Indra Nooyi, author Fareed Zakaria are amongst six Indian-Americans nominated for the prestigious Ellis Island Medal of Honour 2017 - the highest civilian award in the US for immigrants.

Among 88 named recipients, the four other Indian-Americans are Harman International Industries chairman CEO Dinesh Paliwal, Dr Annapoorna S Kini, Yashvant Patel, Mohan H Patel, as well as Pakistani-American Dr Adil Haider.

Sikh Jewel Award :

Indian-origin British director Gurinder Chadha has been honoured with the Sikh Jewel Award for 2017 for her immense contribution to British cinema.

Kala Ratan Award :

Veteran actor Anupam Kher will be honoured with the Kala Ratan Award by Vice President Hamid Ansari.

Kher was honoured him the Padma Shri in 2004 and the Padma Bhushan in 2016 for his contribution in the field of cinema and arts.

National Law Day Award-2016 :

The National Law Day Award-2016 was presented to senior IPS officer Manish Shankar Sharma for his contribution to combat crime including in the field of counter-terrorism strategies and tactics.

Dr B C Roy Award :

President Pranab Mukherjee honoured the director of All India Institute of Medical Sciences Randeep Guleria, and chairman of Sir Ganga Ram Hospital D S Rana, along with 47 other doctors, with national awards for excellence in the field of medicine.

Anuvrata Puraskar 2016 :

Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar was bestowed with the 'Anuvrata Puraskar 2016' for implementing total prohibition in the state.

Soon after receiving the award, Kumar made a fervent appeal for anti-liquor movement across the country.

Pravasi Bharatiya Samman :

Priti Patel, Britain's senior-most Indian-origin minister, has vowed to champion the interests of the Indian Diaspora and work for strengthening the Indo-UK ties as she received her 'Pravasi Bharatiya Samman' at a ceremony.

AHF Awards for 2016 :

Ace forward SV Sunil and young dragflicker Harmanpreet Singh has been named as the Asian Hockey Federation (AHF) Player of the Year and Promising Player of the Year 2016 respectively.



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Eulogies of the Month

Haji Abdul Salam :

Congress leader and Rajya Sabha member Haji Abdul Salam passed away. He was 69.

Haji Abdul Salam is the first Manipuri Muslim to be a member of RS from Manipur.

Taarak Mehta :

An Indian columnist, humorist, writer and playwright, Taarak Mehta, who was also known for the popular column 'Duniya Ne Undha Chashma' in Gujarati language, passed away at the age of 87

John Hampshire :

Yorkshire president and Former England batsman John Hampshire has died. He was 76.

Hampshire made history on his Test debut by becoming the first Englishman to score a century at Lord's in his maiden Test in the series with the West Indies in 1969.

Syed Shahabuddin :

Former IFS and MP Syed Shahabuddin died. He was 82.

During his time, Shahabuddin had strongly opposed the demolition of the Babri Masjid and was the leader of the Babri Action Committee.

Kalikaprasad Bhattacharya :

Popular Bengali folk music singer Kalikaprasad Bhattacharya died. He was 56.

Arvind Padmanabhan :

Veteran journalist Arvind Padmanabhan passed away of cardiac arrest. He was 49.

Arvind worked as an Executive Editor at IANS.

Derek Walcott :

Derek Walcott, a Nobel-prize winning poet known for capturing the essence

of his native Caribbean, has died on the island of St. Lucia. He was 87.

The prolific and versatile poet received the Nobel Prize in literature in 1992 after being shortlisted for the honour for many years.

Anil Divan : Senior advocate and noted constitutional expert Anil Divan passed away. He was 86.

He had appeared in many important cases, including the blackmoney matter, in the Supreme Court where he represented senior advocate Ram Jethmalani.

Govind Talwalkar :

Veteran Marathi journalist, writer and social historian Govind Talwalkar passed away. He was 91.

Born in Dombivli near Mumbai on July 22, 1925, Talwalkar started his career with the Marathi daily 'Loksatta' and later joined the 'Maharashtra Times'.

Ashokamitran :

Prominent Tamil writer, Ashokamitran died. He was 86.

