

Current Affairs Of September 2017

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National

Arunachal Pradesh and J&K are Fastest Growing Economies

i. Jammu and Kashmir and Arunachal Pradesh were the fastest expanding State economies in 2015-16, according to a new series of gross State domestic product data with 2011-12 as the base year **published by the Central Statistics Office.**

ii. The two States also reported the fastest rise in per capita income in the same year. Arunachal Pradesh's gross State domestic product (GSDP) expanded 16.5 per cent and that of Jammu and Kashmir 14.7 per cent at constant 2011-12 prices.

iii. Top 3 Largest state Economies are-

1. Maharashtra
2. Tamil Nadu
3. Gujarat

CSIR Ranked 9th Public Research Institution of the World

i. India's largest autonomous public organization **Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR)** has been ranked **ninth in the world.** The institute has been ranked ninth amongst a total of 1,207 government institutions, according to the **Scimago Institutions ranking World Report 2017.**

ii. It is the only Indian organization which has found place amongst the Top 100 Global Institutions. The ranking (Government Institutions) was topped by the **Chinese Academy of Sciences.**

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- CSIR was established by the Government of India in 1942.
- Girish Sahni was appointed as Director General of CSIR.

Ahmedabad Formally Accorded Status of India's First World Heritage City by UNESCO

i. Gujarat's commercial capital Ahmedabad was formally accorded the **status of India's first World Heritage City by UNESCO.** UNESCO Director General Irina Bokova handed over the certificate declaring Ahmedabad as a **'World Heritage City'** to Gujarat Chief Minister Vijay Rupani in Gandhinagar.

ii. In July, the UN agency had inscribed Ahmedabad as India's first World Heritage City at a meeting held in

Poland.

Important Takeaways From Above News-

- UNESCO stands for United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization.

Annual Conference 'Rajaswa Gyan Sangam' in New Delhi

i. PM Narendra Modi inaugurated the two-day annual conference, **Rajaswa Gyan Sangam, 2017** at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi. The conference, jointly organized by the Central Board of Direct Taxes and the Central Board of Excise and Customs.

ii. The main objective of the conference is to enable a two-way communication between the policy-makers and senior officers in the field offices with a view to increase revenue collection and facilitate effective implementation of law and policies in key result areas.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- In 2016, the first time joint Conference of the two Boards was held under the umbrella of 'Rajaswa Gyan Sangam'.

Government issues alert on spread of 'Locky Ransomware'

i. The government has issued an alert on the spread of new malware 'Locky Ransomware' that can lock computers and demand ransom for unlocking them. Electronics and IT Additional Secretary **Ajay Kumar** tweeted that an alert regarding spam spreading **Locky Ransomware** was issued by Indian Computer Emergency Response Team.

ii. Ransomware is a malicious software and the **Locky Ransomware** is learnt to be demanding the ransom of **half Bitcoin**, which at present rate is equivalent to over **Rs 1.5 lakh.**

Karnataka Govt Launches Unified Health Scheme 'Arogya Bhagya'

i. Karnataka government will merge the existing seven health schemes to launch a **unified health scheme- 'Arogya Bhagya'.** It will cover all 1.4 crore households of the state.

ii. The main theme of the 'Arogya Bhagya' scheme is **"Treatment First and Payment Next"**. According to the Law Ministry, the State Cabinet had given administrative sanction for the unified schemes and it will come to effect from 1st November.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- Siddaramaiah is the Present CM of Karnataka.
- Vajubhai Vala is the Governor of Karnataka.

President Laid Foundation Stone of SAUNI Yojana

i. President Ram Nath Kovind laid the foundation stone of the second phase of link IV pipeline canal of **Saurashtra Narmada Avtaran Irrigation (SAUNI) Yojana** in Rajkot, Gujarat.

ii. The first phases of link I, II, and III of the SAUNI Project have been inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The project is aimed at bringing the waters of Narmada River to the reservoirs of parched Saurashtra region. President Kovind was on a two-day visit to Gujarat.

Yogi Adityanath and Rajnath Singh Flagged-off Lucknow Metro

i. Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh and UP CM Yogi Adityanath jointly flagged off its commercial run.

ii. The **8.5-km 'priority corridor'** from Transport Nagar to Charbagh will be operational from 6 am to 10 pm daily. Rs. 6,00,080 crore has been spent in the Lucknow Metro Project.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- Chennai, Delhi, Bangalore, Gurgaon, Mumbai, Kolkata, Kochi and Jaipur already had Metro Services in India.
- With the inclusion of Lucknow Metro, now India has total 9 Cities that has Metro Service.
- Kolkata was the first city to have Metro Rail Service in India.

NHAI Awards First International Project in Myanmar to Punj Lloyd-Varaha

i. The National Highway Authority of India has awarded its **first international project in Myanmar to a joint venture of Punj Lloyd-Varaha**. This is for the upgradation of the Yagyi-Kalewa section in Myanmar to two lanes with earthen shoulder in the engineering, procurement, and construction mode.

ii. The 120-km-long project was estimated to cost Rs. 1,177.02 crore and is to be completed within 36 months. Punj Lloyd-Varaha's bid was identified as the most competitive among four qualified bidders. It was at Rs. 1,177 crore.

Andhra Pradesh Signs MoU to Build India's First Hyperloop

i. The Andhra Pradesh government has signed an MoU with the US-based **Hyperloop Transportation Technologies (HTT)** to build **India's first Hyperloop system**. The planned project is aimed at connecting cities Amaravati and Vijayawada in Andhra Pradesh, supposedly covering the distance of over 35 km in just five minutes.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- N. Chandrababu Naidu is the CM of Andhra Pradesh.
- E. S. L. Narasimhan is the Governor of Andhra Pradesh.

Amazon's Largest Fulfillment Center in Hyderabad

i. Amazon opened its largest fulfillment center in **India on the outskirts of Hyderabad**, near the Rajiv Gandhi International Airport, Shamshabad.

ii. The 400,000 sq feet center with close of 2.1 million cubic feet of storage space is the 5th such centre in Telangana. With this, the US major has ramped up its storage capacity to 3.2 million cubic feet in the State alone.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- Jeff Bezos was the Founder of Amazon.
- Amazon is an e-commerce company based in the USA.

Shyam Saran's Book 'How India Sees the World' Launched

i. The book of Former Foreign Secretary Shyam Saran named **"How India Sees the World: Kautilya to the 21st Century"** - was launched by former Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh. **ii.** In the book, Mr. Saran records the crucial meeting of the CCS (Cabinet Committee on Security) on the eve of India-Pakistan Defence Secretary-level talks in May 2006.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- Dr. Subrahmanyam Jaishankar is the present Foreign Secretary of India.

Nestle Sets up First Food Safety Institute in India.

i. The new FSSAI CEO Pawan Kumar Agarwal inaugurated the **Nestle Food Safety Institute in Manesar, Gurugram**. It will provide guidance and training on food safety.

ii. The FSSAI has been working with Nestle India for setting up the institute at Manesar. While this is the first such institute in India, Nestle already runs a similar Institute each in China and Lausanne, Switzerland.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- FSSAI banned Nestle India Ltd's Maggi instant noodles over health and safety worries.

Fiscal deficit touches 92.4% of budget estimates at July-end

i. India's fiscal deficit at July -end touched 92.4 % of the budget mainly because of front loading of expenditure by various government departments. In absolute terms, the

fiscal deficit- difference between expenditure and revenue - was **Rs 5.04 lakh crore** during April- July 2017-18, according to the data of **Controller General of Accounts (CGA)**.

ii. During the same period of last financial year, 2016-17, it was **73.7 % of the target**. For 2017-18, the government aims to bring down the fiscal deficit to 3.2 % of the GDP. Last fiscal, it had met the deficit target of **3.5 % of the GDP**.

Important Takeaways from the Above News:

- **CGA**, in the Department of Expenditure, **Ministry of Finance**, is the Principal Accounting Advisor to Government of India and is responsible for establishing and maintaining a technically sound Management Accounting System.

First National Canine Seminar organized by NSG

i. The Minister of State for Home Affairs **Shri Kiren Rijiju** attended the first **National Canine Seminar organized by National Security Guard (NSG)**, in NSG Campus, Manesa (Gurugram), Haryana.

ii. The theme of the two days National Canine Seminar is '**Canine as Tactical Weapon in Fight against Terrorism**' with an objective to discuss and deliberate on the techniques of dog training and strategies of deploying the dogs in Counter Terrorism/Counter Insurgency scenario.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- The NSG is popularly known as "The Black Cats" of the country.
- NSG was set up in 1984 as a Federal Contingency Deployment Force to tackle all facets of terrorism in the country.

Venkaiah Naidu Laid Foundation of Country's First 'Green-Field' Smart City

i. Vice President **M Venkaiah Naidu** laid the foundation stone for **Ranchi Smart City coming up on the Heavy Engineering Corporation (HEC) land**. According to the Urban Development Minister **CP Singh**, this would be the **country's first 'green-field' smart city**.

ii. The smart city is coming up on 656 acres of HEC land which would be fully wi-fi, carbon free, garbage free locality with modernized housing, traffic management system and education hub.

First water ATM in Hyderabad Inaugurated

i. The **First water ATM** has been inaugurated by **Telangana State Home Minister N Narasimha Reddy** at Nalgonda X Roads. A total of 200 ATMs will be set up to reach a targeted 150,000 people. In the first phase, 50 water ATMs will be operationalized by 2018.

ii. **Safe Water Network**, an international NGO has partnered with Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) to launch water ATMs. It will provide affordable, 24x7 safe water access in Hyderabad.

National Pension Scheme Upper Age Limit Raised to 65

i. The **Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA)** announced that the upper age limit for joining the **National Pension Scheme (NPS)** had been raised to **65 years, from the current 60**.

ii. NPS is currently open for people between 18 and 60, and the Board has approved raising the age limit for joining to 65.

RBI to Introduce Rs 100 Coin to Mark MG Ramachandran's Birth Centenary

i. As per the notification of Finance Ministry, the **Reserve Bank of India will introduce 100 rupees coin** to mark the birth centenary (hundredth anniversary) of **AIADMK founder Late Dr. M G Ramachandran**.

ii. **On the obverse**, the face of the coin will bear Lion Capitol of Ashoka Pillar in the center with Satyamev Jayate inscribed below on it in Devanagari script. It will also bear the rupee symbol and denominational value of 100.

iii. **On the reverse side**, the portrait of **Dr. MG Ramachandran** will be in the center. The standard weight of the coin will be 35 grams.

Paytm Partners with NPCI

i. **Paytm Payments Bank (PPB)** has partnered with the **National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)** to launch a **RuPay-powered digital debit card**. With the PPB Digital debit card, customers will now be able to transact at all merchants who accept credit and debit cards.

ii. Existing Paytm users need to complete a KYC process to become an account holder with PPB. Following this, they will be issued a free digital RuPay card.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- As a payments bank, PPB can take a demand deposit of up to Rs 1 lakh per customer, but it cannot undertake lending activities.
- PPB launched its services in May 2017.
- Paytm founder **Vijay Shekhar Sharma** owns 51 per cent stake in PPB while **One97 Communications** which runs Paytm owns the remaining 49 per cent.