He was one of the few writers who wrote fluently in both Tamil and English.

Arun Sarma: Renowned playwright and Sahitya Akademi Award winner Arun Sarma died at a private hospital in the National Capital after a brief illness.

He also won a number of awards, including Padma Shri, Sahitya Akademi and Assam Valley Literary.

Ahmed Kathrada :

Anti-apartheid activist Ahmed Kathrada, who spent 26 years in jail _ many of them alongside Nelson Mandela _ for acts of sabotage against South Africa's previous white minority government, died in Johannesburg at 87.

Gurdev Singh Badal :

Former Punjab minister and senior Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) leader Gurdev Singh Badal passed away. He was 85.



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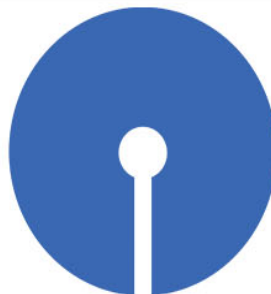
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IMPORTANT DAYS

March 08	International Women's Day
March 10	Central Industrial Security Force Raising Day
March 15	World Consumer Rights Day
March 21	World Forestry Day
March 22	World Water Day
March 23	World Meteorological Day
March 24	World TB Day
March 27	World Theatre Day

ABBREVIATIONS

AEPS	Aadhaar Enabled Payments Switch
AMRMS	Audit and Risk Monitoring Mechanism
ASSOCHAM	Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India.

BCSBI

Banking Codes and Standards Board of India

CDBS

Committee of Direction on Banking Statistics.

CIBIL

Credit Information Bureau of India Limited

FINO

Financial Information Network and Operation Limited

IBRD

International Bank for Reconstruction and Development

LERMS

Liberalized Exchange Rate Management System

SARFAESI

Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest

SIDC

State Industrial Development Corporation

UIDAI

Unique Identification Authority of India



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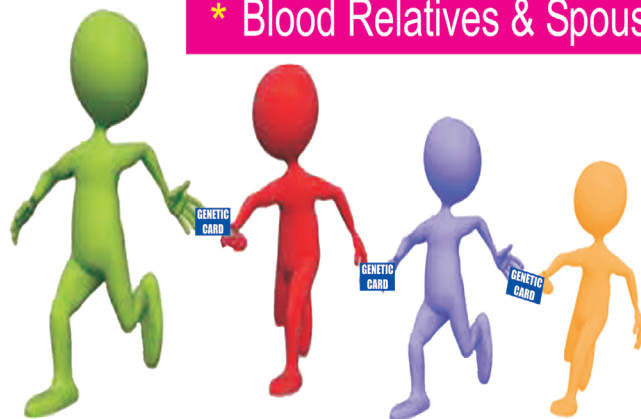
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Prime Minister Modi inaugurated the country's longest Chenani-Nashari tunnel



Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated Asia's longest Chenani-Nashari tunnel. Modi has dedicated this tunnel to the country by pressing the button of the remote. After this, the Prime Minister inspected the Jammu and Kashmir Governor NN Vora and along with Chief Minister Mehbooba Mufti, riding in an open jeep, inside Suraj.

After leaving some distance, Modi jumped off the jeep and started observing the sun at foot. During this time, the technical team that made the tunnel was also with them. Modi understood the nuances of the sun from the technical team. PM also went inside the SOS box and reviewed the facilities available in the emergency.

Located on Jammu-Srinagar Highway, this tunnel will connect Srinagar to other parts of the country in all seasons. Because of heavy snowfall on the Jammu-Kashmir highway in winter, Srinagar's contact was cut off from the rest of the country. But due to the underground cloud, this tunnel will be open for traffic throughout the year.

In the construction of this tunnel 9.28 km, the government has spent Rs 3700 crores. The distance between Jammu and Srinagar will be reduced from 41 kms to 10.9 kilometers as this tunnel is formed.

Mobile number must be linked to Aadhaar card

The Central Government has instructed the mobile number of existing mobile phone subscribers to link to Aadhaar card in the country. As per the instructions, all telecom operators need to add their base number to the database of pre-paid and post-paid mobile customers.