Shinzo Abe Gujarat Visit: India's First Bullet Train Project Inaugurated

i. **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** and his **Japanese counterpart Shinzo Abe** laid the foundation stone of the **508-km long Mumbai-Ahmedabad High-Speed Rail**

in Ahmedabad.

ii. The two leaders visited the Sabarmati Ashram after Abe's arrival in Gujarat. The Japanese Prime Minister is on a two-day visit to Gujarat. He will also attend the 12th Indo-Japan Summit.

iii. About the Bullet Train Project in Brief-

1. It is 508-km long High-Speed Rail that will run between Mumbai-Ahmedabad.
2. The cost of the project is Rs 1,10,000-crore.
3. Once complete, the train which will have a top speed of 350 km per hour will reduce travel time between the two cities to around 2 hours from the existing 7 hours.
4. The Project is scheduled to complete by December 2023 (Tentative).
5. The project is mostly on Japanese soft loan.

India's First Advanced Homoeopathy Virology Lab in Kolkata

i. India's first State of art virology laboratory at Dr Anjali Chatterjee Regional Research Institute for Homoeopathy in Kolkata was **inaugurated by Shripad Yesso Naik, Union Minister of State for AYUSH.**

ii. The laboratory, established at a cost of Rs. 8 crore is the only one in India for conducting basic and fundamental research in Homoeopathy for viral diseases like influenza, Japanese encephalitis, dengue, chikungunya and swine flu.

Karnataka, 1st Indian State to Approve e-vehicle Policy

i. Karnataka is the first state to roll out an Electric Vehicle and Energy Storage Policy that looks not only at boosting sales of Electrical Vehicles but also setting up charging infrastructure and special manufacturing zones.

ii. Karnataka is looking to attract investments to the tune of Rs 31,000 crore from companies looking at R&D and manufacturing of electric vehicles in the state.

Sachin Tendulkar Launches Mission 24

i. Former Indian cricketer Sachin Tendulkar launched - **Mission 24** for Mumbai's M east ward which is known to have one of highest slum population's in the city.

ii. The project by NGO Apnalaya and Mumbai first plans to work along with the BMC -as the principal stakeholder over the next 24 months to improve the quality of lives of people living in M east ward of Mumbai.

India Launches 'Operation Insaniyat' to Help Bangladesh

i. India has started 'Operation Insaniyat' to provided assistance to **Bangladesh** in response to the humanitarian crisis being faced on account of the large influx of **Rohingya refugees into that country from Myanmar.**

ii. The first tranche of India's relief aid for the Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh arrived and was handed over by the **Indian envoy Harsh Vardhan Sringla** to the **General Secretary of ruling Awami League, Obaidul Quader.**

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- Sheikh Hasina is the PM of Bangladesh.
- Abdul Hamid is the President of Bangladesh.

President Kovind launched nationwide campaign: "Swachhata Hi Sewa"

i. President Ram Nath Kovind launched a nation-wide campaign **Swachhata Hi Sewa** from **Kanpur, Uttar Pradesh.**

ii. He will administer nation-wide Swachhta Hi Seva pledge initiating parallel action in all the **two lakh 50 thousand plus Gram Panchayats and cities in India.**

iii. The objective of the campaign is to mobilize people and reinforce the Jan Aandolan for sanitation to contribute to Mahatma Gandhi's dream of a Clean India.

India's First Centre for Animal Law Set up at NALSA

i. India's first Centre for Animal Law has been established at the city-based **NALSAR University of Law in Hyderabad, Telangana.** Union Minister for Women and Child Development Maneka Gandhi ssssinagurated the centre.

ii. HSI-India Managing Director **N G Jayasimha** has been appointed as the **honorary director of the Centre.** The Centre will create curriculum on animal welfare laws, including developing topics for research

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- Maneka Gandhi is the Union Minister for Women and Child Development.

Railways Cuts Down Sleeping Hours for Passengers

i. According to a circular issued by the railway board, the passengers in the reserved coaches **can only sleep between 10 pm and 6 am** to allow others to sit in the seats for the rest of the time.

ii. Until the circular was issued, the existing permissible time for sleeping was between 9 pm and 6 am. The new provision replaces paragraph 652 in the Indian Railways Commercial Manual, Volume I. This provision is applicable to all reserved coaches with sleeping accommodation.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- Mr. Piyush Goyal is the Present Railways Minister of India.

Rajnath Singh Launches Intelligence Wing of SSB and WARB App

i. Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh has launched **first Intelligence Wing of Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB) and Welfare & Rehabilitation Board (WARB) App** in New Delhi authorized to protect the shared borders of India with Nepal and Bhutan.

ii. The intelligence wing will gather actionable information in a bid to enhance operational efficiency. WARB app comprises features to facilitate retired CAPFs and Assam Rifles personnel to get their grievances redressed, seek skill development and other relevant and important information.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- Rajni Kant Misra is the Director General of the Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB).

Tripura, First State to Set Up Family Welfare Committees

i. Tripura has become the first state in the country to set up **family welfare district committees** to examine the complaints of women against their husbands and in-laws and find an amicable solution.

ii. **Tripura High Court is the first high court** among 24 high courts of the country that has constituted the family welfare district committees. The new system would be valid for the next six months and after that National Legal Services Authority (NLSA) would submit a report of its performance to the apex court, on the basis of which a new course of action would be decided.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- Manik Sarkar is the Present CM of Tripura.
- Tathagata Roy is the Governor of Tripura.

India to Conduct the First 'BIMSTEC Disaster Management Exercise- 2017'

i. The First **'BIMSTEC Disaster Management Exercise-2017'** (BIMSTEC DMEx-2017) will be conducted by the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) as the lead agency from October 10-13, 2017 in Delhi and the National Capital Region (NCR).

ii. This Exercise will be a platform for sharing Best Practices on all aspects of Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR), strengthening regional response and coordination for Disaster Management among the BIMSTEC member countries.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- Delegates from all seven nations of the 'Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation' (BIMSTEC) grouping will be present.

- BIMSTEC - namely Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Myanmar, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Thailand
- 17th BIMSTEC Senior Officials Meeting was held in Kathmandu, Nepal in February 2017.

Three Indians Among World's '100 Greatest Living Business Minds'

i. Three Indian entrepreneurial legends, **Ratan Tata, Lakshmi Mittal and Vinod Khosla** have been included in **Forbes's** special list of the world's **'100 Greatest Living Business Minds'**.

ii. Some of the notable honorees alongside Blank are Warren Buffett, Bill Gates, Jeff Bezos, Mark Zuckerberg, Ted Turner, Rupert Murdoch, Donald Trump and more.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- Forbes magazine was founded 100 years ago on September 17, 1917, by B.C. Forbes.

Cabinet Approves Revamped Khelo India Program

i. The Union Cabinet has approved the **revamped Khelo India program** at a cost of **Rs.1,756 crore** for the period 2017-18 to 2019-20.

ii. The Programme aims at mainstreaming sport as a tool for individual development, community development, economic development and national development.

iii. Important features of the Program include:

1. An unprecedented Pan Indian Sports Scholarship scheme, which would cover 1,000 most talented young athletes.
2. Each athlete selected under the scheme shall receive an annual scholarship worth Rs. 5.00 lakh for 8 consecutive years.
3. **This is the first time ever** that a long-term athlete development pathway would be made available to gifted and talented youngsters to excel in competitive sports.

India replaces China as Top Retail Destination in 2017

i. **India has replaced China** as the top retail destination in 2017 as part of the global retail development index. The change in ranking was an outcome of four factors including increased consumer spending beyond essentials, rising mobile and internet penetration, favorable foreign investment climate and bold action on cashless transaction and GST.

Himachal Pradesh, First State to Launch Electric Bus Service in India

i. The **Himachal Pradesh government** has launched **first-of-its-kind electric bus service** in the 51km-long stretch road between Manali and Rohtang Pass. The bus service

was flagged off by State Transport Minister GS Bali.

ii. With this initiative, the state has become the first in the world to ply electric buses at an altitude of 13 thousand feet.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- The main objective behind the initiative is to curb carbon emission which is resulting in melting of glaciers in the Himalayas.

'Newton' India's Official Entry For Oscars 2018

i. 'Newton' will be India's official entry for the Best Foreign Film category at the Oscars 2018, according to the Film Federation of India.

ii. The movie directed by Amit Masurkar, starring Rajkumar Rao, tells the story of a polling officer Newton Kumar who is bent on conducting free and fair elections in the conflict-ridden jungles of Chhattisgarh.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- This year's Oscars will be held on March 4, 2018, in Los Angeles.

Textiles Minister Smriti Irani Inaugurates 'VASTRA' Fair

i. Union Textiles Minister Smriti Irani and Rajasthan Chief Minister Vasundhara Raje inaugurated the 6th edition of the four-day international textile and apparel fair, 'VASTRA' in Jaipur.

ii. FDI in textiles industry has tripled in 2016-17. Mudra Yojna has benefited the weaver's community and their incomes have shown a tremendous increase within 60 days from the date of loan availed. Skill development has also enhanced the quality of placements in the textile industry.

Govt Launches Campaign to Sensitise Women About Cancer

i. Minister of State Health and Family Welfare Anupriya Patel launched a nationwide health campaign to sensitise women about the early screening and the preventive care for cancer.

ii. Themed 'Nurturing the Nurturer', the campaign was launched by FICCI Ladies Organisation (FLO) in partnership with the Apollo Hospitals group.

SBI Tops Trust and Popularity Charts

i. State Bank of India (SBI) is India's most trusted and most popular bank according to a survey conducted by Brand Finance, a business valuation and strategic consultancy headquartered in London.

ii. On the trust charts, SBI is followed by HDFC Bank and Central Bank of India whereas, on the popularity charts, ICICI Bank and HDFC Bank take the second and third

spots respectively.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- Recently, SBI had slashed interest rate on savings account deposits by 50 basis points to 3.5 per on balance of Rs 1 crore and below.
- Its is Headquartered in Mumbai.

India Gets its First High Horsepower Locomotive from France

i. India has received its first High Horsepower Locomotive with the bodyshell of 12000 HP loco from Alstom France at Kolkata port. This first-of-its-kind high-power electric locomotive will be used to haul freight trains at twice the existing speed by 2018.

ii. This is the first major FDI (Foreign Direct Investment) project in the rail sector. The first such locomotive is estimated to cost about Rs 30 crore. The Indian Railways is currently using 6,000HP locomotives for freight services. The locomotive will run at a speed of up to 120 km/h.

Union Minister launches Pradhan Mantri LPG Panchayat in Gujarat

i. Union Minister for Petroleum and Natural Gas Dharmendra Pradhan has launched Pradhan Mantri LPG Panchayat at Mota Ishanpur village in Gandhinagar district of Gujarat.

ii. About 100 such beneficiaries- most of them women have participated in this LPG Panchayat. Mr Pradhan also inaugurated the Skill Development Institute at Adalaj near Ahmedabad as part of National Skill Development Mission.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY) was launched by Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi on 1st May 2016 in Ballia, Uttar Pradesh.
- Under the PMUY, 5 Cr LPG connections will be provided to BPL families with a support of Rs.1600 per connection in the next 3 years.
- The National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) is a one-of-its-kind, Public Private Partnership (PPP) model in India, under the Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship (MSDE).

PM Narendra Modi forms Economic Advisory Council

i. PM Narendra Modi reconstituted the Economic Advisory Council (EAC) to guide him on economic issues and appointed economist Bibek Debroy as its chairman. Debroy is a member of government think tank Niti Aayog.

ii. The council has been defunct since former RBI governor C Rangarajan resigned as its chairman. The four other part-time EAC members are Surjit Bhalla, Rathin Roy, Ashima Goyal and Ratan Watal.

Andhra CM Naidu Declares 2017 as e-Pragati Year

i. **Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu** declared the year of 2017 as e-Pragati year. The flagship program will help the government to make real-time governance.

ii. The Chief Minister also inaugurated the Andhra Pradesh Sports Policy 2017.