Government issued these instructions for both pre-paid and postpaid numbers. Consumer number can be closed



till February 6, 2018, if the consumer does not link to the mobile number from Aadhar card.

Instructions for verification-

- ✗ Cellular operators in Circle can verify verification of more than one mobile connection through the same e-KYC.
- ✗ Verification process will be different in case of bulk connection.
- ✗ Customers who change their numbers in pre-paid or post-paid will not be verified separately.
- ✗ Telecom operators will only tell their users about the process of verification again.

Supreme Court Decision-

Earlier, the Supreme Court had issued clear orders to the Department of Telecom that all the telecom companies should verify all the mobile numbers of the country again through the KYC process.

After this order, the Department of Telecom issued the guidelines and guidelines for the meeting with Telecom Industry representatives including UIDAI, TRAI and PMO representatives.

These instructions were issued by the Department of Telecommunications on 23rd March.

In the instructions issued by the Department of Telecommunications, it has been said that Telecom operators will also have to ensure that they do not take any lines in the verification process again.

All companies follow these instructions and complete the verification process again before 06 February 2018.

Aadhar Card-

Aadhar card is the identity card issued by the central government to the Indian citizens.

A special number of 12 digits is printed in the Aadhar card, which is issued by the Indian Unique Identification Authority.

A specific number of 12 marks will be the proof of identity and address of the person anywhere in India.

Received by Indian Posts and UIDAI Both of the e-basics downloaded from the website are equally valid.

Any Indian citizen can enroll for the basis, it is necessary that he is a resident of India and the UIDAI By completing the verification process set by :

- ✎ Each person can get nomination only once.
- ✎ Nomination is free.
- ✎ Aadhaar card is an identity card and it is not a certificate of citizenship.

Five Indian cities included in the World Heritage list



It was announced by the Central Government on March 22, 2017 that five Indian cities were included in the UNESCO World Heritage list.

This information was given in the Rajya Sabha by the Minister of State for Culture and Tourism (Independent Charge) by Dr. Mahesh Sherman.

There are five cities:

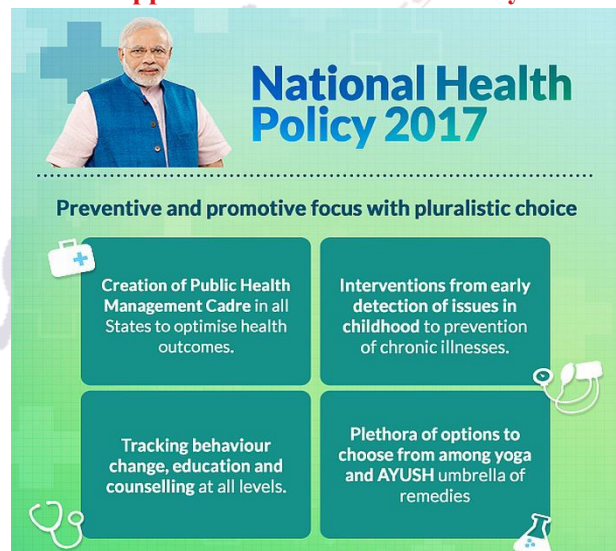
1. Ahmedabad
2. Delhi
3. Jaipur
4. Mumbai
5. Bhubaneswar

UNESCO World Heritage Sites are called special places (such as forest area, mountain, lake, desert, monument, building or city etc.) which are selected by the World Heritage Site Committee. This committee oversees these sites under the auspices of UNESCO.

In UNESCO's World Heritage List, a place is included on the following criteria:

- ✎ On representing the masterpiece of human creative talent.
- ✎ During that time, the place has got significant exchange of human values, and during this time the identity of the world's cultural sector, development in architecture, monument arts, town planning or landscape design has been identified.
- ✎ The monument or place that tells the extraordinary story of the extinction or endangered civilization.
- ✎ Excellent example of a building highlighting human history, or architecture or technical landscape.
- ✎ Places, waters or any specific place that play a key role in the human civilization can be kept in this category.