The Shershah of Kargil- The biography of Captain Vikram Batra Unveiled

i. Kargil war hero **Captain Vikram Batra** was martyred at the tender age of 24. The biography of Captain Vikram Batra "**The Shershah of Kargil**" has been written by 21-year-old **Deepak Surana**.

ii. Though books on Captain Batra have been written before, according to Deepak this is the first book that is based entirely on primary sources.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- General Bipin Rawat is the 27th Chief of Army Staff of the Indian Army.

Two Indians on Fortune's List of 'Most Powerful Women in International Business'

i. **Two Indian women** have featured on Fortune's list of **Most Powerful Women in business outside the US**. Managing Director and CEO of ICICI Bank **Chanda Kochhar** was ranked **fifth** and Managing Director and CEO of Axis Bank **Shikha Sharma** was ranked at **21**.

ii. Group Executive Chairman of **Spain's Banco Santander Ana Botín topped the list**. The 50 global businesswomen represent 17 countries and many industries.

Top three Most Powerful Women in business in the List are-

1. Ana Botin (Spain)
2. Emma Walmsley (UK)
3. Isabelle Kocher (France).

ISRO's Mars Orbiter Mission Completes 3 Years in Orbit

i. The **Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)** stated that its **Mars Orbiter Mission (MOM)** which has **completed three years in its Martian orbit** is in good health and continues to work as expected.

On the occasion of completion of three years in its Martian orbit released MOM second-year science data from September 24, 2014, to September 23, 2016.

ii. **The 450-crore rupees MOM mission** aims at studying the Martian surface and mineral composition. It will also scan its atmosphere for methane which is an indicator of life on Mars.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- ISRO had launched the spacecraft on its nine-month-long odyssey on a homegrown PSLV rocket from Sriharikota in Andhra Pradesh on November 5, 2013.
- AS Kiran Kumar is the Present Chairman of ISRO.

PM Modi Launched 'Saubhagya Scheme'

i. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has launched **Sahaj Bijli Har Ghar Yojana** or '**Saubhagya**', to supply 24/7 electricity supply to poor households.

ii. The government stated that states will be required to complete the household electrification by March 31, 2019. The total outlay for the Saubhagya scheme will be Rs 16,320 crore.

Here are things you must know about the Saubhagya Scheme:-

- It aims to provide access to electricity to all families in India,
- The Saubhagya scheme will provide free electricity connection to poor families of India,
- The total outlay for Sahaj Bijli Har Ghar Yojana is pegged at **Rs 16,320 crore**,
- The Centre will provide largely funds for the scheme to all States/UTs,

Kandla Port Renamed as Deendayal Port

i. The **Kandla Port**, one of the top 12 major ports in the country, has been renamed as **Deendayal Port** in the name of Hindutva icon Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay.

ii. Kandla Port, located on the Gulf of Kutch in Gujarat, is one of the twelve major ports in the country

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- Kandla Port is the largest port of India by volume of cargo handled.

New Underground Water Treatment Plant in Agartala

i. In **Tripura**, a new **underground water treatment plant** has been commissioned at Sadhutilla in the southern part of Agartala. The plant has fulfilled the need for drinking water free from iron and other contamination.

ii. The plant has started functioning with the supply of quality treated water initially to 565 households through the pipeline. It has the **treatment capacity of 4 point 8 million litres per day**.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- The speciality of the plant is that it would be treating water at higher standards with minimizing turbidity and iron in the water.
- The built-up cost of this water treatment plant was Rs. 4 crore 99 lakh.
- It has been funded jointly by the Asian Development Bank with 70% share of assistance and the Union Government with 30 % share of assistance.

CISF Security at Mumbai Airport Rated Best in World

i. The Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) security at the Chhatrapati Shivaji International Airport (CSIA) in Mumbai has been recognised as the best service in this domain by a global quality rating agency.

ii. The latest initiative of doing away with the tagging and stamping of hand baggage, handling increasing passenger footfalls smoothly, and feeling of being safe and secure by passengers, etc, were taken into account while deciding the award.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- The CISF has been providing security coverage to the CSIA, the second busiest and hypersensitive airport in India, since August 21, 2002.
- In July, a WQC survey adjudged CISF security cover at Delhi's Indira Gandhi International Airport as best.
- O.P. Singh is the Director General of Central Industrial Security Force (CISF).

WEF's Global Competitiveness Rankings: India Ranks 40th, Switzerland Tops

i. India remains the most competitive country in South Asia, appearing at **No. 40** in the **global competitiveness ranking of 137 countries by the World Economic Forum (WEF)**. The ranking is one lower than last year.

ii. According to WEF, India's score is its highest ever according to the current methodology, which ranked **Switzerland as the world's most competitive economy**. India ranks 3rd among BRICS nations.

The world's top three competitive economies are-

1. Switzerland,
2. The United States of America,
3. Singapore.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- China (27th) and Russia (38th) outshine India among the BRICS group of large emerging markets.

Madhya Pradesh Bags 'Best Tourism State' Award

i. Madhya Pradesh has won the **'Best Tourism State' national award** for the third consecutive year. President Ram Nath Kovind handed over the award, named as **'Hall of Fame Award'**, to Minister of State for Tourism Surendra Patwa at a ceremony held at Vigyan Bhawan in New Delhi.

ii. The state bagged total 10 awards in this programme, organised on the occasion of **World Tourism Day (27 September)**. Madhya Pradesh also received a national award for Film Promotion Policy in the category of Best Film Promotion Friendly State/Union Territory.

Government Keeps Interest Rates Unchanged on Small Savings Schemes

i. Ahead of monetary policy review, the government has kept unchanged the interest rates on small savings schemes like PPF, **Kisan Vikas Patra** and Sukanya Samriddhi for October-December quarter. Investments in the Public Provident Fund (PPF) scheme will fetch annual rate of 7.8 percent while **Kisan Vikas Patra (KVP)** investments will yield **7.5 percent** and mature in **115 months**.

ii. The one for girl child savings, **Sukanya Samriddhi Account** Scheme will offer 8.3 percent annually. Similarly, the investment on 5-year Senior Citizens Savings Scheme will yield **8.3 percent**. The interest rate on the senior citizens scheme is paid quarterly.

Important Takeaways from above News:

- **Sukanya Samriddhi** Account can be opened up to age of **10 years only** from the date of birth.
- **National Savings Certificates (NSC)** Scheme specially designed for Government employees, Businessmen and other salaried classes who are Income Tax assesses.

India Jumps to 14th Rank as Best Country for Expats: HSBC Survey

i. India leapt up the global rankings by 12 places to take the **14th spot in terms of best country for expats** to live and work in, according to the HSBC survey. The list has been topped by Singapore.

ii. The list is part of HSBC's latest '**expat explorer survey**' that covered 27,587 expats from 159 countries and territories in March and April 2017. According to the survey, about 71 percent expats in India reported high levels of confidence in the local economy, while 58 percent exuded optimism on political stability.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- An Expat (expatriate) is a person who lives outside their native country.
- HSBC Headquarters in London, United Kingdom.
- HSBC was established in 1865 to finance trade between Europe and Asia.

International

'Incredible India' Campaign Launched in Cairo

i. India launched a campaign to woo **Egyptian travellers** and make them aware of magnificent holiday options in the country.

ii. The month-long "**Incredible India!**" campaign has been organised by the Embassy of India in Cairo.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- Cairo is the capital and largest city of Egypt.
- Sherif Ismail Mohamed is an Egyptian engineer who has been Prime Minister of Egypt since 2015.

World Trade to Grow at Higher 3.6% in 2017: WTO

i. World trade in goods is estimated to grow at a higher 3.6 percent in 2017 compared to 1.6 percent increase in 2016, according to revised estimates circulated by the **World Trade Organisation**.

ii. Growth in global trade was earlier projected at 2.4 percent in 2017 by the WTO, which attributed the improved outlook to a resurgence of Asian trade flows. This was mainly due to intra-regional shipments picking up and a recovery in import demand in North America.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- Roberto Azevêdo is the present Director-General of the WTO.

World's Fastest Commercial Bullet Train in China

i. China restored the maximum speed of bullet trains on the **Beijing-Shanghai high-speed railway line to 350 kilometers per hour**, making it **the fastest commercially run train**, six years after it reduced the speed due to a fatal accident.

ii. The speed was reduced to 300 kilometers per hour following the deadly accident in July 2011 that killed 40 people.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- China has the world's longest high-speed rail network of over 22,000 kilometers, about 60 percent of the world's total.

50 Nations Ink UN Nuclear Ban Treaty

i. Fifty countries have signed a treaty to ban nuclear weapons, a pact that the world's nuclear powers spurned but supporters hailed as a historic agreement nonetheless.

ii. More than 120 countries approved the new nuclear weapons ban treaty in July 2017 over opposition from nuclear-armed countries and their allies, who boycotted negotiations.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- The United Nations is Headquartered in New York, United States.
- Irina Bokova is the Present Director-General of UNESCO.

World's Biggest Wealth Fund Hits \$1 Trillion Value For First Time

i. Norway's sovereign wealth fund, the largest in the world, reached the value of **\$1 trillion for the first time**. This amount equals nearly \$189,000 (157,000 euros) for each of the 5.3 million people living in Norway.

ii. The fund mainly invests not only in stocks but also in bonds and real estate. With stakes in nearly 9,000 companies, it owns 1.3 percent of the world's market capitalization, and 2.3 percent in Europe.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- Oslo is the Capital of Norway.
- The Currency of Norway is Norwegian krone.

In a First, Saudi Arabia Issues Decree Allowing Women to Drive

i. Saudi Arabia's King Salman has issued a decree allowing **women to drive for the first time**. The order will be implemented by June 2018.

ii. Saudi Arabia is the only country in the world to forbid women from driving. Saudi women remain largely under the whim of male relatives due to guardianship laws.

World's Highest Sandcastle Built in German City

i. The world's highest sandcastle is now standing **16.68 meters tall in the German city of Duisburg**. A German travel operator organized the construction of the mammoth sandcastle, bringing in 3,500 tons of sand over the past three and a half weeks to the site at a former steelworks in the inland city.

ii. It takes the title from a 14.84-metre sandcastle built early this year in India by sand artist Sudarsan Pattnaik.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- Berlin is the Capital of Germany.
- Angela Merkel is the Chancellor of Germany.

9th BRICS Summit Kicks off in Xiamen, China

i. The 9th BRICS Summit has started in Xiamen, China with a group photograph of leaders of the five countries (Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa) and was preceded by a warm handshake between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chinese President Xi Jinping.

ii. Modi was the third leader to reach the convention center, venue of the 9th BRICS Summit in this port city of China and was followed by Russian president Vladimir Putin.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- The theme of the 9th BRICS Summit is "Stronger Partnership for a better future".
- The 8th BRICS Summit held on 16th October 2016 at Goa, India.

China Announced \$80 Million Funding Plan for BRICS

i. China will give 500 million yuan (\$76.4 million) for a BRICS economic and technology cooperation plan, and another \$4 million for projects at the BRICS countries' New Development Bank stated Chinese President Xi Jinping.

ii. The announcement came amid questions over the relevance of BRICS and China's commitment to its New Development Bank (NDB) in light of the Belt and Road initiative and the China-led Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- The 9th BRICS Summit was held in China.

Peggy Whitson Returns to Earth

i. Astronaut Peggy Whitson returned to Earth. Finishing a **288-day** mission that put her over the top as the American who has spent the most cumulative amount of time in space.

ii. Peggy Whitson, 57, is also the oldest female astronaut in the history of space exploration, was the **first female International Space Station commander**, and holds the record for number of spacewalks by a woman.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- Robert M. Lightfoot Jr. is an engineer and the Acting Administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

Sushma Swaraj to Attend 3rd Eastern Economic Forum in Russia

i. External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj arrived in **Russian port city of Vladivostok** on a three-day visit to attend the **third Eastern Economic Forum** which will deliberate on pressing issues relating to global trade. Delegates from at least 24 countries are attending the gathering.

ii. She will also hold bilateral talks with her Russian counterpart Sergei Lavrov. The Eastern Economic Forum is considered as the biggest international communication platform for cooperation between businesses leaders and senior government representatives from Russia, the Pacific Region and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN).

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- Vladimir Putin is the Present President of Russia.
- Moscow is the Capital of Russia.

UJALA Scheme Launched in Melaka, Malaysia

i. Energy Efficiency Services Limited (EESL), under Ministry of Power, Government of India has launched **UJALA (Unnat Jyoti by Affordable Lighting for All) Scheme in the State of Melaka, Malaysia.**

ii. The Scheme was launched by Chief Minister of Melaka Datuk Seri Utama Ir. Hj. Idris Bin Hj. Haron. Under this scheme, each household in Melaka will get 10 high-quality 9-watt LED bulbs.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- PM Modi on January 5, 2015, had launched the world's largest, and most extensive LED distribution program, UJALA (Unnat Jyoti by Affordable Lighting for All).

US Banking Regulators Shut Down Pakistan's Habib Bank

i. US banking regulators ordered **Pakistan's Habib Bank to shutter its New York office** after nearly 40 years, for repeatedly failing to heed concerns **over possible terrorist financing and money laundering.**

ii. The state's Department of Financial Services, which regulates foreign banks, also slapped a 225 million Dollars fine on the bank.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- Habib Bank has operated in the United States since 1978.

Prince Charles Becomes Longest-Serving Prince of Wales

i. Prince Charles, the heir to Britain's throne, **became the longest-serving Prince of Wales in history.** The 68-year-old broke the record of Queen Victoria's oldest son Albert,

who went on to become King Edward VII after holding the title of Prince of Wales for more than 59 years before becoming monarch.

ii. Prince Charles is the 21st Prince of Wales in the current line. Prince Charles was created Prince of Wales when he was nine years old on July 26, 1958. He has now held the title for more than 59 years.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- The Prince of Wales is historically the title bestowed.
- In 1301 Edward of Caernarfon, the future Edward II was invested as Prince of Wales - this was the first time the eldest son of the King of England had been bestowed the title.

Second Indian Workers' Resource Centre Inaugurated in UAE

i. Indian Ambassador in UAE Navdeep Singh Suri inaugurated the **second Indian Workers' Resource Centre (IWRC) in UAE** to provide support and counseling to Indians in distress.

ii. IWRC provides counseling and support to the overseas Indian Community on legal, personal and financial matters, free of cost. IWRC will provide support and guidance to any member of the Indian community in any such distress situation.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- The first IWRC was opened in Dubai in 2010.
- Khalifa bin Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan is the President of the United Arab Emirates (UAE).

British Parliament Passed EU Withdrawal Bill

i. The Government's bid to extract the UK from EU law in time for Brexit **has passed its first Parliamentary test**. The **EU Withdrawal Bill** was backed by MPs by 326 to 290. The bill, which will end the supremacy of EU law in the UK, now moves onto its next Parliamentary stage.

ii. Previously referred to as the Great Repeal Bill, the EU Withdrawal Bill overturns the 1972 European Communities Act which took the UK into the then European Economic Community. It will also convert all existing EU laws into UK law, to ensure there are no gaps in legislation on Brexit day.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- Theresa May is the Present PM of the United Kingdom.

Sri Lankan President Sacks Deputy Tourism Minister

i. Sri Lankan President Maithripala Sirisena has sacked his deputy Tourism Minister Arundika Fernando for

allegedly defying the party leadership.

ii. He is the second top Minister removed from the government in less than a month. The President's Office stated Arundika Fernando has been dismissed from his portfolio with immediate effect.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- The capital of Sri Lanka is Sri Jayawardenepura Kotte.
- This is the administrative capital where most of the administrative institutions exist including Parliament of Sri Lanka.

London- World's Top Financial Center

i. London retained its crown as the **world's top financial center** in a ranking that surveys industry professionals, extending its lead over New York and Hong Kong despite ongoing uncertainty about the implications of Brexit.

ii. The U.K. capital fell only two points in the latest Global Financial Centres Index published by Z/Yen and the China Development Institute, the smallest decline among the top 10 centers. **New York held on to second place**. In Asia, Hong Kong leapfrogged Singapore into third place.

Global Human Capital Index: India at 103, Norway Tops

i. **India has been placed at a low 103 rank**, the lowest among BRICS economies, **on the World Economic Forum's Global Human Capital Index**. The list has been **topped by Norway**.

ii. The list takes into account "the knowledge and skills people possess that enable them to create value in the global economic system" to measure the 'human capital' rank of a country. India is ranked lower than its BRICS peers, with Russian Federation placed as high as 16th place, followed by China at 34th, Brazil at 77th and South Africa at 87th place. The report measures total 130 countries.

Top 3 countries in the list are-

1. Norway
2. Finland
3. Switzerland

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- India was ranked 105th on this list last year (2016).
- Finland was on the top in 2016 which has pushed by Norway to second place this year.
- World Economic Forum (WEF) is headquartered in Geneva.

Russia, US Partner to Build 1st Ever Space Station Near Moon

i. Russian and US space agencies, Roscosmos and NASA, have agreed to jointly build a "deep space gateway", the first-ever astronaut-tended space station around the Moon.

ii. The gateway would help prepare for manned missions to deep space destinations including Mars. NASA and Roscosmos are two of the major partners in the \$100-billion Earth-orbiting International Space Station (ISS).

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- Robert M. Lightfoot Jr. is NASA Acting Administrator.
- NASA was established in 1958.
- NASA stands for National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

'Unstoppable: My Life So Far' authored by Maria Sharapova

i. The book titled 'Unstoppable: My Life So Far' authored by tennis star Maria Sharapova was unveiled. The book talks about Sharapova's rise from nowhere to tennis stardom, and the unending fight to stay on top.

ii. The book tells how a seventeen-year-old Maria Sharapova became an overnight sensation by defeating the two-time defending champion Serena Williams to win the prestigious Wimbledon.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- Maria Sharapova is a Russian professional tennis player.
- She is one of ten women, and the only Russian, to hold the career Grand Slam.
- According to Forbes, she has been named highest paid female athlete in the world for 11 consecutive years.

7th ASEM Economic Minister's Meeting Held in South Korea

i. The 7th ASEM (Asia-Europe Meeting) Economic Ministers' Meeting was held in Seoul, South Korea. Theme for this year's meeting was 'Innovative Partnership for Inclusive Prosperity'.

ii. The meeting was conducted under the Chairmanship of the Ministry of Trade, Industry and Energy of the Republic of Korea. 51 member countries signed a Joint Statement on Supporting the Multilateral Trade System.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- Commerce Minister Mr. Suresh Prabhu represented India.

- ASEM was established in 1996.

Appointments or Resign/Retired

President Appoints Governors for 5 States, Banwarilal Purohit Named TN Governor

i. Former Union Minister Satya Pal Malik has appointed as the new Governor of Bihar while Assam Governor Banwarilal Purohit will now be the new Governor of Tamil Nadu. Lt Governor of Andaman and Nicobar, Prof Jagdish Mukhi will replace Mr Purohit as the Governor of Assam. Admiral (Retd) Devendra Kumar Joshi will be the Lieutenant Governor of Andaman and Nicobar in place of Prof. Mukhi.

ii. President Ram Nath Kovind has appointed Governors in five states and Lieutenant Governor in one Union Territories. Brigadier (Retd) BD Mishra has been appointed as the Governor of Arunachal Pradesh and former member of Bihar Legislative Council Ganga Prasad Governor of Meghalaya.

UN Chief Appoints Peter Thomson as First UN Envoy For Oceans

i. The Secretary-General of UN Antonio Guterres has appointed the outgoing president of the General Assembly, Peter Thomson as the first special envoy for the oceans, seeking to galvanize efforts to protect the world's seas.

ii. Peter Thomson played a leading role at the first-ever U.N. conference on oceans. U.N. spokesman Stephane Dujarric announced Thompson's appointment. The former ambassador for Fiji (Peter Thompson) will promote action to implement the conference recommendations.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

The United Nations is Headquartered in New York, United States.

Angola Swears in its First New President After 38 Years

i. Angola swore in Joao Lourenco as the country's President, making him the first new President of the country in 38 years. This comes after the previous president, Jose Eduardo dos Santos, announced his retirement and chose Lourenco as his successor.

ii. Lourenco, who had served as Angola's Defence Minister earlier, vowed to attract more foreign investment.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- Angolan kwanza is the Currency of Angola.
- Luanda is the capital city of Angola.

Rajiv Mehrishi Took Oath as New CAG

i. Former home secretary Rajiv Mehrishi took over as the **Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) of India**. Mehrishi succeeded Shashi Kant Sharma.

ii. President Ram Nath Kovind administered the oath of office and secrecy to Mehrishi (62) at a function in Rashtrapati Bhavan, New Delhi. Mehrishi will have a tenure of about three years.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- V.Narhari Rao was the first CAG of India, post Independence.(1948-1954)

Shashi Shankar appointed CMD of ONGC

i. Shashi Shankar was appointed as the **Chairman and Managing Director (CMD)** of India's biggest oil and gas producer **ONGC**.

ii. Shankar, at present director (technical and field services), ONGC, will take over the charge as CMD from October 1. **He will replace Dinesh K Sarraf**. Mr Shankar will have a nearly four-year term until March 2021.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- ONGC stands for Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited.

B Sambamurthy Appointed as NPCI Interim Chairman

i. National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) has appointed **B Sambamurthy** as interim Chairman of the board. He will replace M Balachandran, who was Non-Executive Chairman of NPCI.

ii. Sambamurthy was formerly Director and CEO of the Institute for Development and Research in Banking Technology (IDRBT) and Chairman and Managing Director of Corporation Bank prior to that.

India Appoints Ajay Bisaria New High Commissioner to Pakistan

i. India's ambassador to Pakistan **Gautam Bambawale** will now head the Indian mission in **China**, while envoy to Poland **Ajay Bisaria** will replace him in **Islamabad**.

ii. The reshuffle was necessitated by appointment of India's ambassador to China **Vijay Gokhale** as Secretary (Economic Relations) in MEA. Gokhale played the lead role in defusing the Doklam crisis with Beijing.

Akshay Kumar Appointed Uttarakhand Swachh Bharat Mission Brand Ambassador

i. Uttarakhand Chief Minister Trivendra Singh Rawat announced the appointment of actor **Akshay Kumar** as the brand ambassador of the **Swachh Bharat Mission** in the state.

ii. Akshay was also appointed as the brand ambassador for

the cleanliness campaign in **Uttar Pradesh** in August 2017 and his film "Toilet: Ek Prem Katha" was made tax-free in the state.

Sunil Arora Appointed Election Commissioner

i. Former bureaucrat Sunil Arora was appointed **Election Commissioner by the law Ministry**. Mr. Arora's appointment will be with effect from the day he assumes charge.

ii. After **Nasim Zaidi** retired as Chief Election Commissioner in July, there was a vacancy in the poll panel. While **Achal Kumar Joti** is the Chief Election Commissioner of India, **Om Prakash Rawat** is the other Election Commissioner.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- The Election Commission of India (ECI) was established under India's Constitution in 1950.