Cabinet approves National Health Policy



Under the chairmanship of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the cabinet approved the new national health policy on March 15, 2017. This is a national policy under which the citizens of the country can get free and general treatment for various diseases in government and private hospitals.

This health policy has been described as the responsibility of the government to provide free healthcare for all. It has also been clarified that it will not be declared as the right of people like information or food rights.

Now private sector participation will be increased in specialist and top level treatment under government schemes. The main points of this plan are as follows:

- ✎ Free facilities will be provided for first aid. People will be allowed to go to a government or a private hospital to show an expert.

- ✎ Under the health insurance scheme, private hospitals will be given the amount of money for the treatment of people.
- ✎ Government expenditure on health will be increased to 2.5 percent of gross domestic product (GDP). It is currently 1.04 percent rate.
- ✎ Any citizen of India who will be able to get his treatment in the hospital.
- ✎ By connecting private hospitals with this scheme, it will be beneficial to not spend money on setting up new structures.
- ✎ At present 80 percent of the doctors in the country and 60 percent of the hospitalization in the hospital is in the private sector.
- ✎ People have to spend their pockets on treatment in private sector, but under the new policy the government will bear this expenditure.
- ✎ There will also be emphasis on digitization in health sector. The deadline for eliminating various major diseases from the country has been fixed.
- ✎ As per the proposal, the hospitals in the district hospital and above will be completely excluded from government control and it will also be included in the Private-Private Partnership (PPP) project.
- ✎ It will not be mandatory for states to follow this policy, but the new policy of the government will be handed over to them as a model and implementing it will depend on them.

International Women's Day: Announcing Women Power Awards for the year 2017



Recently, the 'Women Power Awards' announced by the President of India for the year 2017 were announced. In these awards, where the award will be given to Rajasthan for an increase in child sex ratio, 33 women, including Pallavi Faujdar of Agra, Divya Rawat of Uttarakhand and Kamal Dagar of Delhi will be given this award for various reasons.

President Pranab Mukherjee will honor the selected women in the Rashtrapati Bhavan on the occasion of International Women's Day on March 8, 2017.

Pallavi Faujdar:

The Pallavi Faujdar (36-year-old) of Agra became the first woman to drive bullet to Mount Everest at 18,774 feet high. Due to this achievement, their name is also recorded in the Limca Book of Records.

In July 2015, Pallavi started the journey of Leh Ladakh from India's gate of Delhi. They traveled about 4,000 kilometers in 18 days. During this time he passed through Lachanglang La, Tanglang La, Khardung La, Wari La, Changla La, Merasik La, Satatho La, Kaksanga La. In September 2015, they reached this journey at Mann Pass (Dungarila) situated at 18774 feet high.

Acid Attack Suffering From Woman Suffer Café :

Shirorow Hangout Cafe, run by acid attack victims in Agra, was selected for the Women Power Award in Agra. All these young women together started the Shirorow Hangout Café. The specialty of this cafe is that there are no bills after eating and drinking. People can give whatever voluntarily they want to give.

There are five acid attack victims running this - Rupa, Geeta, Neetu, Rukya and Madhu Café has been selected by the Ministry of Women and Child Development for the Women Power Award on March 8 for International Women's Day.

Rajasthan Government:

The Women Power Award of the year 2016 will be given to Rajasthan Government. This award will be given for the increase in child sex ratio in the state. Women and Child Development Minister Anita Bhadle will get the award from President Pranab Mukherjee on behalf of Rajasthan Government.

This award is being given to Rajasthan to increase child sex ratio. In Rajasthan, sex ratio was 888 in 2011, which increased to 929 in 2015. It became 942 in 2016. PCPNDT This achievement has been achieved as a result of effective implementation of the law.

Isis Kohler Rollsson :

Ayesha Kohler Rollsson, who is running a Public-Private-Institutional Institute in Pali district of Rajasthan, will be honored for the upliftment of the primitive caste ryka and for doing commendable work for conservation of camels. Deepa Mathur of Jaipur will also be given the prize at this function.