Rajiv Kumar Takes Charge as Niti Aayog Vice-Chairman

i. Economist Rajiv Kumar took over as the **vice-chairman of government think tank NITI Aayog**. Mr. Kumar replaced **Arvind Panagariya**, an Indian-American economist who left the think tank to return to academia.

ii. Mr. Kumar was a senior fellow at the Centre for Policy Research (CPR). He was a member of the National Security Advisory Board between 2006 and 2008.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- Amitabh Kant is the CEO of NITI Aayog.
- NITI stands for National Institution for Transforming India.

Anita Karwal Replaces RK Chaturvedi as CBSE Chairperson

i. IAS officer Anita Karwal was appointed as the new **Chairperson of Central Board of Secondary Education, CBSE**. The 1988-batch officer from Gujarat cadre is currently serving as additional secretary in HRD Ministry.

ii. She would be replacing **Rajesh Kumar Chaturvedi, who has been appointed as Director General of the National Skill Development Agency**.

Indian-origin Joseph Yuvaraj Pillay Appointed Interim President of Singapore

i. Indian-origin veteran civil servant **JY Pillay** took over as **Singapore's acting President** until a new head of the state is elected later September.

ii. The temporary appointment of Pillay, Chairman of the Council of Presidential Advisers (CPA), follows the

completion of President Tony Tan Keng Yam's six-year term.

Kenneth I. Juster Named U.S Ambassador to India

i. **Kenneth I. Juster**, deputy director of the National Economic Council at the White House, has been nominated as the **next U.S ambassador to India**.

ii. The appointment will take effect once the U.S Senate confirms him. The post has been vacant since January 20, 2017.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- Donald Trump is the Present and 45th President of India.

Piyush Goyal new Rail Minister, Nirmala Sitharaman gets Defence

i. **Piyush Goyal** has been appointed as the Union Railway Minister after being inducted into the Union Cabinet. He replaced former Railway Minister Suresh Prabhu, who had earlier offered to resign following multiple train derailments. Further, **Nirmala Sitharaman** was given the Defence Ministry, becoming only the second woman to hold the post after Indira Gandhi.

Nirmala Sitharaman emerged as the biggest gainer of the cabinet reshuffle as Prime Minister Modi gave her the heavyweight Defence portfolio.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- **Piyush Goyal** was elected unopposed to Rajya Sabha from **Maharashtra**.
- **Nirmala Sitharaman** was elected from Karnataka as **Rajya sabha member**.

Narendra Modi Cabinet reshuffled- 9 New Faces as Ministers

Nine new Ministers of state were inducted into the Union Council of Ministers. Four Ministers of state were elevated to the cabinet rank. They are Minister of State for Commerce and Industries **Nirmala Sitharaman**, Minister of State for Petroleum and **Natural Gas Dharmendra Pradhan**, Minister of State For Power, Coal, New and Renewable Energy and Mines, **Piyush Goyal** and Minister of State for Minority Affairs **Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi**. President Ram Nath Kovind administered the oath of office and secrecy to them at Rashtrapati Bhavan. The portfolios of the Ministers will be announced later.

Here is the 9 New Ministers, who take oath-

1. Former IFS officer **Hardeep Puri**
2. Former Mumbai Police chief **Satyapal Singh**
3. Former IAS officer **Alphons Kannanthanam**
4. Lok Sabha MP's from Madhya Pradesh **Virendra Kumar**

5. From Karnataka **Anant Kumar Hegde**

6. From Rajasthan **Gajendra Singh Shekhawat**

7. From Bihar **Ashwini Kumar Choubey**

8. From Bihar **Raj Kumar Singh** and

9. Rajya Sabha MP from Uttar Pradesh **Shiv Pratap Shukla**

Hockey India sacks chief coach Oltman

i. **Hockey India** has sacked national coach **Roelant Oltmans** after a string of unimpressive outings at the international level. High-Performance Director **David John** will be in charge till a suitable replacement is found for a smooth transition of the men's team.

ii. The decision was taken during the three-day meeting of the **Hockey India High Performance** and Development Committee, which concluded.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- **South Korea** is hosting the Winter Olympics at **Pyeongchang in 2018**, while **Tokyo, Japan** hosts the **2020 Summer Olympics** before the winter games go to **Beijing, China in 2022**.
- **Harbinder Singh** is chairman of the Hockey India Selection Committee.
- Hockey India is recognised as National Sports Federation by the Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports, Government of India. It was formed on **20th May 2009**.

Rajyavardhan Singh Rathore Appointed as New Sports Minister

i. Olympic silver-medallist **Rajyavardhan Singh Rathore** being appointed as the new **Youth Affairs and Sports Minister**. The 47-year-old Rathore was up until now serving as the Minister of State for Information & Broadcasting.

ii. Rathore also won multiple medals at the Commonwealth and Asian Games. He was awarded the **Padma Shri in 2005**.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- **Rajyavardhan Singh Rathore** won a silver medal at the 2004 Olympic Games.

Parineeti Chopra, First Indian Woman Ambassador For Tourism Australia

i. **Bollywood actress Parineeti Chopra** has been appointed as the **first Indian woman ambassador in 'Friends of Australia' (FOA) advocacy panel by Tourism Australia**.

ii. The 'Friends of Australia' program has been devised as a way of fostering mutually beneficial, long-term friendship with those that Tourism Australia regards as unique storytellers. The panel also includes influential personalities

like chef Sanjeev Kapoor and cricket commentator Harsha Bhogle.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- Malcolm Turnbull is the PM of Australia.
- Canberra is the Capital of Australia.

Viveck Goenka Elected New PTI Chairman

i. Viveck Goenka, Chairman and Managing Director of the Express Group was **elected Chairman of Press Trust of India**, the country's largest news agency.

ii. Mr. Goenka succeeds Riyad Mathew, who is Senior Assistant Editor and a member of the Manorama management. **N. Ravi**, former Editor-in-Chief of The Hindu has been elected as the **Vice Chairman of PTI**. Mr. Ravi succeeds Mr. Goenka as Vice Chairman.

UIDAI Chief A.B. Pandey Appointed Interim GSTN Chairman

i. The Unique Identification Authority of India's (UIDAI) chief executive officer (CEO) A.B. Pandey was appointed the interim chairman of the **Goods and Services Tax Network (GSTN)**.

ii. This firm provides information technology (IT) backbone and portal for registration and tax returns under the GST regime. Pandey was given additional charge days after GSTN's first chairman Navin Kumar completed his term on 29 August.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- Navin Kumar former IAS officer from Bihar cadre, was the first chairman of GSTN.
- GSTN is a non-government, private limited company.
- It was incorporated on 28 March 2013 with the Government of India holding 24.5% equity.

Halimah Yacob- 1st Female President of Singapore

i. Halimah Yacob was sworn-in as the **8th President of Singapore**. She became the **country's first female President** and the first in five decades to come from the Malay ethnicity.

ii. She was certified by the Presidential Elections Commission as the only eligible candidate, and since she has no opponent, there was no election held.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- Halimah Yacob held the key government post of Speaker of Parliament since 2013.

Former UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon Elected as Chair of the IOC Ethics Commission

i. Former United Nations (UN) Secretary-General Ban

Ki-moon was elected as **Chair of Ethics Commission of the International Olympic Committee (IOC)** for a four-year term. Ban succeeds Youssoupha Ndiaye of Senegal whose term has come to an end.

ii. His appointment was proposed by the IOC Executive Board and was approved during the IOC Session in Lima with a 74-4 majority.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- Ban Ki-moon was the eighth Secretary-General of the United Nations.

Peruvian President Appoints Mercedes Arazo Fernandez as New PM

i. The President of Peru, Pedro Pablo Kuczynski has appointed a former Economy Minister **Mercedes Arazo Fernandez** as new Prime Minister of Peru.

ii. She served as an economy minister during part of the 2006-11 administration of President Alan Garcia. **Arazo replaced Fernando Zavala**, who lost the vote of confidence by lawmakers recently.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- Lima is the Capital of Peru.

Angela Merkel Wins 4th Term as Chancellor of Germany

i. Angela Merkel won a fourth term as chancellor in Germany elections that lifted the far-right party Alternative for Germany into parliament for the first time since the immediate aftermath World War II.

ii. Merkel's Christian Democrat-led bloc took 32.5% to defeat Martin Schulz's Social Democrats, whose 20% is its worst result since the war, the exit polls for national broadcasters ARD and ZDF showed.

DEFENCE

India Third in Nuclear Power Installations: Study

- i. **India is third** in the world in the number of nuclear reactors being installed, at six, **while China is leading at 20**, the World Nuclear Industry Status Report 2017.
- ii. The number of nuclear reactor units under construction is, however, declining globally for the fourth year in a row, from 68 reactors at the end of 2013 to 53 by mid-2017.

DRUZBA 2017, Pak-Russia Joint Military Drill Started

- i. **The joint exercise DRUZBA 2017 between special forces of Pakistan and Russia Armies started in Minralney Vody, Russia.**
- ii. Pakistan and Russia are holding two-week long joint military drill focusing on counter-terrorism operations to enhance military ties between the two countries.

First Scorpene Submarine INS Kalvari Delivered to Navy

- i. **The first of the Scorpene class submarines, INS Kalvari, was delivered to the Indian Navy by Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited (MDL).** The submarine will soon be commissioned into the Indian Navy.
- ii. The delivery of a submarine means that its trials are over and the Navy has accepted the boat. Commissioning is a ceremony that officially makes it part of the Navy's fleet.

SAAB Ties up With Adani Group to Build Gripen E fighter jets in India

- i. **Swedish defence major SAAB announced its tie-up with Adani Group** to manufacture the **Gripen E fighter jets in India** under the Defence Ministry's \$10 billion single-engine fighter jet procurement programme.
- ii. The announcement comes within months of US' Lockheed Martin announcing its joint venture with Tata Advanced Systems for producing the latest version of F-16 in India.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- Mr Gautam Adani is the Chairman and Founder of the Adani Group.
- Gripen is now being used by the air forces of Hungary, Thailand, South Africa, Brazil and the Czech Republic.

INS Tarasa Commissioned into Indian Navy

- i. **INS Tarasa, a Water Jet Fast Attack Craft intended for extended coastal and offshore surveillance and patrolling, was commissioned into the Indian**

Navy. Western Naval Command chief Vice Admiral Girish Luthra has commissioned the vessel. The vessel has been built in Kolkata.

- ii. It is the fourth and last of the Water Jet FACs built by Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers, Kolkata. The first two, INS Tarmugli and INS Tihayu were commissioned in 2016 and are based in Vishakhapatnam. The third, INS Tillanchang, was commissioned in March 2017 and is based in Karwar.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- INS Tarasa is 50 metres long, powered by three waterjets which give it speed of over 35 knots (65 kmph), and is armed with a 30mm main gun and several light, medium and heavy machine guns.
- It is commanded by Lt Commander Praveen Kumar.

Indo-US Exercise Yudh Abhyas 2017

- i. A joint military training, Exercise **Yudh Abhyas-2017** will be conducted at **Joint Base Lewis McChord, Washington, USA** from 14 to 27 September 2017 between India and the USA.
- ii. Exercise Yudh Abhyas is one of the largest joint running military training and defense corporation endeavors between India and USA. This will be the **13th edition of the joint exercise** hosted alternately between the two countries.

India and Sri Lanka Begin Joint Naval Exercise SLINEX 2017

- i. **Indian Navy and Sri Lankan Navy has begun the 2017 Sri Lanka-India Exercise (SLINEX) at Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh.** The exercise will conclude on till 14 September 2017. SLINEX 17 aims at reinforcing strong neighborly ties between both countries underscored by extensive maritime interaction and improved understanding.
- ii. The exercise will commence with a Harbour Phase, during which, the participants will engage in professional, cultural and social interactions.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- SLINEX series of bilateral maritime exercises was initiated in 2005.

Shaheen VI: China-Pakistan Air Forces Joint Exercise

- i. **The air forces of China and Pakistan** began a joint training exercise named "**Shaheen VI**" and deployed their latest fighter jets and AWACS aircraft. China has dispatched J-11 fighters, JH-7 fighter-bombers, KJ-200 AWACS aircraft and ground forces including surface-to-air missile and radar troops.
- ii. The exercise will run in China. AWACS is Airborne

Warning And Control System, a mobile, long-range radar surveillance and control centre for air defence.

Important Takeaways from above News-

- The "Shaheen" joint training between the two militaries which maintain close relations was launched in March 2011.

IAF Completes Development Trials of Astra air-to-air Missile

i. Final development trials of **indigenous beyond visual range air-to-air missile Astra** were successfully concluded into the Indian Air Force. The trials were conducted over the Bay of Bengal off Odisha coast at Chandipur, with the missile being test-fired **from a Su-30 fighter aircraft**.

ii. The missile has been designed to be capable of engaging high-speed targets at short range, up to 20 km in tail-chase mode and long range, up to 80 km in head-on chase mode.

Indigenous Artillery Gun Sets New World Record in Range

i. An indigenous artillery gun, **Advanced Towed Artillery Gun System (ATAGS)**, being developed by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has **set a new world record in range by hitting targets at a distance of 48 km**.

ii. During trial firings at Pokhran ranges, ATAGS registered the longest ever distance of 48.074 km, surpassing the maximum range of 35-40 km fired by any artillery gun system in this category.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- ATAGS is a 155mm, 52 calibers towed artillery gun being developed in mission mode by DRDO as a part of the Army's artillery modernization program.

NASA's Cassini Spacecraft Ends 20-year Journey

i. **The National Aeronautics and Space Administration's (NASA) \$3.9-billion Cassini spacecraft** ended its 20-year-long ground-breaking journey with a fiery plunge into the Saturn's crushing atmosphere.

ii. Operators deliberately made Cassini dive into the gas giant to ensure that the planet's moons remain pristine for future exploration. No spacecraft has ever ventured so close to the planet before.

Defence Minister Flags off Women's Circumnavigation Expedition

i. **Defence Minister Nirmala Sitharaman** flagged off the **Navika Sagar Parikrama** by an all-women crew of Indian Navy aboard **Indian Naval Sailing Vessel (INSV) Tarini** from INS Mandovi jetty in Goa.

ii. **Navika Sagar Parikrama** is the first attempt by an Indian all-women crew to circumnavigate the globe. The expedition will cover Australia, New Zealand, Falklands and South Africa. It is expected to be completed in around 160 days. INSV Tarini is skippered by Lieutenant Commander Vartika Joshi.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- Admiral Sunil Lanba is the present CNS of Indian Navy.

Honours/ Awards

C.N.R. Rao Chosen for International Honour for Materials Research

i. **Eminent scientist, Professor C.N.R Rao**, has become the first Asian to be chosen for the prestigious **Von Hippel Award** for his immense contribution in materials research.

ii. The award is the US-based Materials Research Society's (MRS) highest honour. **Mr Rao is the Bharat Ratna awardee**. The award will be presented in Boston on November 29, during an MRS meeting.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- Susan Trolier-McKinstry is the President of MRS.

Sports Ministry Recommends P.V. Sindhu for Padma Bhushan

i. **Olympic silver medallist shuttler P.V. Sindhu** has been recommended for the prestigious **Padma Bhushan**, country's third highest civilian award, by the Sports Ministry.

ii. She is also one time silver and two-time bronze medallist at World Championship. In March 2015, Sindhu was awarded India's fourth highest civilian honour, the Padma Shri.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- PV Sindhu has recently become the first Indian to win the Korea Open Superseries.

Rajkummar Rao Bags GQ Actor of the Year Award

i. **Rajkummar Rao** was awarded the **GQ Actor of the Year Award**, in Mumbai. GQ (Gentlemen's Quarterly) magazine conducted the GQ Men of the Year Awards for 2017, in Mumbai.

ii. Woman of the Year award was won by **Anushka**

Sharma.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- 'Newton' will be India's official entry for the Best Foreign Film category at the Oscars 2018.

BCCI Nominates MS Dhoni for Padma Bhushan Award

i. The Indian cricket board, BCCI has nominated **Mahendra Singh Dhoni** for the country's third highest civilian award - **the Padma Bhushan**, for his contribution to the game.

ii. A senior BCCI official confirmed that the Board has only sent one name for the Padma awards this year and it was a unanimous decision to nominate India's most successful captain.

Important Takeaways from above News-

- Dhoni is already a recipient of the prestigious Arjuna, Rajeev Gandhi Khel Ratna, and the Padma Shri award.

Konkani Writer Mahabaleshwar Sail Receives 2016 Saraswati Samman

i. Prominent Konkani writer Mahabaleshwar Sail was presented with the **Saraswati Samman 2016** for his novel '**Hawthan**'. The novel 'Hawthan', published in 2009, captures cultural lives of traditional potter community in Goa.

ii. He was awarded the Sahitya Akadami Award in Konkani language for his short story collection 'Taranga' in 1993. The award carries a cash prize of Rs 15 lakh, a citation and a plaque of goddess Saraswati.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- Mahabaleshwar Sail is a bilingual writer based in Goa.
- Harivansh Rai Bachchan was the first recipient of this award.

Reliance Foundation Awarded Rashtriya Khel Protsahan Puraskar

i. The Reliance Foundation was rewarded with the prestigious **Rashtriya Khel Protsahan Award** at Rashtrapati Bhawan. Chairperson of the foundation, **Nita Ambani** collected the award from **President Ram Nath Kovind**.

ii. For its contribution to the promotion of sports, the award went to Reliance Foundation. Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan (KVS) also received the Rashtriya Khel Protsahana Purushkar for its '**Identification and Nurturing of Budding and Young Talent**' (IDCO) program.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- Nita Ambani is the chairperson and founder of Reliance Foundation and a non-executive director of Reliance Industries.
- Sri Ram Nath Kovind is the 14th President of India.

Hyderabad Airport Bags Energy Efficiency Award

i. Hyderabad International Airport Ltd has bagged the National Award for 'Excellence' in Energy Management at a conference hosted by the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII).

ii. The event held here focused on recognizing companies that are engaged in energy efficiency initiatives and displaying commitment towards energy conservation.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- GMR Hyderabad International Airport Limited (GHIAL) is a company promoted as a joint venture comprising the GMR Group (63%) in partnership with Government of India (13%), Government of Telangana (13%) and Malaysia Airports Holdings Berhad (11%).

Narayana Murthy Receives PLuS Alliance Prize

i. Infosys co-founder N R Narayana Murthy and Mumbai-born scientist **Veena Sahajwalla** have been conferred the **PLuS Alliance Prize**.

ii. The Prize of **USD 50,000** was awarded in two categories; Education Innovation and Research Innovation. Murthy was presented the PLuS Alliance Prize for Global Leadership while Professor Sahajwalla was awarded the PLuS Alliance Prize for Research Innovation for her project 'The new science of green manufacturing.'

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- **PLuS Alliance Prize** is a prestigious honor that recognizes Research Innovation, Education Innovation, Global Leadership and Global Innovation.

GIFT City Wins ASSOCHAM Services Excellence Awards

i. India's first operational Smart City and IFSC, Gujarat International Finance-Tec City (GIFT City), has won the prestigious **Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India (ASSOCHAM) Services Excellence Award**.

ii. At a summit held in New Delhi, GIFT SEZ was honored for its contribution to the growth of the International Financial Services and Technology Hub in India.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- GIFT City, India's first International Financial Services Centre (IFSC)

Tahir Mahmood Awarded N R Madhava Menon Best Law Teacher Award

i. Eminent jurist Tahir Mahmood was awarded the **prestigious N R Madhava Menon Best Law Teacher Award 2017** for his distinguished services to legal education and the legal profession on the occasion of Law Teachers' Day celebrations.

ii. The function was organized by the Society of Indian Law Firms (SILF) and Menon Institute of Legal Advocacy Training (MILAT).

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- The awards are bestowed every year to honor the most deserved law teachers and institutions in India and across the SAARC region.

74th Venice Film Festival Awards 2017

i. Guillermo del Toro's **'The Shape of Water'** was awarded the **Golden Lion at the 74th Venice Film Festival**. The film, a romantic monster movie starring Sally Hawkins and Michael Shannon, premiered on the Lido on August 31, declared as the best movie. **ii.** It's also the first English-language movie to win Venice's top prize since Sofia Coppola's *Somewhere in Time* in 2010.

List of Awards are as follows-

1. Golden Lion - Best Movie

The Shape of Water, directed by Guillermo del Toro

2. Grand Jury Prize

Foxtrot, directed by Samuel Maoz

3. Silver Lion - Best Director

Xavier Legrand (for *Jusqu'à la Garde*)

4. Volpi Cup - Best Actress

Charlotte Rampling (for *Hannah*)

5. Volpi Cup - Best Actor

Kamel El Basha (for *The Insult*)

Salman Khan Honored with Global Diversity Award

i. Bollywood star **Salman Khan** received a **Global Diversity Award at Britain's House of Commons**.

ii. Salman received the award from Keith Vaz, British Parliament's longest-serving Asian MP.

Important takeaways From Above News-

- The Global Diversity Award is given to people of immense stature in terms of what they have done for diversity in the world.

President's Medal for Former DIG D Roopa

i. Former DIG D Roopa, who highlighted in a report alleged irregularities at the central jail in Karnataka, was conferred the **President's Medal**.

ii. The award was presented to Roopa for her meritorious service by **Governor Vajubhai Vala** at a ceremony at Raj Bhavan in the presence of Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah.

69th Emmy Awards: Complete List of Winners

The **69th Annual Primetime Emmy Awards** were announced at the Microsoft Theater, Los Angeles, California, U.S. **The Handmaid's Tale** became the **first web television series to win the award for Outstanding Drama Series**. *Westworld* and *Saturday Night Live* were the most nominated programs, each with 22 nominations. **Stephen Colbert** was the Host of 69th Emmy Awards.

Sl. N.	Award	Winner
1.	Outstanding Comedy Series	Veep
2.	Outstanding Drama Series	The Handmaid's Tale
3.	Outstanding Television Movie	Black Mirror: "San Junipero"
4.	Outstanding Lead Actor in a Comedy Series	Donald Glover as Earnest "Earn" Marks on Atlanta
5.	Outstanding Lead Actress in a Comedy Series	Julia Louis-Dreyfus as Selina Meyer on Veep
6.	Outstanding Lead Actor in a Drama Series	Sterling K. Brown as Randall Pearson on This Is Us
7.	Outstanding Lead Actress in a Drama Series	Elisabeth Moss as June Osborne / Offred on The Handmaid's Tale
8.	Outstanding Directing for a Comedy Series	Atlanta (Episode: "B.A.N."), Directed by Donald Glover
9.	Outstanding Directing for a Drama Series	The Handmaid's Tale (Episode: "Offred"), Directed by Reed Morano

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- Emmy Award is given in recognition of excellence in American primetime television programming.
- It was first given in 1949.

S S Rajamouli Receives ANR award

i. Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu felicitated filmmaker **S S Rajamouli with the prestigious ANR National Award** for his contribution to the Telugu film industry. **ii. S S Rajamouli** has Directed the blockbuster fantasy drama movie **Bahubali** that has shattered all the records on Box Office.