Divya Rawat :

Divya Rawat of Uttarakhand has been selected for the Women Power Prize for the year 2016. Cot Kandara village of Chamoli district is trying to increase employment in the rural areas and speed up reverse migration, which started its campaign by the Samashram Kranti. Due to their efforts, the women empowerment and child development ministry selected them for the Women Power Award.

Sunita Chauhan :

Sunita Chauhan is a resident of Rewari district of Rajasthan. He received praise in the state due to his social and adventure activities. She is the first woman of Gujjar society who successfully climbed Mount Everest. He was also appointed State Brand Ambassador by the State Government to save daughter-daughter-reader campaign.

Kamal Dagar :

Kamal Dagar, resident of Delhi, was selected for his efforts to revive the extinct art. They were chosen because of the work being done to establish the calligraphy in its traditional form. In addition, he is also associated with classical music. They write by adding Hindi and Urdu scripts.

India's first heliport to start in Delhi



Union Minister for Civil Aviation Ashok Gajapati Raju inaugurated the country's first Heliport in Rohini on Tuesday. During this, he said that more and more heliports will be made across the country in the coming

days to overcome the problem of increasing traffic jam. With this, boosting tourism will also provide better medical care to the people in emergencies. It is the Central Government's best efforts that the common man will be able to use helicopter service at affordable cost like other means of traffic.

Meanwhile, Lt Governor Anil Baijal, Union Minister of State for Civil Aviation Jayant Sinha, MP Dr. Udit Raj, Pawan Hans Chairman B Sharma were also present.

Gajapati Raju said that from April onwards the flights will start for the common people under Delhi Darshan Yojna. Two zones have been set for this. In one zone, the flight period will be 10 to 12 minutes and in the second zone it will be 18 to 20 minutes. For this minimum rent has been kept at Rs 2,499 per person. After the expansion of this helicopter service, it will also be directly connected to the Indira Gandhi International (IGI) airport. During the Commonwealth Games, heliports that were built throughout Delhi will also be linked to it.

At the same time, the Minister of State, Jayant Sinha said that this two-hour heliport, built at a cost of about 100 crore at 25 acres, has a terminal with 150 passengers and four hangars, which has the capacity to park 16 helicopters, nine They are also parking. The helicopters will bring patients from those areas within 300 km radius where there are no roads and railways. Helicopter has been allowed to fly up to a maximum height of 1000 feet.

In this way, about two dozen helipads of Pawan Hans in Uttaranchal, Himachal and Jammu and Kashmir will also be connected to Rohini's heliport. In the near future, there will be a flight to Mata Vaishno Devi. The Government's intention is to popularize this service, for which subsidy will also be provided in the rental. At the same time, MP Udit Raj expressed hope that the extension of the metro and the construction of the highway will help the heliport scheme become increasingly popular. In the future, it can also be used for pilot training. This will lead to rapid development in the North-West Parliamentary Areas.

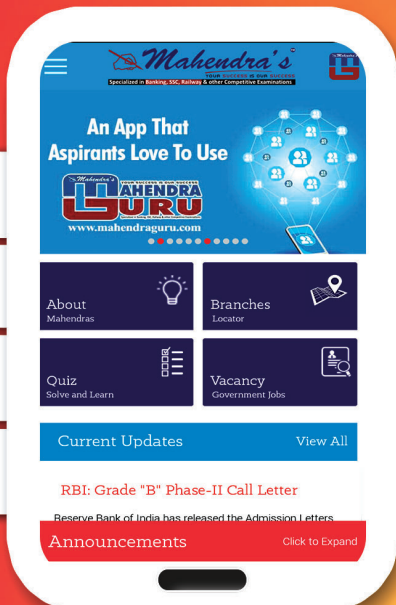
Heliport to be built in major metros

Jayant said that he plans to make heliports in major metros like Jaipur, Agra, Kanpur, Lucknow, Amritsar, Patna, Ranchi, Aligarh, Meerut, Benaras, Chandigarh, Ajmer, Ludhiana and Bhandari. However, earlier these cities would be linked to Rohini's heliport. For this, private or government helipads available in those cities will be used.



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