Sports

Official Slogan and Emblem of FIFA Women's World Cup France 2019 launched

i. The official emblem and slogan for FIFA Women's World Cup France 2019 were unveiled in Paris, France. The emblem features the competition trophy wrapped in blue and white, with eight shards of light around football at the top of the trophy symbolizing the **eighth edition of the FIFA Women's World Cup**.

ii. The slogan of the tournament "Dare To Shine" reflects the development of football, especially women's football.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- Gianni Infantino is the President of FIFA.
- The 2019 edition of FIFA Women's World Cup will take place from June 7 to July 7, 2019.

Asian Indoor Games: Chitra, Lakshmanan Win Gold

i. Asian champions G. Lakshmanan and P. U. Chitra won gold medals in the athletics events of the fifth Asian Indoor and Martial Arts Games in Ashgabat, Turkmenistan.

ii. Tamil Nadu's Lakshmanan won the men's 3000m while Kerala's Chitra, who was not cleared by the national body Athletics Federation of India for the recent World Championships in London despite making the cut, took the women's 1500m title.

First Indian team for FIFA U-17 World Cup announced

i. The first ever Indian squad to participate in the FIFA World Cup, **U-17 World Cup Squad** has been announced.

ii. The 21 players who will participate in the World Cup Squad include Dheeraj Singh, Prabhsukhan Gill, Sunny

Dhaliwal Boris Singh, Jitendra Singh, Anwar Ali, Sanjeev Stalin and Hendry Antony.

Mahendra Singh Dhoni, 1st Wicketkeeper to Effect 100 Stumpings

i. Former India captain Mahendra Singh Dhoni became the **first wicketkeeper in world cricket to effect 100 stumpings in One Day Internationals (ODIs)**. Dhoni achieved the feat in his 301st ODI in Colombo, Sri Lanka.

ii. 36-year-old Dhoni has also taken 281 catches apart from scoring 9,657 runs so far. In 90 Tests, Dhoni has taken 256 catches and effected 38 stumpings. In T20 Internationals, Dhoni has taken 43 catches and affected 23 stumpings.

Important Takeaways From Above News-

- Former Sri Lankan Skipper Kumar Sangakkara is on the second position with 99 Stumpings on his name.

India, 1st Visiting Country to Inflict 5-0 Whitewash on Sri Lanka

i. India has whitewashed host Sri Lanka 5-nil in One Day International cricket series. By winning all the 5 games, **India became the first visiting country** to inflict a 5-0 defeat on Sri Lanka.

ii. India had, earlier, also whitewashed the 3-match Test series. Indian Captain Virat Kohli made 30th ODI hundred in his only 194th game and is now jointly **second highest in list of century makers** alongside Ricky Ponting with only Sachin Tendulkar (49 hundreds) ahead of him.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- Jasprit Bumrah was named as the Player of ODI Series.

Amritpal Singh, First Indian to be Signed by Australian Basketball Team

i. Captain of Indian basketball team Amritpal Singh created history by becoming the **first Indian player to be signed by an Australian Basketball team**.

ii. He will be a part of the Sydney Kings during their pre-season tour where they will also take on the game against Utah Jazz side. Born in a village of Punjab, Singh initially played for the Pune Peshwas in the Indian Basketball League.

Konsam Ormila Devi Wins Gold at Commonwealth Youth Weightlifting Championship

i. India's Konsam Ormila Devi bagged a **gold medal in 44kg weight category** on the opening day of the Commonwealth Youth (boys & girls) weightlifting championships, held at Gold Coast, Australia.

ii. Ormila lifted 57kg in snatch and 76kg in clean and jerk for an overall effort of 133kg, to finish on the top of the podium. With this effort, Ormila has registered her best lift so far.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- Malcolm Turnbull is the PM of Australia.

Indian Shooter Ankur Mittal Wins Double Trap Silver at ISSF World Cup

i. India's Ankur Mittal won his maiden ISSF World Cup medal by clinching silver in the double trap event of the edition being held in Moscow.

ii. Mittal scored 74 points in the final round and fell an agonizing one point short of tying with the eventual gold medallist from Australia, James Willett. His 75 points is also a new world record.

India to Host Commonwealth Weightlifting Championships in 2019

i. India will host the 2019 edition of the Commonwealth (Youth, Junior and Senior) Weightlifting Championships.

ii. The Executive Board of Commonwealth Weightlifting Federation met at Gold Coast, Australia and decided to allot the 2019 edition of the competitions to India. The current edition of the tournament is being held at the Gold Coast, Australia.

Female Wrestler Sonam wins Gold in Cadet World Wrestling Championship

i. India Wrestler Sonam Malik won a gold medal by defeating Japanese Wrestler Sena Nagamoto by 3-1 points on the fourth-day of Cadet World Wrestling Championship in Athens.

ii. The other female Wrestler Neelam also bagged Bronze Medal in 43-kilogram weight category. Wrestler Anshu will fight for Gold Medal with Japanese Wrestler Naomi Ruike in 60-kilogram weight category.

Important Takeaways From Above News-

- Athens is the capital of Greece.
- Alexis Tsipras is the Prime Minister of Greece.

Sjoerd Marijne Named New Coach of Indian Men's Hockey Team

i. Women's national hockey coach Sjoerd Marijne was named chief coach of the men's side. He has replaced Roelant Oltmans.

ii. Besides, World Cup-winning junior team coach Harendra Singh was appointed High-Performance Specialist coach of the senior women's team. The decisions were announced by

newly-appointed Sports Minister Rajyavardhan Singh Rathore.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- Both Marijne and Harendra have been given a tenure till the 2020 Tokyo Olympics.

US Open Tennis Tournament 2017: Complete List of Winners

The 2017 US Open was the fourth and final Grand Slam event of the year. It was held on outdoor hard courts at the USTA Billie Jean King National Tennis Center in New York City, USA. The tournament is an event run by the International Tennis Federation (ITF).

Rafael Nadal was the winner of Men's Singles. With this win, Nadal captured his third US Open title and his 16th Grand Slam title overall. Sloane Stephens was the winner of Women's Singles. The 83rd-ranked Stephens is only the second unseeded woman to win the tournament in the Open era.

Here is the complete list of winners/runner-ups of the Tournament:-

S. No.	Event	Winner	Runner-Up
1.	Men's Singles	Rafael Nadal (Spain)	Kevin Anderson (South Africa)
2.	Women's Singles	Sloane Stephens(USA)	Madison Keys(USA)
3.	Men's Doubles	Jean-Julien Rojer (Netherlands)/ Horia Tecau(Romania)	Feliciano Lopez / Marc Lopez
4.	Women's Doubles	Chan Yung-jan (Taiwan) / Martina Hingis(Switzerland)	Lucie Hradecka / Katerina Siniakova
5.	Mixed Doubles	Martina Hingis(Switzerland) / Jamie Murray(United Kingdom)	Chan Hao-ching / Michael Venus

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- The US Open will celebrate 50 years of Open tennis in 2018.
- The Tournament began in 1968.
- Stan Wawrinka and Angelique Kerber were the previous year's men's and women's singles champions (2016).

India Finishes 5th at Moscow Shotgun World Championships

i. India has finished fifth in the medals tally with one gold and two silver medals at the **Moscow Shotgun World Championships**. Only 16 of the 76 participating nations got amongst the medals and **Italy topped the tally with nine gold medals for a total of 17 medals in all.**

ii. Both their Olympic skeet champions **Gabrielle Rossetti and Diana Bacosi** were also crowned world champions in the process. The USA stood second with five gold medals for a total of 12. Hosts Russia were third in the overall tally with two golds for a total of eight.

First Lifetime Achievement Award to Prakash Padukone

i. The renowned Indian Badminton legend **Prakash Padukone** has been selected for the **first life time award by Badminton Association of India (BAI)**. He has been selected for the award for his contributions to Badminton.

ii. The award carries a cash prize of 10 lakh rupees with a citation which will be presented to him in New Delhi.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- Mr. Himantha Biswa Sarma is the President of Badminton Association of India.
- Mr. Padukone was bestowed with the Arjuna award in 1972 and the Padma Shri in 1982.
- He also won a gold medal at the 1978 Commonwealth Games.

BWF World Senior Badminton Championships- First Time in India

i. The coastal city of **Kochi** is hosting the **BWF World Senior Badminton Championships**. The championship is been **held in India for the first time**. The week-long tournament will see a total of 665 players from 40 countries battle it out.

ii. A total of 175 players will represent India including Olympians - Abhinav Shyam Gupta, Nikhil Kanetkar, and V Diju.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- The BWF World Senior Championships are held every two years.
- BWF World Senior Badminton Championships 2015 was held in Helsingborg, Sweden.

Goa to Host 36th National Games

i. The **Indian Olympic Association (IOA)** formally awarded to **Goa the rights to host the 36th National Games**. The announcement was made by the state sports minister Manohar Ajgaonkar.

ii. Ajgaonkar stated that **IOA Secretary General Rajeev Mehta**, in a letter to **Chief Minister Manohar Parrikar**, had formally conferred the rights to the state to host the sporting event in November 2017.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- The National Games were formerly known as the Indian Olympic Games.
- The first Modern National Games on the lines of the Olympics were held in 1985 in New Delhi.

PV Sindhu wins gold!

i. **PV Sindhu becomes the first Indian to win the Korea Open Superseries** with an outstanding win over Nozomi Okuhara in the much-talked-about women's singles final in Seoul.

ii. Olympic silver medallist shuttler P V Sindhu beat world champion Nozomi Okuhara in a thrilling final to **clinch the women's singles title** at the Korea Open Super Series today.

Cyclist Mark Beaumont Breaks the World Record

i. **Mark Beaumont** has broken the world record for cycling around the world - **by 44 days**. The 34-year-old, from Perthshire, arrived in Paris one day ahead of schedule having cycled the **18,000-mile route in 79 days**.

ii. He set a new world record of 194 days in 2008. Since then it has been broken by other riders, with the previous record set at 123 days. He was on his bike for more than 16 hours a day and only slept for five hours each night.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- During the trip, Mark was also awarded the Guinness World Records title for the most miles cycled in a month, from Paris to Perth in Australia, verified at 7,031 miles (11,315km).

Asian Indoor Games: Purnima Wins Gold in Pentathlon

i. **India won its first athletics gold**, through Purnima Hembram in women's pentathlon, **in the fifth Asian Indoor and Martial Arts Games at Ashgabat, Turkmenistan.**

ii. India also got two silvers, through Sanjivani Jadhav in women's 3000m and Tejinder Singh Toor in men's shot put, and a bronze through Kerala's V. Neena in women's long jump.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- The fourth Asian Indoor Games were held in Incheon, South Korea.
- Ashgabat is the capital of Turkmenistan.

Lewis Hamilton Wins Singapore Grand Prix

i. Mercedes' Lewis Hamilton won the **Formula 1 Singapore Grand Prix**, in Singapore. Hamilton's rival Sebastian Vettel withdrew in the middle of the race due to his damaged Ferrari car.

ii. He was followed by Red Bull's Daniel Ricciardo in the 2nd position and Mercedes' Valtteri Bottas in the 3rd.

ICC Launches Anti-Corruption Probe into Sri Lanka Cricket

i. The International Cricket Council (ICC) has launched an **anti-corruption investigation in Sri Lanka**. The ICC's Anti-Corruption Unit (ACU) officers had recently visited the country as part of the probe.

ii. The ICC Anti-Corruption Unit works to uphold integrity in cricket and this includes conducting investigations where there are reasonable grounds to do so.

MC Mary Kom, First Indian to be AIBA Representative at IOC Athletes' Forum

i. Five-time world champion and Olympic bronze-medallist **M C Mary Kom** has become the **first Indian to be picked as the International Boxing Association's (AIBA) representative** for the International Olympic Committee (IOC) Athletes' Forum.

ii. The event, however, overlaps with the Asian Championship in Vietnam, which is scheduled from November 2 to 12.

India Becomes World No. 1 in Both ODIs and Tests

i. India beat Australia by 5 wickets in the third ODI played between the two sides at Indore. The victory helped them to pip South Africa to **claim the no. 1 spot in the ICC ODI rankings**.

ii. This now means that India is now at the top of both the Test and ODI rankings. This was India's ninth consecutive ODI win while it is Australia 11th successive defeat away from home.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- Top three teams in ODI are 1. India, 2. South Africa, and 3. Australia.

India bags 4 more Medals at 5th Asian Indoor & Martial Arts Games in Turkmenistan

i. In the **5th Asian Indoor and Martial Arts Games at Ashgabat, Turkmenistan**, India bagged four medals. **Sajan Prakash** of India finished second with the silver medal in the Men's 100-metre butterfly event. **Divya Gurling Shilwant and Pratiksha Chandrakant Parhar** bagged a bronze each in women's Alysh classic in 70 kg and 75 kg categories in the Belt Wrestling Discipline.

ii. **Wrestler Keduovilie Zumu from Nagaland** won the bronze medal in the 90 kg category of Kazakh Kuresh style belt wrestling. India is at **11th spot** in the medals tally with 5 gold, 7 silver and 7 bronze.

ICC Announces Major Changes in Cricket Rules

i. The International Cricket Council (ICC) has announced several changes to the existing template of how the sport of cricket is played. All the new rules will be implemented from September 28. The new rules incorporate bat thickness, player conduct, DRS, run outs and catches.

Here are the major excerpts from the release:

1. The restriction on the **length and width of bats remain unchanged** but the thickness of the edges can't be more than 40mm and the overall depth **can be 67 mm at the most**.

2. In a new playing condition pertaining to players' conduct, **a player can now be sent off the field** for the rest of the match for any serious misconduct, meaning it will apply to Level 4 offences while the Level 1 to 3 offences will continue to be dealt with under the ICC Code of Conduct.

3. The above changes will be applicable across all formats, as will be a change in the DRS rules by which a review will now not be lost in case of a decision that remains unchanged, solely as the result of an 'umpire's call'. **The DRS will now also be allowed to be used in T20Is.**

4. An important change with respect to run outs is that if a batsman is running or diving towards the crease with forward momentum, and has grounded his/her bat behind the popping crease but subsequently has lost contact with the ground at the time of the wickets being put down, the batsman will not be run out.

5. For boundary catches, airborne fielders making their first contact with the ball will need to have taken off from within the boundary, otherwise, a boundary will be scored. Also, a batsman can now be out caught, stumped or run out even if the ball bounces off the helmet worn by a fielder or wicket-keeper.

Lakshmanan Wins 5,000m gold in Athletics Nationals

i. Reigning Asian champion Govindan Lakshmanan of Services cruised to victory in the men's 5000-metre race on the opening day of the 57th National Open Athletics Championships at the Nehru Stadium in Chennai.

ii. Lakshmanan has recently won gold in the 3,000m event at the Asian Indoor Games in Ashgabat, Turkmenistan.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- In the 5000m women's race, L Surya won Gold.

India to host South Asian boxing Championship in Guwahati

i. India will host the South Asian Boxing Championship for the first time in Guwahati from December 6 to 10. Boxing Federation of India (BFI) after its executive committee meeting, stated that the country will also host the **'India International Open tournament' in New Delhi** in the third week of January 2018.

ii. RK Sacheti has been unanimously elected as the new Executive Director of the federation. For the first time, it will initiate a grading system as well on the lines of AIBA's star rating qualifications for coaches, referee judges.

For the First Time, Five Indian Shuttlers in Top-20 of BWF Men's Rankings

i. For the first time, Five Indians are in the top-20 of the BWF men's singles rankings with H S Prannoy being the biggest gainer after his quarterfinal showing at the Japan Open. Prannoy has jumped four places to be world no.15.

ii. The 5 Indian Shuttlers in the top 20 BWF men's singles rankings are-

1. Kidambi Srikanth (8th)
2. HS Prannoy (15th)
3. B Sai Praneeth (17th)
4. Sameer Verma (19th)
5. Ajay Jayaram (20th)

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- India's leading ladies, PV Sindhu and Saina Nehwal, remain at the second and 12th spot respectively.

Paris Officially Awarded 2024 Summer Olympics, Los Angeles Gets 2028

i. The International Olympic Committee (IOC) has formally announced that **Paris has been awarded the 2024 summer Olympics** and **Los Angeles has been given the 2028 edition.**

ii. There were no other candidates for either of the Games and the two cities had worked out a deal in advance. Paris, which has hosted two previous Olympics, **will stage the event 100 years after its last Games in 1924** while Los Angeles will also organize its third Games after 1932 and 1984.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- The president of IOC is Thomas Bach.

- It is the first time the IOC has awarded a Games 11 years in advance.

Obituaries

Pulitzer-Prize Winning Poet John Ashbery Passes Away

i. Pulitzer-prize winning poet John Ashbery, a post-modern American trailblazer, has passed away at age of 90 in Hudson, New York.

ii. His 1975 collection "Self-Portrait in a Convex Mirror" made history when he became the lone writer to earn three major accolades the same year for the same work: **the Pulitzer** in addition to a **National Book Award** and a **National Book Critics Circle Award.**

Important Takeaways From Above News-

- In 2012, Ashbery received the National Humanities Medal from then-president Barack Obama.

Arunachal Pradesh Health Minister Passes Away

i. Arunachal Pradesh Health and Family Welfare Minister Jomde Kena died at a private hospital in Guwahati after a prolonged illness.

ii. 52-year-old Kena, a resident of Gensi village in Lower Siang district was undergoing treatment at Guwahati for the past one month.

Important Takeaways From Above News-

Pema Khandu is the Present CM of Arunachal Pradesh.

Frank Vincent, Veteran Actor Passes Away

i. Frank Vincent, who played tough guys and mobsters in **"The Sopranos"** and a number of director Martin Scorsese movies, died at age 80.

ii. In 2006, Vincent wrote the nonfiction book **'A Guy's Guide to Being a Man's Man'.** "The Death Collector," was his debut movie.

Only Marshal of IAF, hero of 1965, Arjan Singh Passed Away

i. THE sole Marshal of the Indian Air Force, Arjan Singh, passed away at the Army's Research and Referral Hospital. He was 98 years old.

ii. Arjan Singh had the honor of leading the fly-past of more than a hundred IAF aircraft over the Red Fort on India's first Independence Day, August 15, 1947. In 2002, on the occasion of Republic Day, he was granted the honorary rank of Marshal, the highest military rank attainable, which before him only two Army chiefs, K M Carriappa and Sam Manekshaw, had achieved.

'Father of nephrology in India' Dr KS Chugh dies of cancer at 85

i. Dr. KS Chugh, the "father of nephrology in India", breathed his last at the Postgraduate Institute of Medical Education and Research (PGIMER), Chandigarh. **He was 85.**

ii. He was a recipient of several national and international awards, including the Padma Shri, the fourth-highest civilian award, in 2000.

Actor Shakila Passes Away

i. Yesteryear Bollywood actor Shakila, known for her work in films like Aar Paar and CID, died after a heart attack.

ii. She was 82. She was famous after the song "Baabuji dheere chalna...".

Legendary Boxer, Jake LaMotta Passes Away

i. Jake LaMotta, former boxing champion whose life of violence in and out of the ring was portrayed in the movie "Raging Bull," passed away.

ii. He was in his 90s and died of complications of pneumonia. Fighting mostly as a middleweight and known as the "Raging Bull" and "Bronx Bull".

World's Richest Woman Liliane Bettencourt Passes Away

i. Liliane Bettencourt, the heir to the French L'Oreal hairspray empire and the world's wealthiest woman, has died aged 94. She was from France.

ii. Bettencourt, whose net worth was estimated at about €33bn (£29bn) this year, was the face of one of France's biggest cosmetics conglomerates and had once captured the public's imagination as the nation's poor little rich girl.

Playboy Founder Hugh Hefner Passes Away

i. Playboy magazine founder and sexual revolution symbol Hugh Hefner has passed away. He was 91. He died at his home of natural causes.

ii. He founded the magazine in 1953. Hefner built a brand that defined the sexual culture of the second half of the 20th century.

Veteran actor Tom Alter dies at 67

i. Veteran film, television and theatre actor and Padma Shri Tom Alter has died at aged 67. The renowned actor and one-time sports writer and author had been battling stage four skin cancer.

ii. Alter acted in over **300 movies** apart from numerous TV shows, most famously as the gangster Keshav Kalsi in the hit soap opera Junoon which ran for a record five years during the **1990s**. In addition to acting, Alter also ventured

into direction and was a sports **journalist in the 80s and 90s**. He was the first person to interview Sachin Tendulkar for TV when the cricketer was yet to debut for India. Alter has written three books, one non-fiction and two fiction, and in 2008 was awarded the prestigious **Padma Shri** by the Indian government in recognition for his services to the field of arts and cinema.

Important Days with theme

National Nutrition Week: 1st-7th September

i. The National Nutrition Week is observed throughout the country from 1st to 7th September. The theme of the National Nutrition Week for 2017 is "**Optimal Infant & Young Child Feeding Practices: Better Child Health**". development.

National Teachers' Day: 5th September

i. Teacher's Day is celebrated in India on **5th September** in honor of **Dr. Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan**, who was born on September 5, 1888. Dr. Radhakrishnan was **India's second president** and a great scholar, philosopher and first **Bharat Ratna recipient**.

Important Takeaways from Above News-

- Dr. S. Radhakrishnan was the first Vice-President of India.

International Literacy Day: 8th September

i. The 51st International Literacy Day is being celebrated on **8th September** at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi. The theme announced by UNESCO is '**Literacy in a digital world**'.

Hindi Diwas: 14 September

i. Hindi Diwas is an annual observance in India which is a celebration of the Hindi language. Celebrated on **September 14** every year, Hindi Divas is an annual day celebration **mostly sponsored by the central government of India**.

ii. The celebration of Hindi Diwas first began in 1949 when the Constituent Assembly of India had adopted Hindi written in Devanagari script as the official language of the Republic of India on September 14.

International Day of Democracy: 15 September

i. The International Day of Democracy is observed across the world on 15 September. The theme for the year 2017 is '**Democracy and Conflict prevention**'.

International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer: 16 September

i. The International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer is observed globally on 16 September every year. The theme for 2017 is '**Caring for all life under the sun**'.

World Tourism Day: 27 September

i. The World Tourism Day is celebrated across the world on **27th of September**. Its purpose is to foster awareness among the international community of the importance of tourism and its social, cultural, political and economic value. The theme for World Tourism Day 2017 is '**Sustainable Tourism – a Tool for Development**'.

World Rabies Day: 28th September

i. World Rabies Day is celebrated annually to raise awareness about rabies prevention. This day also marks the anniversary of **Louis Pasteur's death**, the French chemist and microbiologist, who **developed the first rabies vaccine**.

ii. The 2017 World Rabies Day theme is '**Rabies: Zero by 30**'.

World Maritime Day: 28 September

i. The World Maritime Day is celebrated across the world on **28 September**. The theme for 2017 World Maritime Day is '**Connecting Ships, Ports and People**'.